

Lucis: Chairman's Report 2025

Delivered at the 2025 AGM on 18 11 25

Lucis' 10th anniversary culminated in a gala concert in Bath Abbey in December 2024. In partnership with Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, we celebrated with guests, The Bath Celebration Choir, Noctis, The Alley Barbers, Cavante and Bristol Ensemble. It was a packed audience and a truly memorable evening

In February, we had the first workshop of the year in preparation for our concert in Malmesbury in May, when we performed the Haydn *Theresienmesse* to a very appreciative audience. Our Musical Director was unwell and unable to lead us that evening, but we were in the capable hands of Matthew Nicholls.

The next couple of months were busy. Lucis took part in 'Party in the City' on May 16th and 17th and then prepared for the Vivaldi *Four Seasons: the Opera*, the world premier gala performance of which we staged in Prior Park Chapel on June 28th. Choir members and audience enjoyed picnic and prosecco in the grounds of Prior Park College before the performance. We were blessed with a beautiful evening. Another memorable event.

After the summer break, we welcomed a workshop with Michelle Nova, the leader of the Nova Singers who were to join us for the next concert on November 1st when the main attraction was Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. As the Nova Singers are an upper voice choir, Lucis' lower voices took the opportunity to shine with a new commission from Paige Halliwell.

So now we are preparing for the Christmas Cabaret in All Saints Weston Village, a brief performance in the Bath Abbey Carol Concert organised by the Rotarians and carol singing in Bath in December.

None of this is possible without the dedicated work of your Committee and I thank them all for the efforts they make to ensure successful events. Two years ago, I commented on the proportion of choir members actively involved in the wider life of Lucis. In addition to the Committee, there are the members of the Publicity and Marketing team, the Social Committee, the Library team,

the John Fletcher input, the concert manager, those who occasionally join the tea /coffee rota and those who help by offering lifts other choir members. Your contribution is valued by all the Lucis family.

If anyone else would like to volunteer their experience and expertise to enrich our activities, please come forward. I'm sure we can find you a job, especially should you volunteer to become Vice Chair.

At the beginning of the year, we were set a challenge. A generous donor has given us £5,000 with the promise of another £5000 if we can match-fund it.

This goal has been at the heart of many of our activities this year.

In March. the Social Committee organised the Castaways evening, when we learned about the musical influences of our guest, Matthew Coleridge, and our musical Director, Francis Faux. And that there are some excellent cooks amongst us. It was great fun.

The book sale at the end of the summer season was very well-supported. Thank you, Sian, for the idea, I'm sure we will repeat it.

Thank you to Colin for the pen sale, to Jean for her pottery, to all cake-makers, To Collette, for the uniform swap idea and to all those of you who find it simpler to give a donation.

We mistimed the Lucis Quiz, which has been postponed until February 2026, but that too has contributed to the monetary goal

Thank you all for your generosity. If you have yet to make a donation, there is still time.

Lucis would not exist without the vision of our Musical Director, Francis Faux and the dedication of accompanist Will Ashworth. You make each week a joy and often a learning curve. Thank you.

It's good to be welcoming two new members to the Committee for the coming year, but sad to be losing Kay, who has led the Social Committee with such enthusiasm and whom we have to thank for the many suggestions and success of social activities. We wish you well in your new venture, Kay, and

are delighted that you will still be a member of Lucis. We know how supportive you will be.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

LUCAS CHOR

On accounts for the year
ended

31 / 8 / 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1092531

Set out on pages

examined to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended .

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

C. L. Norris

Date:

20 / 10 / 2025

Name:

CHRISTOPHER NORRIS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

C.P.F.A

Chartered Institute of Public
Finance and Accountancy

(if any):

--

Address:

2, MONUMENT VIEW
CALNE
SN11 OFR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--

