

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

Trustees' Annual report and

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered Charity Number 1085042

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity

Charity Name:	The Parliament Choir
Charity Registration Number:	1085042
Contact Address:	4-17 Millbank House, 1 Millbank, House of Lords, London, SW1P 3LX.
Constitution:	Charity governed by Trust Deed dated 15 February 2001 (amended 18 January 2011, amended and consolidated 15 January 2013, amended 25 January 2016, 13 January 2020 and 25 January 2021)
Trustees as at date report approved:	Lord German OBE (Chair) Mary Macleod (Vice Chair) Hugh Merrill MVO (Vice Chair) Baroness Hayman of Ullock Sir Bernard Jenkin MP Michael Switsur Lesley Titcomb CBE Anna Yallop
Trustees who resigned after the year end:	Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC MP (resigned 14 th May 2024) Baroness Jolly (Treasurer) (resigned 31st July 2024)
Bankers:	Metro Bank plc, One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA
Solicitors:	Withers LLP, Third Floor, 20 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7AN
Chief Executive:	Anna Yallop
Choir Manager:	Virginia Hawkins
Music Director:	Simon Over MA FRCO
Chorus Master and Composer-in-Residence:	Nicholas O'Neill MA FRCO
Finance & Accounts:	David McBride BA BFP FCA
Independent Examiner	Jane Spencer-Davis BA FCCA CTA, Spencer-Davis & Co., 4 - 6 Peterborough Road, Harrow, HA1 2BQ

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees' Report

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parliament Choir is a charity governed by a Trust Deed dated 15 February 2001 (amended 18 January 2011, amended and consolidated 15 January 2013, amended 25 January 2016, 13 January 2020 and 25 January 2021).

Under a Memorandum of Understanding dated 11 February 2020 the Choir became an autonomous group under the patronage of the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament. The Memorandum is subject to review biennially.

The Board of Trustees has between three and twelve members comprising the Chair, up to three Vice-Chairs, Treasurer and up to seven other members elected at the annual general meeting. At all times at least one member of the Board of Trustees must be a member of the House of Commons and at least one a member of the House of Lords.

The Chair, normally a Parliamentarian, is elected to serve for a three-year term, renewable once other than in exceptional circumstances. The Vice-Chairs and Treasurer are elected for a term of no longer than three years other than in exceptional circumstances.

The Board of Trustees may appoint up to four trustees who are not Parliamentarians and in addition one or more co-opted members to fill any skill or vacancy that may arise from time to time. Such appointments last until the next Annual General Meeting, where the appointment of the trustee must be put to the vote of the members of the Charity.

Members of the Board of Trustees retire from office by rotation at the end of the annual general meeting three years after the date on which they came into office, but they may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term other than in exceptional circumstances.

Nominations for election to the Board of Trustees must be in the hands of the Chief Executive at least 14 days before the annual general meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election is by ballot.

The Trustees meet at least 3 times a year to review the charity's plans, performance, finance and risk.

Day-to-day activities are overseen by the Chief Executive and the Choir Manager.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects ("the objects") are:

- (1) the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance.
- (2) the promotion of the art of singing and music by means of assistance to young singers and musicians and by the provision of scholarships bursaries and prizes for singers.

Approval was sought from the Charity Commission in 2021 to add a third object reflecting the new status of the Choir as an autonomous group under the patronage of the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament. The Charity Commission's response is awaited.

The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and ensure that the objectives and activities of the charity are carried out for the benefit of the public.

The Parliament Choir has an ongoing relationship with the orchestral academy Southbank Sinfonia (charity number: 1092461) which provides the orchestra for most of its concerts.

At most of the Choir's performances concertgoers are invited to contribute to a collection, the proceeds of which go either in full towards the charity's work supporting young musicians or, if another relevant charity is involved in the event, are split between the organisations.

