

# DIOCESAN SYNOD



A summary for sharing...

All the presentations shared in the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

22 NOVEMBER 2025

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Bishop Sophie welcomed synod and shared how full and inspiring the last six months have been, since her welcome to the diocese in June.

You can read or listen to the address [here](#).

## 2026 DBF BUDGET

Steve Coomber, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), presented the 2026 budget for synod's approval.

Headlines:

- the increasing deficit trend has been halted, bringing the 2026 deficit in at just under £3m
- 2026 will be a year of transition and process improvements, including the changes to how ministry training is funded nationally

The intention to reduce reliance on our reserves was reiterated. Work is ongoing looking at how best to increase income and manage costs, in order to maintain commitment to our agreed priorities.

Thanks were expressed to parish and deanery treasurers, the diocesan finance team and all those who play a part in the financial life of the diocese.

## INEQE - SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

Sarah Price, Director of Safeguarding, spoke to synod about the [INEQE audit](#) which will take place during 2026.

Sarah outlined the purposes of the audit, which are:

- To help us on our safeguarding journey
- To identify our strengths
- To identify practice to be accelerated or reinforced

The audit will involve an online survey, a 360 degree audit tool and a site visit.

Synod were reminded that everyone has a role to play in building a strong safeguarding culture across our diocese, and were encouraged to think about safeguarding in the context of their parishes and settings.

More information about the audit, including how to participate in the survey, will be shared over the coming months.



## CHURCH BUILDINGS STRATEGY

Synod were joined by Claire Strachan (Church Buildings Development & Project Officer) and Matt Jermyn (Parish Structures & Governance Adviser) who provided a progress report on the work of the Church Buildings Strategy Group (CBSG).

The CBSG have been looking at the factors that can make churches unsustainable, what is already being done to support PCCs and what else could be put in place to help churches with administration, governance and the many challenges of maintaining and improving church buildings.

## NET ZERO



Synod were updated by Revd Tim Cockell and Colin Angus (Net Zero Carbon Project Officer) on progress towards our net zero 2030 commitment. Information was shared about energy audits and grants for parishes, work in schools and improvements being made to clergy homes.

Watch Colin in conversation with Heathcote Church Centre and St James, Southam [here](#).

## READ MORE & STAY CONNECTED

Information about Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and our committees can be found on the Diocese of Coventry's [website](#)