Lucis Choir - XR65479

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
GI20 - Membership Subscriptions	17,333				17,333	16,538
GI23 - Gift Aid Tax Refunds						5,899
GI26 - Friends of Lucis	1,315				1,315	1,135
GI28 - Donations - Rehearsal Catering	243				243	307
GI35 - Other Donations	6,384				6,384	231
GI38 - Contributions re Music Costs						
GI40 - Music Folder Deposits	52				52	72
Donations and legacies Totals	25,327				25,327	24,184
Income from charitable activities						
PI970 - Prior Park 2025						
GI51 - Will Todd Commission						
GI52 - Venue Hire						538
GI960 - Chilcott Scores						653
P952 - Tallin Tour	175				175	3,150
PE940 - St Mary's Xmas 22						
PI933 - Games Concert						
PI935 - Coleridge workshop						
PI938 - Malmesbury Coleridge						
PI942 - Carmina WMC 23						
PI944 - Lucis Social						195
PI946 - Rhine Tour						
PI948 - Thyme concert						
PI950 - Vivaldi concert						3,252
PI952 - Xmas St Lukes '23						3,028
PI954 - St Mary Redcliffe '24						4,030
PI956 - Holy Trinity '24						2,606
PI958 - Faure Workshop						1,888
PI960 - St Michael's Oct 24	2,114				2,114	
PI962 - Prior Park '25	6,298				6,298	
PI964 - Christmas Gala '24	15,583				15,583	
PI966 - Gjeilo Tour	6,281				6,281	
PI967 - Nova Workshop	1,120				1,120	
PI968 - Castaways	1,283				1,283	
PI969 - Malmesbury 2025	3,047				3,047	
Income from charitable activities Totals	35,904				35,904	19,343
Other trading activities						
GI37 - Sales of Music Scores						
Other trading activities Totals						
Investments						
GI50 - Bank Interest	330				330	176
Investments Totals	330				330	176

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments	61,562				61,562	43,704
Grand totals						

Expenditure

Raising funds

GE40 - Website Fees	455				455	1,023
GE45 - Photography						

Raising funds Totals	455				455	1,023
-----------------------------	-----	--	--	--	-----	-------

Expenditure on charitable activities

GE83 - SumUp Fees						8
GE01 - Musical Director Rehearsal Fees	6,800				6,800	9,553
GE03 - Accompanist Rehearsal Fees	3,600				3,600	3,620
GE06 - Hire of Rehearsal Venues	3,360				3,360	4,475
GE10 - Hire of Music Scores	1,612				1,612	3,768
GE12 - Purchase of Music Scores						1,686
GE13 - Printing of Music Scores						120
GE14 - Purchase of Music Folders						272
GE36 - John Fletcher Music Files	198				198	198
GE46 - Photographic Equipment	149				149	
GE82 - Will Todd Commission						450
GE83 - Misc rehearsal equipment	23				23	
GE84 - Membership refund	396				396	
P951 - Tallin Tour						3,325
PE931 - St Georges Bristol 2022						
PE935 - Games Concert						
PE937 - Malmesbury Coleridge						
PE939 - St Mary's Xmas 22						
PE941 - Carmina WMC 23						200
PE943 - Lucis Social						207
PE945 - Rhine Tour						175
PE947 - Thyme concert						
PE949 - Vivaldi concert						3,282
PE951 - Xmas St Lukes '23						1,786
PE953 - St Mary Redcliffe concert '24						4,331
PE955 - Holy Trinity '24						2,656
PE957 - Faure Workshop	80				80	585
PE959 - St Michael's Oct 24	3,716				3,716	
PE961 - Prior Park '25	250				250	
PE963 - Christmas Gala '24	16,114				16,114	
PE965 - Gjeilo Tour	6,335				6,335	
PE966 - Malmesbury 2025	6,828				6,828	
PE967 - Nova Workshop	1,210				1,210	
PE968 - Castaways	602				602	
PE969 - Prior Park 2025	8,015				8,015	
PE970 - Nov 2025	1,333				1,333	

Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	60,626				60,626	40,702
--	--------	--	--	--	--------	--------

Administration costs

GE15 - Music Folder Dep Refunds						
GE16 - Music Library Equipment						
GE30 - Subscription to 'Making Music'	892				892	323
GE35 - Insurance via 'Making Music'						
GE37 - Assn of British Choral Directors						182

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
GE38 - Independent Examiner	50				50	50
GE39 - Bank Charges	60				60	60
GE43 - Finance Software Support	75				75	75
GE50 - Printing & Stationery	116				116	
GE52 - Postage	78				78	
Administration costs Totals	1,272				1,272	690
Other expenditure						
GE55 - Gifts	658				658	179
Other expenditure Totals	658				658	179
Expenditure Grand totals	63,013				63,013	42,595

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Lucis Choir - XR65479

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/08/2025	As at 31/08/2024
Current assets			
	01: CASH	—	—
	02: CAF BANK CafCash Account	4,428.58	7,451.05
	03: CAF BANK Gold Account	14,912.23	13,341.43
	Total Current assets	19,340.81	20,792.48
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	—	—
	Total Liabilities	—	—
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	19,340.81	20,792.48
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(1,451.67)	1,108.49
	Z01: Starting balances	20,792.48	19,683.99
	Total Reserves	19,340.81	20,792.48

