

OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

Saturday 15 November 2025

The meeting will be held on Zoom from 9.15am to 1pm.

AGENDA

Item	Time	Item	Mins
1.	09:15	Welcome (Bishop Steven) Opening Worship (incorporating Dwelling in the Word)	25
2.	09:35	Notices Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 14 June 2025 (previously circulated) Questions under SO70 A written response will be available if questions are received.	10
3.	09:50	Presidential address <i>Verbal</i> The Bishop of Oxford There may be time for any reflections on it.	25
4.	10:15	2026 Budget Paper ODS 25.8 The Chair of the Board of Finance, Sir Hector Sants, will introduce the item. A motion to approve and adopt the 2026 Budget, authorise expenditure, request a net contribution from deanery share apportionment. The 2026 Budget and Authorisation of Expenditure, and Deanery Apportionment A motion to approve and adopt the 2026 Budget, authorise expenditure, request a net contribution from deanery share apportionment.	30

		<i>The Chair of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance to move:</i> <i>“That this Synod..</i> <i>a) Approves and adopts the 2026 budget as set out below and in the accompanying papers;</i> <i>b) Notes the 2027-30 projections;</i> <i>c) Authorises the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Board of Finance to expend in 2026, sums not exceeding the following net amounts:</i> <table><tr><td></td><td>AMOUNT (£000s)</td><td>Note</td></tr><tr><td><u>Net Revenue Costs</u></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Resourcing Ministry & Mission</td><td>16,907</td><td><i>a</i></td></tr><tr><td>Support for Parish Ministry</td><td>2,276</td><td><i>a</i></td></tr><tr><td>Grants</td><td>593</td><td><i>a</i></td></tr><tr><td>Transfers to Unrestricted Reserves</td><td>0</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Transfer from Tapered Relief Designated Fund</td><td>-205</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><i>Total Net Revenue Costs</i></td><td>19,571</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><u>Funded by</u></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Net Parish Share</td><td>19,571</td><td><i>b</i></td></tr></table> <i>a) Includes apportionment of support costs totalling £2,129k;</i> <i>b) Requests that such expenditure be financed in part by deanery share apportionments for 2025 based on the figure of £19,571K being net of allowances for rebates, vacancy provision and under-collection.</i>		AMOUNT (£000s)	Note	<u>Net Revenue Costs</u>			Resourcing Ministry & Mission	16,907	<i>a</i>	Support for Parish Ministry	2,276	<i>a</i>	Grants	593	<i>a</i>	Transfers to Unrestricted Reserves	0		Transfer from Tapered Relief Designated Fund	-205		<i>Total Net Revenue Costs</i>	19,571		<u>Funded by</u>			Net Parish Share	19,571	<i>b</i>	
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5.	10:45	Coffee Break	15																														
6.	11:00	Environment annual update Paper ODS 25.9 The Bishop of Reading, Sophie Orme (Director of Property) and Hannah Mann (Environment Project Manager) to give an update on the Diocese’s environmental work. This will be followed by an opportunity for questions. The Chair to move <i>‘That this Synod notes the update as set out in ODS25.9’</i>	25																														
7.	11:25	Woodstock Deanery Synod motion Paper ODS 25.10A and ODS 25.10B Rev’d Oliver Petter to move on behalf of Woodstock Deanery: <i>‘That in multi-parish benefices (three or more parishes), where there is only one stipendiary priest, the diocese funds additional administrative support so that the priest is freed to fulfil their missional objectives in relation to serving and caring for the people of God.’</i>	30																														

8.	11:55	Armed Forces Covenant The Archdeacon of Oxford to move: <i>'That the Diocese of Oxford enters into the Armed Forces Covenant in ODS 25.11'</i>	Paper ODS 25.11 10
9.	12:05	Diocesan Investment Programme funding update The Diocesan Secretary will update the Synod and there may be a brief opportunity for questions.	10
10.	12:15	Interfaith update The Archdeacon of Oxford will update the Synod and there will be an opportunity for questions.	15
11.	12:30	World Mission update The Bishop of Reading will update the Synod.	10
12.	12:40	Elected Lay Representation on Deanery Synods 2026-29 Paper ODS 25.12 Mr John Sykes, Chair of the House of Laity, to move <i>'That this Synod approves the use of the representation formula set out in paper ODS 22.13 for the election of parochial representatives of the laity to deanery synods in 2026'</i>	5
13.	12:45	General Synod report Mr Peter Barrett will report on the July Group of Sessions	7
14.	12:50	Reflection (Rev Canon Catherine Butt) Closing Blessing (Bishop Steven)	8

NOTES:

1.	Any apologies for absence should be made in advance of the meeting to the Diocesan Secretary via the Clerk of the Synod, Nell Macaulay. Email: synodclerk@oxford.anglican.org
2.	HOW TO JOIN Diocese of Oxford is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. On arrival, please wait to be admitted. The link will be sent by email to all Synod members.
3.	On arrival, members will be asked to wait to be admitted from the waiting room.
4.	The attention of members is drawn to the fact that under the Synod's Standing Orders:

	a) the period of notice for new business has expired, save for urgent or other especially important business included by direction of the President; b) notice of motions arising out of the business on the agenda and of amendments to motions must be received by the Secretary of the Synod (the Diocesan Secretary) by Friday 7 November 2025. c) notice of questions under Standing Order 70 must be received by the Secretary of the Synod by Friday 7 November 2025. Email: diosec@oxford.anglican.org copied to synodclerk@oxford.anglican.org. Please ensure any amendments raised or questions have been acknowledged as received safely.
5.	Being mindful that this is a formal gathering of the Synod and Standing Orders apply, when wishing to speak, members are asked to raise their hand using the 'raise hand' function button found in the 'reactions' on the bottom bar. Please give your name and number if known, or Deanery or relevant position. The Chair will invite members to speak in order and determine length of speech. During the meeting the 'chat' function will not be available to communicate with 'everyone' during debate. All questions and comments should be directed through the Chair for the relevant items using the 'raise hand' function as above. Only Synod members are permitted to speak except by permission of the Chair. Members will be kept on mute except when invited to speak and are asked to keep contributions brief to maximise the number of people who can speak.