The Choir tries to ensure that its performances are accessible to those on lower incomes and sets entry level ticket prices accordingly. Members of the Choir are encouraged to donate tickets to enable music students to attend the Choir's concerts free of charge.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees' Report (*continued*)

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

The centrepiece of the Choir's programme was the long anticipated performance in April of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* in the Vatican at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. This was a major event for the choir and was part of its public role of representing the UK Parliament by undertaking international cultural events.

The Choir also performed Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* at Smith Square Hall (formerly St John's Smith Square) in London, where it returned in June for a performance of *Handel's Messiah* and again for its Christmas carol concert in December.

In November the Choir performed the Rachmaninoff *Vespers* at Coventry Cathedral and Southwark Cathedral.

2024-25 will see the Choir celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the Royal Festival Hall. In November we will return to Smith Square for a performance of *Handel's Messiah* which will take place instead of our normal Christmas carol concert.

Financial Review

Income and expenditure can vary significantly from year to year, depending on the number and scale of the concerts the Choir organizes. In the year to 31 March 2024 the Choir took part in six concerts (2023: six) of which it organised four (2023: four).

The charity's excess of expenditure over income for the year was £8,388 (2023: excess of income over expenditure £2,406). Its unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £46,274 (2023: £45,949). Its restricted reserves were £12,915 (2023: £21,628).

The charity seeks donations and sponsorship from a wide range of sources to support the ambitious concerts it produces. It is particularly dependent on sponsorship and donations when it is responsible for staging national events and undertaking international cultural exchanges as part of its public role.

All donations, grants and sponsorship are considered for appropriateness by the trustees to ensure there are no ethical concerns or conflicts of interest which might prevent the Choir from accepting them. The source of all donations, grants and sponsorship are reported to The Speaker and Lord Speaker annually. The Choir continues to recruit for its Friends scheme to build a stream of income to support its regular operating costs. The Choir receives no public funding.

Risk management and reserves policy

Part of the Choir's public role is to stage major national events such as Parliament's Armistice Centenary commemoration in Westminster Hall and to undertake international cultural exchanges such as its concerts at the Bundestag in Berlin, Notre Dame in Paris and the Vatican. These are expensive and carry significant risks, but the Choir does not commit to undertaking them until enough financial support has been committed. The trustees are conscious of the need to manage the risks to which the charity is exposed and these are regularly considered at their meetings. Their risk mitigation strategy includes seeking opportunities to take part in collaborative events and staging exciting and musically ambitious concerts to increase the Choir's audience. The trustees aim to increase the charity's reserves to provide better protection against the risks it faces and ensure it remains on a sound financial footing.



Lord German
Chair

Date: 20th January 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees, are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statement in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees elected to prepare the financial statement in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of allocation of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Parliament Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Parliament Choir ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

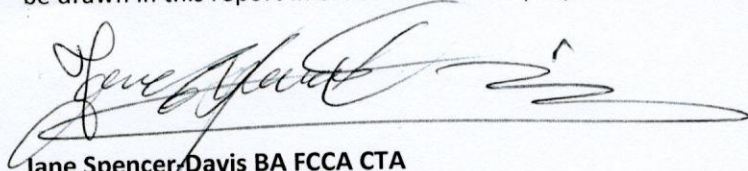
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Jane Spencer-Davis BA FCCA CTA
Spencer-Davis & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
4 - 6 Peterborough Road, Harrow, HA1 2BQ

Date: 20th January 2025

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
Income and endowments from:							
Donations/Grants		21,170	67,225	88,395	19,668	33,092	52,760
Charitable Activities	2	47,488	-	47,488	61,807	-	61,807
Other trading activities		4,467	-	4,467	492	-	492
Investments		125	-	125	6	-	6
Total		<u>73,250</u>	<u>67,225</u>	<u>140,475</u>	<u>81,973</u>	<u>33,092</u>	<u>115,065</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3	8,907	-	8,907	5,527	-	5,527
Charitable activities	4,5	64,018	75,938	139,956	94,436	12,696	107,132
Total		<u>72,925</u>	<u>75,938</u>	<u>148,863</u>	<u>99,963</u>	<u>12,696</u>	<u>112,659</u>
Net income/(expenditure) & Net movement in funds		<u>325</u>	<u>(8,713)</u>	<u>(8,388)</u>	<u>(17,990)</u>	<u>20,396</u>	<u>2,406</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		45,949	21,628	67,577	63,939	1,232	65,171
Total funds carried forward		<u>46,274</u>	<u>12,915</u>	<u>59,189</u>	<u>45,949</u>	<u>21,628</u>	<u>67,577</u>

