

Budget for 2026 and estimates for 2027 to 2030

1. The draft budget was considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting in July and is generally in line with what was forecast when preparing the 2025 budget. It was approved by the meeting of Synod Trust on 11th September. As in recent years the budget is presented with summary estimates of the likely future budgets for the succeeding 4 years.

2. The budget for 2026 envisages a deficit of £1,753,912 (before grant funding), which includes a £25,000 contingency. However, it will be noted that if there were no provision included for selling property, there is planned expenditure of about £2,574,912 against estimated income of about £621,000.

3. We have also included £1,500,000 in the 2026 budget to fund Synod's grants and loan schemes.

4. As in recent years the usual budget holders were invited to provide information on their likely requirements. Few changes were sought, and these have been incorporated into the budget. Overall, the budget has an expenditure increase of about £101,979 from the previous year due to the inclusion of a provision for refurbishment works to the Synod Office. Small reductions have been made in other budgets where experience suggests that the amount sought is not normally spent.

5. For 2026 the budget has been set out as a single stream in descending order of cost. However, it should again be noted that all our predictable income is used up before reaching the second line of the budget. A copy of the budget for 2026 is set out at Appendix 1 to this paper. A summary of total spending by expenditure category appears on Page 2.

6. As previously, we are unlikely ever to be able to break even without the income from the sale of redundant church buildings.

Recommendation

Synod Together is asked to endorse the recommended Synod 2026 budget for the General Purposes Fund.

John Denison
Synod Treasurer
September 2025

DRAFT BUDGET 2026

2024 Outturn	2025 Budget	Category (see end)	Task	2026 Budget	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast	2029 Forecast	2030 Forecast
Income								
-687,577	-400,000	Investment Income		-600,000	-600,000	-600,000	-600,000	-600,000
-1,587,654	-200,000	Sale of Properties		-200,000	-200,000	-200,000	-200,000	-200,000
-19,212	-7,500	Other Income		-20,000	-20,000	-20,000	-20,000	-20,000
	-1,000	Grants & Donation Income		-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
-49,983	0	Cash from Closed churches		0	0	0	0	0
-144,292	0	Grants no longer required		0	0	0	0	0
-1,434,486	0	MPF Contribution not required		0	0	0	0	0
-£3,923,204	-£608,500		Total Income	-£821,000	-£821,000	-£821,000	-£821,000	-821,000

DRAFT BUDGET 2026								
2024 Outturn	2025 Budget	Category (see end)	Task	2026 Budget	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast	2029 Forecast	2030 Forecast
Expenditure								
0	500,000	G	Contribution to Central URC funds	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
362,716	520,000	H	Synod Staffing Costs	568,000	585,040	602,591	620,669	639,289
18,360	100,000	E	Synod rent, maintenance & hire of rooms	400,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
268,000	300,000	B	Annual & Emergency Repair Grants	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
118,186	108,000	E	Investment Management Costs	111,240	114,577	118,015	121,555	125,202
100,000	100,000	G	Inter-Synod Resource Sharing	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
66,621	71,400	D	Synod Officers Salary and Expenses	71,400	73,185	75,015	76,890	78,812
49,019	53,900	E	Office Running Expenses	53,900	53,900	53,900	53,900	53,900
43,801	48,400	F	Property expenses	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
15,550	25,000	F	Quinquennial Surveys	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
0	25,000	I	Budget Contingency (inc Inflation)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
16,925	23,350	C	In-service Training & Grants	23,350	23,350	23,350	23,350	23,350
3,448	20,850	C	Other training and Candidates Costs	20,850	20,850	20,850	20,850	20,850
0	20,000	E	Legal Fees	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2,953	12,933	A	Ecumenical Subscriptions	13,321	13,720	14,132	14,556	14,993
10,890	11,700	E	Audit Fees	12,051	12,413	12,785	13,168	13,564
5,766	11,500	D	Synod Committees & Synod Together	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500
10,955	5,400	A	World, Urban and Synod Ministry Support	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
3,650	5,000	C	Youth & Children's Work Budget	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
0	5,000	D	General Assembly Costs	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
0	3,500	C	Staff & Trustee Training	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
0	2,000	A	Church & Society & World Mission	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
0	500,000	G	Ministers Pension Fund Contribution	0	0	0	0	0
139,550	0	B	Grant awarded re Uniting Churches	0	0	0	0	0
900	0	B	Energy support Grants	0	0	0	0	0
£1,237,290	£2,472,933		Expenditure	£2,574,912	£2,297,835	£2,321,437	£2,345,738	£2,370,759
-£2,685,914	£1,864,433		Budget Deficit	£1,753,912	£1,476,835	£1,500,437	£1,524,738	£1,549,759
520,615	750,000	J	Building Grant Programme	750,000				
675,502	750,000	J	Mission Grant Programme	750,000				
-£1,489,797	£3,364,433		Required from Reserves	£3,253,912	£1,476,835	£1,500,437	£1,524,738	£1,549,759

A Grants for general purposes	£20,721
B Emergency	£350,000
C Training	£52,700
D Synod and Committee Costs	£87,900
E Synod Office costs	£597,191
F Property costs	£73,400
G Costs related to the wider URC	£800,000
H Staff costs	£568,000
I Contingency	£25,000
J Grant Programme	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£4,074,912