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	19,341.42	20,793.09
Designated	(0.61)	(0.61)
Restricted	—	—
Endowment	—	—
Total	19,340.81	20,792.48

Treasurer's report for the Year Ending 31st August 2025

<u>Current Assets</u>	2024-2025	2023-2024
CAF Cash Account	£4,428	£7,451
CAF Gold Account	£14,912	£13,341
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	£19,340	£20,792
Decrease in funds	-£1,452	

Total Income and Expenditure

	This Year	Last Year
Income	£61,562	£43,704
Expenditure	£63,013	£42,595

Events during the Year

	Income	Expenditure	Profit/Loss
St Michael's, Autumn 24	£2,114	£3,716	-£1,602
Bath Abbey, Christmas	£15,583	£16,114	-£531
Nova Workshop	£1,120	£1,210	-£90
Malmesbury May 25	£3,047	£6,828	-£3,781
Prior Park	£6,298	£8,265	-£1,967 ¹
Total deficit on concerts			-£7,941

¹ Funds were received after year end reducing this deficit to £640

Comments

Firstly, I'd like to say huge thanks to Paul (Slade) for spending several hours with me earlier this year patiently handing over Treasurer duties, and giving me an overview of banking and accounting processes and systems. This first year has been frustrating and rewarding in equal measure. It's not always been quick or straightforward getting necessary systems access, but now I've got year one under my belt I'm more confident that I know what I'm doing!

Let's start with the more negative news.

As you can see, we haven't managed to make a positive financial return on any of our events in the year to August, incurring an overall concert deficit of nearly £8,000. This is in contrast to the surplus of £1,300 last year.

However, it's notable that every single concert involved an orchestra and soloists, which clearly incur significant additional expenses. We have to acknowledge that it's virtually impossible to cover our costs on events such as these, but the reward is the enjoyment of performing with talented professional musicians and we can be proud of putting on such amazing concerts.

We can also be proud of the minimal deficit on the Christmas gala. This was heading for breakeven until we got an invoice for PRS costs (performing rights) a few weeks after the concert. Clearly the financial risks of an event with a £16k spend are significant but the excellent ticket sales, plus financial support from BRLSI and a number of other sponsors helped considerably.

It should also be noted that our finances do not yet include any income from gift aid claims. When the 2025 claim is finalised this should bring in around £4,000.

Moving onto more positive news, we of course had a wonderful £5k donation at the start of the year from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous. This also came with an offer to match any additional fundraising by choir members during 2025, up to a maximum of £5k.

I'm delighted that the choir has responded with such enthusiasm and generosity. We've had cake and jam sales, weekly raffles, and several very generous individual donations.

There has also been beautiful pottery, incredible pens, and of course the very enjoyable Castaways evening with Matthew Coleridge, organised by Kay & the social committee which raised almost £900 in matched funding.

The Friends and Patrons scheme run by Ann also generated increased income of £1,300 during the financial year.

We're pretty much on track to achieving the maximum £5,000 available for matched funding – at the time of writing (early November) the total fundraising is standing at just over £4,400.

Planning for 2025_2026

Financially, we have to acknowledge that our underlying costs, particularly music hire and printing, continue to increase year on year.

All choir members have been incredibly generous with both their money and time over the past year in helping to fund raise, and we've benefited hugely from the significant donation. However, this is not sustainable in the longer term, and we therefore need to generate more income from regular sources.

We continue to explore the possibility of hiring out our own collection of music which will hopefully generate a small amount of additional income.

The committee also proposes a modest increase in membership fees for the current year. We raised membership fees by a small amount last year, and the committee has agreed a further similar increase for the current year to help cover our basic costs.

This year has been a steep learning curve for me, but I'd like to extend my thanks to Paul for the help and guidance, and to Sian, Francis and the rest of the committee for all their patience, kindness and support.

Jane Goodall

Treasurer

November 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

LUCAS CHOR

On accounts for the year
ended

31 / 8 / 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1092531

Set out on pages

examined to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended .

