

Church Music Society

Registered Charity No 1200306

2025 Report of the Trustees

Registered Charity No

1200306

Address

Church Music Society
c/o The Oratory House
Brompton Road
London
SW7 2RP

President

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

Vice-Presidents

Judith Bingham OBE
Geraint Bowen
Dr Harry Bramma
Ian Curror

Carl Jackson MVO
Richard Lyne
Dr Martin Neary LVO
Dr Cecilia McDowall

Dr Philip Moore
Dr Michael Nicholas
Prof James O'Donnell LVO, KCSG
Dr Alan Thurlow

Patrons

The Right Reverend Guli Francis-Dehqani *Bishop of Chelmsford*
The Lord Glenarthur
Sir James MacMillan CBE

Honorary Life Members

Shirley Dex
Anne Fleming

Anne Langley
Jeanne Roberts

John Roch

Executive Committee and Trustees

Chairman

Professor Patrick Russill KSG

David Condry
Julian Elloway
Séan Farrell

Trevor Ford
Michael Harris MBE
Dr Peter Horton

Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns
The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson

Officers

Administrator

Kim Gilbert

General Editor

Dr Geoffrey Webber

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 4 October 2025 at 4.00 pm

in St Wilfrid's Hall, The London Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7 2RP

Welcome

Apologies for absence and messages of goodwill

1. In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held 19 October 2024
3. Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 March 2025
4. Publications Report

5. Elections

Under the Society's Constitution, the following Trustees stand down at this AGM, but are eligible to stand for a further three years and have indicated their willingness to do so:

Séan Farrell, Michael Harris, Prof Patrick Russill.

The appointments of Chairman and non-executive honorary positions are made by the Trustees but are offered to the membership for approbation.

6. Subscriptions for the coming year:

Corporate and **Individual Membership** to increase to £30 per annum from 1 January 2026;

Free **Associate Membership** without voting rights is available to those under 30, or 75 and over.

7. Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed by a presentation on his life in music and contribution to the Society of Vice-President and long-serving Secretary, Dr Simon Lindley (1948-2025) given by Vice-President and former Chairman, Ian Curror.

Minutes of the 118th Annual General Meeting of the Church Music Society

held on Saturday 19 October 2024 at 4.00pm

in St Wilfred's Hall, The London Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7 2RP

Present

Carl Jackson MVO, Vice President
Dr Simon Lindley, Vice President
Dr Alan Thurlow, Vice President, and Mrs Tina Thurlow
Anne Langley, Hon Life Member

Professor Patrick Russill, Chairman
Julian Elloway, Trustee
Trevor Ford, Trustee
Michael Harris MBE, Trustee
Dr Peter Horton, Trustee

Norman Harper, Member
Victoria Highet, Member
Dr Gladys Hosken, Member
John Rippin, Member

Tom Coxhead, Associate Member

Dr Geoffrey Webber, General Editor
Kim Gilbert, Administrator

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

Apologies for absence and messages of goodwill

Apologies and goodwill messages had been received from:

Patron: The Lord Glenarthur
Vice-Presidents: Geraint Bowen, Ian Curror, Richard Lyne, Dr Philip Moore
Honorary Life Members: Shirley Dex, John Roch

Trustees: David Condry, Séan Farrell, The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson, Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns
Eric Beven, Ann Burgess, Robert Gower, Henry Macey, Hugh Morris (Director, Royal School of Church Music), Dr David Parry-Smith.

1. In Memoriam

The Administrator advised that the death of Graham Matthews had been reported since the last AGM. A silence was kept in his memory.

2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Held in Birmingham on 14 October 2023.

On the proposal of Dr Simon Lindley, seconded by Anne Langley, the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ending, 31 March 2024

On the proposal of Victoria Highet, seconded by Dr Alan Thurlow, the Trustees' Report was received.

4. Publications Report

The General Editor gave a brief summary of all the new OUP publications and online material listed in the Annual Report. He also informed the meeting of the intention to make all the past lectures and papers available online and gave an update on publishing plans now in progress.

5. Elections

Under the Society's Constitution, one-third of the Trustees stand down each year. This year those Trustees were Trevor Ford, The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson, Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns. All were eligible to stand for a further three years and had indicated their willingness to do so. On the proposal of Carl Jackson, seconded by Dr Simon Lindley, all were unanimously re-elected.

The election of Julian Elloway to the Trustee board was proposed by the Chairman and carried by those present.

The appointments of Chairman and non-executive honorary positions are made by the Trustees but offered to the membership for approbation.

6. Subscriptions for the coming year

No changes were proposed to subscription arrangements for 2025.

7. Other Business

The Chairman advised the meeting that during the coming year the Trustees would be exploring options for communications with the membership.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Trustees and Officers of the Society for their work during the year.

