DIOCESAN SYNOD

A summary for sharing...

DIOCESE OF COVENTRY

14 NOVEMBER 2026

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Bishop Sophie welcomed synod and reflected on some of the difficult news stories of the previous week, noting that the following day marked Safeguarding Sunday; *As you gather tomorrow, wherever you are, please do spend a moment praying for the victims in these high profile cases and also for those in our communities who have suffered similarly. Most will never come forward but some will, and it is our prayer that we are a diocese in which those who need help and support will find it so that they can discover the restorative and healing love of Christ available to each one of us.*

You can read the full address **here.**

YEAR OF PRAYER

Synod heard from Harry Steele, Director of Mission and Discipleship, who shared information about the diocesan-wide Year of Prayer, which begins at Advent.

More information and resources are on our **website.**



THE LORDS SPIRITUAL

Synod were joined by Victoria Paynter, Parliamentary and Policy Researcher to the Bishops of Hereford, Southwell & Nottingham, and Coventry.

Victoria shared a fascinating overview of the work of the House of Lords, and the particular value of the Lords Spiritual, who provide a voice of moral reasoning and biblical principles to their work on legislation and policy.



You can read Victoria's presentation **here.**

2027 DBF BUDGET

Synod approved the 2027 budget, which focuses on sustainable stewardship of resources through a time of transition.

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.

GENERAL SYNOD

The 2026 to 2031 General Synod will be inaugurated and opened on Tues 17 Nov.

Bishop Sophie thanked all those who had stood in the recent General Synod elections and prayed for those who will be starting their term this week. Further info and contact details can be found on our **website.**

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to members of the Blue Coat sixth form worship team for leading opening worship, along with the school chaplain and Headteacher. Synod were encouraged to 'look up', away from the business and busyness of life, remembering that *the heavens declare the glory of God.*

Blue Coat Church of England School & Music College

DIOCESAN REGISTRAR

This was the last synod for our current Diocesan Registrar, Geoffrey Cotterill. Geoffrey has served faithfully in the role for several years, and Bishop Sophie warmly thanked Geoffrey and all those at Rotherham & Co for their dedicated service. You can read about the appointment of the new Registrar on our **website**.

READ MORE & STAY CONNECTED

Information about Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and our committees can be found on the Diocese of Coventry's **website**