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than the net surplus/(deficit) included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Fixed Assets			
Instruments and performance equipment	9	800	1,200
Total fixed assets		800	1,200
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	23,834	12,386
Cash at bank and in hand		69,779	55,561
Total current assets		93,613	67,947
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	35,224	1,570
		35,224	1,570
Net current liabilities		58,389	66,377
Total assets less current liabilities and total net assets		59,189	67,577
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12,13	12,915	21,628
Unrestricted funds	13	46,274	45,949
Total charity funds		59,189	67,577

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th January 2025 and were signed on their behalf by:



Lord German
Chair

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1) Accounting Policies

i) The Basis of Preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Trust Deeds, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

ii) Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised as follows:

- Performance fees, ticket income and programme income: in the period in which the performance takes place
- Membership subscription payments: in the period in which the payment becomes due (subscription payment periods run from 1 April each year)
- Donations: in the period in which the donation is received. Where the proceeds from collections at concerts are split with other charities, the amount due to other charities is not recognised as income of the charity.
- Sponsorship payments: in the period in which the payment becomes due, provided the charity is sufficiently certain of receipt of the agreed amount
- Study day fees: in the period in which the study day rehearsal takes place (not the period when the associated performance occurs, which may be different)
- Sale of music scores to Choir members: in the period in which the sale takes place (not the period in which the associated performance, if any, occurs, which may be different)
- Gift Aid: in the period in which the associated donation is received, provided the Choir is sufficiently certain that the donation fulfils all of the necessary requirements for a gift aid claim to be submitted in due course

iii) Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised as follows:

- Performance costs: in the period in which the performance takes place, provided the cost is related to the concert day itself and cannot be considered an activity in its own right (eg. a rehearsal or study day)
- Rehearsal and study day costs: in the period in which the rehearsal or study day takes place (not when the associated performance takes place, which may be different)
- Fees to music and administration staff: the period in which the work takes place (paid in arrears)

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

- Finance and accounting fees: the period in which the work takes place
- Independent Examiner's Remuneration: the period to which the work relates
- Support costs: the period to which the expenditure relates – this will usually be the period in which the expenditure takes place
- Grants awarded: as soon as a constructive obligation is deemed to exist to make the award in a future period

Support costs are apportioned across the activities as follows:

- Administration fees and general office expenses: on the basis of the time spent by the Choir Secretary/Manager on each activity

Governance costs are apportioned across the activities as follows:

- Proportion of direct expenditure on each activity

iv) *Assets Policy*

Fixed assets which provide an ongoing benefit to the charity are capitalised at their cost value and depreciated according to the estimated useful lifetime of the asset, taken to be:

- Instruments and performance equipment 6 years

v) *Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

vi) *Restricted and Unrestricted Funds*

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

vii) *Financial Instruments*

As per FRS 102 Section 11, the charity makes use of only basic financial instruments which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at settlement value. Financial instruments held by the entity comprise debtors, creditors and cash.

viii) *Taxation*

No provision has been made for taxation as The Parliament Choir is a public benefit entity which is exempt from UK direct taxation on its charitable activities.

ix) *Going Concern*

The Trustees have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and potential implications on future operations. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

2) Analysis of income from charitable activities

	2024 4 concerts	2023 4 concerts
Membership subscriptions	18,404	19,062
Performance fees/Ticket income	23,472	25,451
Study days	988	12,438
Music Scores/Red folder sales	4,476	1,791
Miscellaneous	148	3,065
Total	47,488	61,807

3) Raising funds

	2024	2023	Note
Direct costs	5,251	2,128	
Support costs	3,405	3,221	6
Governance costs	251	178	7
Total	8,907	5,527	