8. Presentation to Dr Simon Lindley

The Chairman paid tribute to Dr Simon Lindley's 32 years as Secretary of the Society from 1991 to 2023. The citation read:

'Dear Simon, the Society owes you a huge debt for your more than three decades as Secretary, and even more years as a Life Member. The Society has benefitted from your devoted service, year in, year out, and your musical wisdom, covering an extraordinarily wide knowledge and appreciation of the spectrum of denominational musical and worship traditions. In addition, you have brought particularly Lindleyesque gifts of friendship (you are the master of the personal touch), enthusiasm and encouragement, and discernment of talents and skills (and not just musical ones) in others. You honour us in accepting to become a Vice-President of the Society and Honorary Publications Consultant, and I have great pleasure in presenting to you this token of our deep thanks and regard.'

The Chairman then presented Dr Lindley with two handsomely bound volumes of landmark publications of the Society, issued during Dr Lindley's tenure. Dr Lindley responded with warm thanks and touching personal reflections of his time in office.

The Meeting closed at 4.34 pm and was followed by a talk by Tom Coxhead on Kenneth Leighton.

Talk: ‘The Making of Kenneth Leighton’ by Tom Coxhead (Director of Music, Newport Cathedral)

In his fascinating talk, Tom drew on his recent Master’s degree research in outlining Leighton’s early development, and, with the help of audio examples, illuminating the range of influences on the young composer and the effect on his compositions. Dr Webber proposed a vote of thanks to Tom, which was enthusiastically endorsed by all present.

Tea, masterminded by Mrs Victoria Highet, to whom the Chairman offered grateful thanks, followed.

At 6.00 pm, Mass was sung in the Oratory Church by the Schola Cantorum of the London Oratory School, under their director, Charles Cole, including movements from Victoria’s *Missa Ave maris stella* and Robert Parsons’ *Ave Maria*.

2025 Report of the Trustees

Introduction

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their 2025 report.

The Society was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 8 September 2022. The accounts presented at the 2025 AGM are the second set of annual accounts of the new reconstituted charity.

During the year, the Trustees have continued to monitor carefully the Society's publications, sales and finances within the context of the music publishing market and trends, and have undertaken a thorough review of the Society's publishing arrangements and relationships.

Structure and Governance

The Society is administered by its Executive Committee, whose members are elected annually by the Annual General Meeting and serve as its Trustees. One third retire by rotation each year and are eligible for re-election in accordance with the Constitution.

There were no changes to the personnel of the Trustees or Officers during the year. However, Dr Peter Horton has indicated his intention to stand down as a trustee from the 2025 AGM.

The Executive Committee has met three times online and once in person. The Officers attend the meetings of the Trustees.

The Publications Sub-Committee has met online. Helen Smee and Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns have joined Dr Henry Parkes, the General Editor and the Chairman on the Sub-Committee.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in St Wilfrid's Hall, The London Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7 on Saturday 4 October 2025 at 4.00 pm.

Publications - April 2024 – March 2025

Thanks are due to the members of the Publications Sub-Committee for their work this year: the Chairman, Trustee Dr Chris Ouvry-Johns, Helen Smee of Christ Church, Oxford and Dr Henry Parkes of the University of Nottingham.

Printed publications (also available as e-books)

In the 'Reprint' series:

Charles Wood

Daniel Roseingrave

R. L. Pearsall, adapted by Patrick Russill

Ascension Hymn, ed. Geoffrey Webber

Magnificat & Nunc dimittis, ed. Geoffrey Webber

Two Eucharistic Motets: O salutaris & Tantum ergo

In the 'Original' series:

No release

The following items have been reprinted due to lack of stock:

Leighton, *Communion Service in D* (score)

Wood, *Nunc dimittis in B flat*

Von Herbeck, *Pueri concinite*

Additions to the CMS website

Compositions and editions by Society members for free download from the **Music and Downloads** page:

Norman Harper, *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis for Upper Voices and Organ*
Norman Harper, *Mass for Lower Voices* (ATB & Organ, Latin text)
Lucy Moseley, *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in E* (1812), ed. Geoffrey Webber

Additions to the **Commentaries** page:

Robert Pearsall adapted by Patrick Russill, *Two Eucharistic Motets*: keyboard scores
Charles Wood, *Ascension Hymn*: commentary by Geoffrey Webber

Additions to the **Lectures and Papers** page:

Paper:
Geoffrey Webber, “David’s Mystery and Mary’s History”: The Alternative Canticles at Evensong (ii) 1660-1750, with Appendix

This section of the website is now in three parts:

- A) Post-1980 lectures and papers listed by author
- B) Post-1980 lectures and papers listed by date
- C) Archive of material from 1906 to 1979 by date

Three AGM addresses have been added to the post-1980 material, by H. Watkins Shaw (1981), Christopher Kent (1983) and Simon Lindley (2001).

Section C, newly added, contains 49 papers scanned from the Society’s archive at the Royal College of Music and other sources. The ‘Lectures & Papers’ page now constitutes a notable resource for English church music history from the beginning of the 20th century onwards.

Music Issue Distributions

The mailing of music to members, in accordance with their membership rights, has continued to be handled by Banks Music Publications. Mailings are planned to be biannual, in January and summer.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

The Society’s Policy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion may be found on the website.

General Data Protection Regulation

Following a full review of the Society’s GDPR arrangements in the last year, 2023-2024, and continuing exercise of care in the current year, the Trustees believe that these arrangements are fully compliant and secure.

