

**Diocesan Synod**  
**2025 Budget and Parish Share Consultation Process**

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**1. Summary**

Budget consultation letters were sent out on the 13<sup>th</sup> September to all parishes requesting parishes to respond with their offers by the 18<sup>th</sup> October. The paper sets out the timeline for those responses and when the budget will eventually be passed.

**2. Financial Challenge**

We understand the financial challenges being faced by parishes due to rising costs and falling income. Over recent years we have had a cost-of-living crisis and levels of inflation unseen in over a decade which has impacted both congregations and parishes.

This has led to a declining amount in parish share received by the diocese and in reality, when taking inflation into account, the diocese is around £1.5m worse off than it was pre-covid.

**3. Our ask**

As a result of this the diocese has had to ask for an 8% increase on parish share from parishes in 2025 and it is hoped that parishes can achieve this despite difficult circumstances.

The 8% will mainly prevent costs from increasing further due to inflationary increases within stipend and general expenditure, it will also shave a small amount from our annual deficit as the diocese looks to move into a more sustainable position. It must be remembered that Synod set a target of achieving a balanced budget within the next 2-3 years.

**4. Timeline**

The parish share consultation letters were sent out on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and all responses are to be received by the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

A first draft budget will then be presented to the Finance Group along with the findings from the budget consultation on the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

The budget will then be recommended to Bishops Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and it will then be passed by Synod on the 9<sup>th</sup> November

13<sup>th</sup> September – Parish share consultation letters sent

18<sup>th</sup> October – Responses to consultation letter received and budget prepared

24<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> draft budget presented to Finance Group along with parish share consultation findings

7<sup>th</sup> November – Budget is recommended by Finance Group to Bishop's Council

9<sup>th</sup> November – Budget is passed by Dioesan Synod