



**President: Bob Chilcott**

**Director of Music: Will Dawes**

**Chorus Master: Hilary Tadman-Robins**

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From: The Chairperson, Burford Singers

## **Annual report 2023/24**

This report covers the financial year when the choir performed its usual number of concerts in autumn, spring and summer.

The committee met formally on five occasions during the year (which includes the October 2024 AGM).

### **Concerts**

The previous chairman and committee agreed a programme of three major concerts for the 2023/24 season. Choir, full orchestra and an exceptional group of soloists featured throughout this season.

### **November concert - Handel's Messiah**

This was a fitting finale to Brian Kay's tenure as musical director of the Burford Singers. The church was packed to the seams and the choir numbers filled the stage to capacity too.

The concert was accompanied by The Cotswold Chamber Orchestra, under the fabulous leadership of Kate Bailey. The concert was a triumph.

It was fitting that Will Dawes was at the concert and Brian (literally) handed over his baton to the new incumbent at the after concert drinks gathering. Brian was presented with the book made up of memories from past and present choir members along with other gifts too.

### **April concert - Haydn's The Creation**

Will's debut concert with us was a roaring success - in every aspect. The fabulous soloists, The Cotswold Chamber Orchestra rising to the occasion under the new musical direction and the choir, who delivered a magnificent performance of this much loved piece.

The feedback from this debut concert was truly wonderful from both participants and our dedicated audience.

## June concert - Burford Festival Finale, 'A Celebration of English Music'

As usual for the summer concert a different, albeit sometimes challenging repertoire of music was chosen to provide the finale concert for the Burford Festival, featuring 'Aesop's Fables' composed by our choir President, Bob Chilcott as well as other English classics by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Finzi.

Bernard West accompanied us from the organ during the first half and the hired grand piano in the second half.

Despite the reduced choir numbers who sang for this concert, the 60 singers produced an excellent sound that we should all be proud of.

The concert was also dedicated to our much loved member, Jo Glyde, who had passed away earlier that same week.

## Membership

By the beginning of September 2024 - 11 members did not renew their membership (this number includes 4 previous members who did not respond at all to emails and reminders about membership renewal). The other members who left cited the following reasons:

- age
- travel issues
- going to university
- diary conflicts
- other commitments

However, we have appointed 5 new singers which include a bass, 3 sopranos and an alto. We have another potential member who will be assessed in January and a bass who will join us next year.

This brings us to a total of **80 total membership** for this year.

For the concerts we are expecting the following line up:

<b>Autum</b>	Sops 31	Altos 24	Tenors 11	Basses 11	<b>Total 77</b>
<b>Spring</b>	Sops 30	Altos 25	Tenors 10	Basses 11	<b>Total 76</b>
<b>Summer</b>	Sops 28	Altos 24	Tenors 9	Basses 11	<b>Total 72</b>

The Associates membership scheme is in place, although at the moment we have capacity in the choir to assess new members as soon as possible after we receive their applications and for them to be invited straight into the choir, rather than join the associate list.

The committee are aware that we need to recruit more tenors - an issue that seems to be common across most choirs! Our website reflects this as well as the message that we're keen to welcome younger members to join us.

## Director of Music

Thanks must go to the previous Chairman, Peter Moran and committee for the recruitment process to find a suitable successor to Brian Kay.

I would like to personally thank Will Dawes, our new Director of Music for his first two concerts. I'm sure everyone will agree, we benefit from Will's expertise as an all-round superb musician and particularly as a singer himself.

To benefit as a choir from his expertise in finessing the vocal interpretation of pieces is something we should all be grateful for. Students pay good money to have these insightful techniques from singing coaches and we have this on a weekly basis throughout each term! Learn from it and absorb all that he says like a sponge.

Hopefully, with all the rehearsal aids that our website provides we should be able to get a grasp of our repertoire so that at rehearsals, we can utilise Will's talent to the maximum and learn a few more tricks of the trade to really polish our performances. Exciting times!!

## Finance

Our treasurer will be providing a much more detailed summary of our finances.

However, a few headlines from me:

- the increased members subscriptions agreed by the last committee has proved essential in maintaining a stable financial position
- there were a number of small fee increases this year for the following:
  - orchestral players
  - accompanist
  - chorus master
- as of the concert in November there will be a small increase in ticket prices which will bring us in-line with other performances in our area
- we were grateful to receive a number of significant donations in the last year which has helped tremendously with some of our outgoing costs

Lastly, the committee and MD are aware that we need to be mindful in the music choices for each year - that the programmes cover the right mix of repertoire which will attract large audiences. This is imperative to meet our outgoing costs and build our income.

## Outlook for 2024/25

- feedback from our members
- processes for music choices
- membership fees remaining unchanged

We have an exciting programme of concerts for this coming year. We have listened to the feedback from members and the audience, and to that end have made a few adjustments to our future programmes.