Risk Policy

The Society’s Risk Policy is reviewed every year.

The Society does not have a great exposure to direct risk. The main commercial risk is from inadvertent use of images or the reproduction of music for which permission is needed from the copyright holders. The Trustees are careful in review of these matters.

Reserves and Investment Policy

The Trustees have concentrated most of the Society's investments in the Charities Official Investment Fund for Income and the M&G Charifund for Capital Growth. This is considered to be the most appropriate policy to maintain income and protect capital.

The charity does not aim to have an excess of receipts over payments on an annual basis. General cash reserves are kept low, but at a sufficient level to meet six months' worth of normal expenditure.

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	£	Prior year £
Incoming resources		
Income and endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	7,441.00	3,573.75
Charitable activities	6,920.72	6,842.77
Investments	7,281.00	6,883.62
Other	102.00	17.55
Total	21,744.72	17,317.69
Resources expended		
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds	128.00	1,295.22
Charitable activities	7,915.75	14,110.21
Other	6,509.69	8,211.27
Total	14,553.44	23,616.70
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	7,191.28	-6,299.01

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		7,441.00	-	7,441.00	3,573.75
Charitable activities		6,920.72	-	6,920.72	6,842.77
Investments		7,281.00	-	7,281.00	6,883.62
Other		102.00	-	102.00	17.55
Total		21,744.72	-	21,744.72	17,317.69
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		128.00	-	128.00	1,295.22
Charitable activities		7,915.75	-	7,915.75	14,110.21
Other		6,509.69	-	6,509.69	8,211.27
Total		14,553.44	-	14,553.44	23,616.70
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE GAINS(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS		7,191.28	-	7,191.28	-6,299.01
Net gains/(losses) on investments		1,088.51	3,974.12	5,062.63	-4,425.14
Net income/(expenditure)		8,279.79	3,974.12	12,253.91	-10,724.15
Extraordinary items		-	-	-	138,111.73
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		8,279.79	3,974.12	12,253.91	127,387.58
Total funds brought forward		30,790.72	96,596.86	127,387.58	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		39,070.51	100,570.98	139,641.49	127,387.58

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets				
Investments	26,558.51	100,570.98	127,129.49	122,066.86
Total fixed assets	26,558.51	100,570.98	127,129.49	122,066.86
Current assets				
Cash at bank	12,512.00	-	12,512.00	7,252.00
Total current assets	12,512.00	-	12,512.00	7,252.00
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-	1,931.00
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	12,512.00	-	12,512.00	5,321.00
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	39,070.51	100,570.98	139,641.49	127,387.86

Funds of the Charity

Endowment funds	1	-	100,570.98	100,570.98	96,596.86
Restricted income funds		-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	2	39,070.51	-	39,070.51	30,790.72
TOTAL FUNDS		39,070.51	100,570.98	139,641.49	127,387.58

Other Assets

The Society has stocks of music and copyrights which are not included, as valuation has been considered impractical.

Valuation

The investments are stated at the market value as 31 March 2025. Historical costs are shown in note 4.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Permanent Endowment Fund

The Permanent Endowment Fund was set up to maintain the capital of the Charity equating to funds in the Charity on its reconstitution in 1984. The income is available for the general purposes of the Charity while the capital is maintained

		acquisition date	cost	value 31.3.24	change in value	value 31.3.25
			£	£	£	£
COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund						
Income Units	7,424.00	31.8.93	10,000.00	9,129.86	236.84	9,366.70
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund)						
	2,874.00	09.08.93	20,000.00			
	1,342.00	05.03.02	15,000.00			
	888.00	14.08.01	10,000.00			
	903.00	07.10.01	10,000.00			
	6,007.00		55,000.00	87,467.00	3,737.28	91,204.28
				96,596.86	3,974.12	100,570.98

2. General Fund

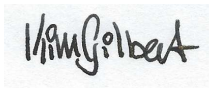
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund)

Charifund units						
	1,383.00	31.03.02	10,707.00			
	366.00	03.06.04	4,000.00			
	1,749.00		14,707.00	25,470.00	1,088.51	26,558.51

3. Related party transactions

- The trustees are not remunerated
- Fees have been paid to Officers in accordance with paragraph III of the Rules.

<i>G Webber</i>	<i>Editor</i>	£5,540
<i>K Gilbert</i>	<i>Administrator</i>	£4,240

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kim Gilbert
Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Russill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Patrick Russill
Chairman

Date 15 September 2025

Church Music Society

Charitable Objects

The Church Music Society is a national charity, founded in 1906; the current Constitution was adopted in 2022.

The Church Music Society exists to advance the education of the public in the art and science of church music, primarily by publishing music of the highest quality, both in context and presentation, for the diverse needs of the Christian Church and by disseminating information and co-operating with like-minded organisations.

Public Benefit

The Trustees consider that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is met by the production of high-quality music, available to all interested parties of any denomination or those with a general musical interest, and not otherwise generally obtainable through commercial publishers, and by its provision of a platform for research and educational material. The Church Music Society relies on investments and the income from music sales to cover its operating costs.

Membership

Membership is open to all interested in the objects of the Society on payment of an annual subscription.