4) Charitable activities

	2024			2023			Note
	Musical performances	Supporting young musicians	Total	Musical performances	Supporting young musicians	Total	
Direct costs	122,209	-	122,209	89,361	-	89,361	
Grant-making	-	-	-	-	600	600	5
Support costs	11,916	-	11,916	9,664	-	9,664	6
Governance costs	5,831	-	5,831	7,457	50	7,507	7
Total	139,956	-	139,956	106,482	650	107,132	

5) Grant-making activities

	2024	2023
Bursaries	-	600
Total	-	600

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

6) Support costs

	2024		2023	
	Administration fees and expenses	Total	Administration fees and expenses	Total
Charitable Activities: Musical Performances	11,916	11,916	9,664	9,664
Raising funds	3,405	3,405	3,221	3,221
Governance	1,702	1,702	3,221	3,221
Total	17,023	17,023	16,106	16,106

7) Governance Costs

	2024	2023
Charitable activities: musical performances	5,831	7,457
Charitable activities: supporting young musicians	-	50
Raising funds	251	178
Total	6,082	7,685

8) Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
Accountancy fees	3,600	3,600
Independent Examiner's Remuneration	780	864
Depreciation	400	400
Total	4,780	4,864

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

9) Fixed Assets

	2024		2023	
	Instruments and performance equipment	Total	Instruments and performance equipment	Total
Cost or valuation				
At beginning of the year	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Additions	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Depreciation				
At beginning of the year	1,200	1,200	800	800
Depreciation	400	400	400	400
At end of the year	1,600	1,600	1,200	1,200
Net book value at beginning of the year	1,200	1,200	1,600	1,600
Net book value at end of the year	800	800	1,200	1,200

10) Debtors

	2024	2023
Other debtors	6,973	7,535
Prepayments	16,861	4,851
Total	23,834	12,386

11) Creditors

	2024	2023
Accruals	10,467	1,345
Income received in advance	24,757	225
Total	35,224	1,570

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

12) Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
Dream of Gerontius Vatican Concert Fund	18,570	54,688	73,438	-	-
Messiah Fund	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Beethoven Fund	-	8,925	-	-	8,925
Piano Fund	422	-	-	-	422
Young Musicians' Fund	2,456	1,112	-	-	3,568
	21,628	67,225	75,938	-	12,915

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
Durufilé Concert Fund	-	125	125	-	-
Vaughan Williams Concert Fund	100	2,522	2,622	-	-
Slovenia Concerts Fund	-	9,824	9,824	-	-
Dream of Gerontius Vatican Concert Fund	-	18,750	-	-	18,750
Rehearsals and Study Day Fund	-	125	125	-	-
Piano Fund	422	-	-	-	422
Young Musician's fund	710	1,746	-	-	2,456
	1,232	33,092	12,696	-	21,628

Income for the Young Musicians' Fund is raised from donations for programmes at the Choir's concerts. The cost of producing the programmes is borne by the Choir so the whole amount of donations received go to the fund. The income of £1,746 in 2023 includes £489 raised at a joint concert with the Bar Choral Society.

13) Analysis of Charity Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
Restricted Funds	21,628	67,225	75,938	-	12,915
Unrestricted Funds	45,949	73,250	72,925	-	46,274
	67,577	140,475	148,863	-	59,189

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
Restricted Funds	1,232	33,092	12,696	-	21,628
Unrestricted Funds	63,939	81,973	99,963	-	45,949
	65,171	115,065	112,659	-	67,577

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

14) Trustees

The total amount of expenses reimbursed to Trustees in the year was £2,834 (2023: £854)

Membership subscriptions and ticket sales made to Trustees were on the same basis as to other members of the Choir.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration (2023: £Nil).

15) Related party transactions

The aggregate amount of donations received from trustees and related parties during the year was £3,632 (2023: £8,167). No conditions were attached to these donations.

There were no additional related party transactions other than those disclosed in the Trustees note above.

16) Employees

The charity has no employees (2023: Nil)