The MD and committee now have an agreed process in place for choosing music for future concerts. We aim to work to a '2 year in advance' programme, thus giving all relevant parties enough lead time to carry out hirings, bookings, marketing etc.

Given the membership fees were increased last year - the committee decided to leave this unchanged. The offer to split the membership cost over x2 payments (one in August and one in February) has proved helpful to a number of members.

## Website & Social media

### Safeguarding policy

Our Safeguarding Policy is published on our web site. Full Members and Associates should make sure that they take time to update their understanding of the policy – see our members' web page [www.burfordsingers.org.uk/member](http://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/member).

### Rehearsal aids

Members who wish to use rehearsal aids are encouraged to use the .pdf that has been updated. You can find this .pdf using the link on the members' web page [www.burfordsingers.org.uk/member](http://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/member).

### X and Facebook

We used to have a facebook page but have since stopped updating it. We do have an 'X' account and also an Instagram account. We are hoping to look for volunteers to update these on a regular basis.

## Thanks

I would like to thank both Hilary Tadman-Robins and Robin Baggs for all their hard work with the choir over the last year.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in planning and delivering our events. Planning and executing the rearrangements in a busy working church with three Sunday morning services in time for a Sunday evening concert is not a trivial exercise.

My thanks to the Vicar and Parochial Church Council for helping to achieve this.

Special thanks also to my fellow committee members, especially those who are standing down from the committee at the forthcoming AGM:

- Carol Ross (bookings)
- Anne Crow (committee member without portfolio)
- Rosie Chute (sponsors/advertising/ marketing)

And

- Stephen Blake (membership secretary - *not a committee position*)

We hope to receive interest from members to fill those vacant positions. Thank you and very best wishes to you all.

Elizabeth Bennett

***Chairperson***

**THE BURFORD SINGERS (Charity No.1096043)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - Year Ended 31st August 2024**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Membership Subscriptions	16,825		16,640	
Income Tax Recovered (Gift Aid)	4,297		7,218	
		21,122		23,858
Ticket Sales - future	803		1,000	
Ticket Sales	14,691		15,618	
		15,494		16,618
Other Sponsorship		310		300
Grants, Donations & "Friends"		4,125		5,428
Bank Interest		883		354
Fund Raising		18		7
Sale of Goods		30		30
Workshops		2,863		100
October Function		1,892		4,180
Members' purchase of scores		0		0
Misc. receipts		188		78
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>46,925</b>		<b>50,954</b>
<b><u>OUTGOING RESOURCES</u></b>				
<b><u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u></b>				
Concert Expenditure	37,790		44,298	
Subscription (Making Music)	392		365	
Ex Gratia Payments				
Insurance	283		269	
Capital Purchases				
Performing Rights Licence/Fees				
Ticketing Costs	0		86	
Singday	765		370	
October Function	4,852		2,040	
Previous financial year concert costs	0		58	
Goods & music purchased for resale				
Future Concert costs	100		552	
IT Support	11		11	
		<b>44,193</b>		<b>48,049</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>				
Postage, printing, stationery, telephone	31		55	
Bank Charges	63		76	
Misc. payments	481		358	
Audit & Accountancy				
Committee Meeting venue hire	129		148	
Professional Fees				
Staging Storage	1,074		800	
		<b>1,778</b>		<b>1,437</b>
<b>Total Outgoing Resources</b>		<b>45,971</b>		<b>49,486</b>

Net Inflow / Outflow of Funds	954	1,467
Cash Fund Brought Forward	43,211	41,744
Cash Fund Carried Forward	44,165	43,211

**THE BURFORD SINGERS (Charity No.1096043)****BALANCE SHEET As at 31st August 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Concert Staging	11,022	12,247
Rehearsal Piano	1,533	1,703
Trailer	1,834	2,038
	<u>14,389</u>	<u>15,988</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank	44,165	43,211
	<u>44,165</u>	<u>43,211</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>58,554</b></u>	<u><b>59,199</b></u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>58,554</b></u>	<u><b>59,508</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
<b>Opening Balance</b>	59,508	65,799
Movement in Cash Fund	954	-4,317
Movement in Asset Fund	-1,599	-1,974
<b>CLOSING Balance</b>	<u><b>58,863</b></u>	<u><b>59,508</b></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Members at meeting held on .....2024

and signed on their behalf by :-

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## EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURFORD SINGERS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 2 and 3 of this report.

#### 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').

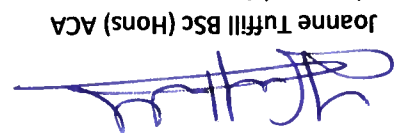
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the 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 Act;
- 2 the accounts do not match the accounting records;

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.



Joanne Tuffill BSc (Hons) ACA

Chartered Accountant  
6 Wheelwrights Court

Buckland

Faringdon

Wiltshire SN7 8QA

2/10/24