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

C. L. Norris

Date:

20 / 10 / 2025

Name:

CHRISTOPHER NORRIS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

C.P.F.A

Chartered Institute of Public
Finance and Accountancy

(if any):

--

Address:

2, MONUMENT VIEW
CALNE
SN11 OFR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--

Lucis Choir - XR65479

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
GI20 - Membership Subscriptions	17,333				17,333	16,538
GI23 - Gift Aid Tax Refunds						5,899
GI26 - Friends of Lucis	1,315				1,315	1,135
GI28 - Donations - Rehearsal Catering	243				243	307
GI35 - Other Donations	6,384				6,384	231
GI38 - Contributions re Music Costs						
GI40 - Music Folder Deposits	52				52	72
Donations and legacies Totals	25,327				25,327	24,184
Income from charitable activities						
PI970 - Prior Park 2025						
GI51 - Will Todd Commission						
GI52 - Venue Hire						538
GI960 - Chilcott Scores						653
P952 - Tallin Tour	175				175	3,150
PE940 - St Mary's Xmas 22						
PI933 - Games Concert						
PI935 - Coleridge workshop						
PI938 - Malmesbury Coleridge						
PI942 - Carmina WMC 23						
PI944 - Lucis Social						195
PI946 - Rhine Tour						
PI948 - Thyme concert						
PI950 - Vivaldi concert						3,252
PI952 - Xmas St Lukes '23						3,028
PI954 - St Mary Redcliffe '24						4,030
PI956 - Holy Trinity '24						2,606
PI958 - Faure Workshop						1,888
PI960 - St Michael's Oct 24	2,114				2,114	
PI962 - Prior Park '25	6,298				6,298	
PI964 - Christmas Gala '24	15,583				15,583	
PI966 - Gjeilo Tour	6,281				6,281	
PI967 - Nova Workshop	1,120				1,120	
PI968 - Castaways	1,283				1,283	
PI969 - Malmesbury 2025	3,047				3,047	
Income from charitable activities Totals	35,904				35,904	19,343
Other trading activities						
GI37 - Sales of Music Scores						
Other trading activities Totals						
Investments						
GI50 - Bank Interest	330				330	176
Investments Totals	330				330	176

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments	61,562				61,562	43,704
Grand totals						

Expenditure

Raising funds

GE40 - Website Fees	455				455	1,023
GE45 - Photography						

Raising funds Totals	455				455	1,023
-----------------------------	-----	--	--	--	-----	-------

Expenditure on charitable activities

GE83 - SumUp Fees						8
GE01 - Musical Director Rehearsal Fees	6,800				6,800	9,553
GE03 - Accompanist Rehearsal Fees	3,600				3,600	3,620
GE06 - Hire of Rehearsal Venues	3,360				3,360	4,475
GE10 - Hire of Music Scores	1,612				1,612	3,768
GE12 - Purchase of Music Scores						1,686
GE13 - Printing of Music Scores						120
GE14 - Purchase of Music Folders						272
GE36 - John Fletcher Music Files	198				198	198
GE46 - Photographic Equipment	149				149	
GE82 - Will Todd Commission						450
GE83 - Misc rehearsal equipment	23				23	
GE84 - Membership refund	396				396	
P951 - Tallin Tour						3,325
PE931 - St Georges Bristol 2022						
PE935 - Games Concert						
PE937 - Malmesbury Coleridge						
PE939 - St Mary's Xmas 22						
PE941 - Carmina WMC 23						200
PE943 - Lucis Social						207
PE945 - Rhine Tour						175
PE947 - Thyme concert						
PE949 - Vivaldi concert						3,282
PE951 - Xmas St Lukes '23						1,786
PE953 - St Mary Redcliffe concert '24						4,331
PE955 - Holy Trinity '24						2,656
PE957 - Faure Workshop	80				80	585
PE959 - St Michael's Oct 24	3,716				3,716	
PE961 - Prior Park '25	250				250	
PE963 - Christmas Gala '24	16,114				16,114	
PE965 - Gjeilo Tour	6,335				6,335	
PE966 - Malmesbury 2025	6,828				6,828	
PE967 - Nova Workshop	1,210				1,210	
PE968 - Castaways	602				602	
PE969 - Prior Park 2025	8,015				8,015	
PE970 - Nov 2025	1,333				1,333	

Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	60,626				60,626	40,702
--	--------	--	--	--	--------	--------

Administration costs

GE15 - Music Folder Dep Refunds						
GE16 - Music Library Equipment						
GE30 - Subscription to 'Making Music'	892				892	323
GE35 - Insurance via 'Making Music'						
GE37 - Assn of British Choral Directors						182

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
GE38 - Independent Examiner	50				50	50
GE39 - Bank Charges	60				60	60
GE43 - Finance Software Support	75				75	75
GE50 - Printing & Stationery	116				116	
GE52 - Postage	78				78	
Administration costs Totals	1,272				1,272	690
Other expenditure						
GE55 - Gifts	658				658	179
Other expenditure Totals	658				658	179
Expenditure Grand totals	63,013				63,013	42,595

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Lucis Choir - XR65479

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/08/2025	As at 31/08/2024
Current assets			
	01: CASH	—	—
	02: CAF BANK CafCash Account	4,428.58	7,451.05
	03: CAF BANK Gold Account	14,912.23	13,341.43
	Total Current assets	19,340.81	20,792.48
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	—	—
	Total Liabilities	—	—
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	19,340.81	20,792.48
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(1,451.67)	1,108.49
	Z01: Starting balances	20,792.48	19,683.99
	Total Reserves	19,340.81	20,792.48

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	19,341.42	20,793.09
Designated	(0.61)	(0.61)
Restricted	—	—
Endowment	—	—
Total	19,340.81	20,792.48

Treasurer's report for the Year Ending 31st August 2025

<u>Current Assets</u>	2024-2025	2023-2024
CAF Cash Account	£4,428	£7,451
CAF Gold Account	£14,912	£13,341
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	£19,340	£20,792
Decrease in funds	-£1,452	

Total Income and Expenditure

	This Year	Last Year
Income	£61,562	£43,704
Expenditure	£63,013	£42,595

Events during the Year

	Income	Expenditure	Profit/Loss
St Michael's, Autumn 24	£2,114	£3,716	-£1,602
Bath Abbey, Christmas	£15,583	£16,114	-£531
Nova Workshop	£1,120	£1,210	-£90
Malmesbury May 25	£3,047	£6,828	-£3,781
Prior Park	£6,298	£8,265	-£1,967 ¹
Total deficit on concerts			-£7,941

¹ Funds were received after year end reducing this deficit to £640

Comments

Firstly, I'd like to say huge thanks to Paul (Slade) for spending several hours with me earlier this year patiently handing over Treasurer duties, and giving me an overview of banking and accounting processes and systems. This first year has been frustrating and rewarding in equal measure. It's not always been quick or straightforward getting necessary systems access, but now I've got year one under my belt I'm more confident that I know what I'm doing!

Let's start with the more negative news.

As you can see, we haven't managed to make a positive financial return on any of our events in the year to August, incurring an overall concert deficit of nearly £8,000. This is in contrast to the surplus of £1,300 last year.

However, it's notable that every single concert involved an orchestra and soloists, which clearly incur significant additional expenses. We have to acknowledge that it's virtually impossible to cover our costs on events such as these, but the reward is the enjoyment of performing with talented professional musicians and we can be proud of putting on such amazing concerts.

We can also be proud of the minimal deficit on the Christmas gala. This was heading for breakeven until we got an invoice for PRS costs (performing rights) a few weeks after the concert. Clearly the financial risks of an event with a £16k spend are significant but the excellent ticket sales, plus financial support from BRLSI and a number of other sponsors helped considerably.

It should also be noted that our finances do not yet include any income from gift aid claims. When the 2025 claim is finalised this should bring in around £4,000.

Moving onto more positive news, we of course had a wonderful £5k donation at the start of the year from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous. This also came with an offer to match any additional fundraising by choir members during 2025, up to a maximum of £5k.

I'm delighted that the choir has responded with such enthusiasm and generosity. We've had cake and jam sales, weekly raffles, and several very generous individual donations.

There has also been beautiful pottery, incredible pens, and of course the very enjoyable Castaways evening with Matthew Coleridge, organised by Kay & the social committee which raised almost £900 in matched funding.

The Friends and Patrons scheme run by Ann also generated increased income of £1,300 during the financial year.

We're pretty much on track to achieving the maximum £5,000 available for matched funding – at the time of writing (early November) the total fundraising is standing at just over £4,400.

Planning for 2025_2026

Financially, we have to acknowledge that our underlying costs, particularly music hire and printing, continue to increase year on year.

All choir members have been incredibly generous with both their money and time over the past year in helping to fund raise, and we've benefited hugely from the significant donation. However, this is not sustainable in the longer term, and we therefore need to generate more income from regular sources.

We continue to explore the possibility of hiring out our own collection of music which will hopefully generate a small amount of additional income.

The committee also proposes a modest increase in membership fees for the current year. We raised membership fees by a small amount last year, and the committee has agreed a further similar increase for the current year to help cover our basic costs.

This year has been a steep learning curve for me, but I'd like to extend my thanks to Paul for the help and guidance, and to Sian, Francis and the rest of the committee for all their patience, kindness and support.

Jane Goodall

Treasurer

November 2025

