

LICHFIELD GOSPEL CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 1153553

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2013-08-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 14 Gaiafields Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 7LT

Phone 07545 600 835

Email lichfieldgospelchoir@gmail.com

Website <http://lichfieldgospelchoir.co.uk/>

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS.

Activities: To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals; and such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£29,068	£25,965	-	-
2024-03-31	£27,892	£27,228	-	-
2023-03-31	£24,737	£24,737	-	-
2022-03-31	£14,636	£15,158	-	-
2021-03-31	£16,342	£11,602	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr GERRIT BOUDEWIJN HUISMAN	Chair	2013-08-27
Andrew Richard Paterson		2018-09-25
Annemarie Fraser		2025-09-17
EMILY JANE BACON		2013-08-27
Emily Neale		2025-09-17
Iona Chisholm		2024-08-13
Kate Courage		2023-09-26
Kate Elizabeth Slater		2016-09-20
MICHAEL Richard JONES		2013-08-27

LICHFIELD GOSPEL CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1153553

Accounts

View this email in your browser



Lichfield Gospel Choir

Annual Report

2024 - 2025



On Reflection - Gerbo Huisman



I am delighted to write the introduction to our Annual Report, which reflects and celebrates another very successful year. Inevitably "Wigmore Hall" will get a mention elsewhere in this report. And yes, standing on the stage previously occupied by the likes of Arthur Rubenstein, Benjamin Britten and Ivor Novello (to name a few) joined as we were by the Imbube Singers was special, as was looking out over a sold-out Wigmore Hall and note even some dancing in the aisles (some strategically placed LGC members might have helped).

To me though nothing beats the feeling of joy and pride singing at our home venue, for our home audience, which I would choose anytime above any other stage, even in London. This feeling is closely matched by the delight of attending our weekly rehearsals, with the opportunity to socialise before and after (and a bit in between), polishing up old material (with occasionally some Gabriella refinement added) and learning new material (and wasn't it great having time for this?).

In the prime, central position of the Bases the sounds experienced can be spine-tinglingly (is that a word?) beautiful. Observers have reported that during rehearsals we move even more freely, are more expressive, more ourselves. I always find it quite intriguing to observe how new members in their first weeks are a little taken aback by the amount of movement and our willingness to throw ourselves into any shape or position asked for by our MDs, but also how their initial very hesitant efforts to join in soon enough become fully fledged LGC movement patterns and facial expressions.

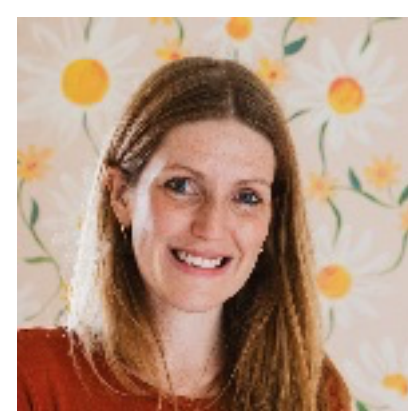
I think what I am really trying to say is: I love the rehearsals, which tend to be amongst the highlights of my week, distract me from daily stresses and worries and I'd be pretty happy if that's all I do within the choir.

With all this activity, rehearsals and performances, enjoyable social events, a (pro-) active, highly skilled and always dedicated Committee (their contributions richly reflected in this AR) and being blessed with our two wonderful Musical Directors (you'd consider yourself lucky with one of them!) the Choir is in good health.

Above all, we have our lovely and always enthusiastic members who turn up week after week, look out for each other, share their talents, do as they are told (I mean taught) and always manage to create that special atmosphere, that expressive movement and most of all that unmistakable beautiful LGC sound.

I am very proud to be part of this Choir and delighted to serve it as its Chair.

Keeping In Touch - Kate Slater



Our main channels of choir communication are the website, Instagram and Facebook, and as always I'm very grateful for your continued engagement with everything there. I've recently updated the home page of the website to focus on our concert with the Imbube Singers and direct visitors to buy tickets. This is the first time we've used an external platform, Ticket Tailor, to sell tickets, which seems to be working well and should keep things running smoothly on the night!

I've been focussing more on direct email too, and we now have over 440 people subscribed to our mailing list (we use Mailchimp) and are planning to send a few more emails before the concert. Of course we also have the flyers and posters which I know have been enthusiastically distributed!

Our new members have hopefully already discovered the resources in the Members' Area of the website. The diary is usually as up-to-date as it can be (we rarely plan very far ahead!) and the Members' Gallery is handy if you're trying to remember new names (I'm a bit behind with this at the moment as there's been so much concert admin to do, but perhaps by the time you're reading this I'll have sorted it!).

It's also worth highlighting that the learning tracks are a relatively recent addition, mostly dating from around the pandemic; although there are now about 20, the library certainly doesn't contain our full repertoire. Zoom rehearsals began for the same reason; a lifeline when we were all stuck at home, they continued to support those who weren't yet ready to return in-person. It wasn't long til everyone became so used to being able to join on Zoom or catch up on YouTube that we decided to keep it going, but, as I'm sure you're all aware, it's not without its hiccups! Sound quality is never going to be perfect, although I understand it's usually better live on Zoom before it's compressed by YouTube.

A success of the past year has been the Whatsapp Community announcements group. We use this almost exclusively for last minute updates (like delayed trains), and only admins (Gerbo, Emily and I) can post in there. If you aren't in this group and would like to be, please ask one of us.

We're grateful for your patience with all the surveys (Emily and Gerbo have recently started doing some of these too!) With over 100 members they're a necessary piece of the admin puzzle, especially when we're trying to plan concerts. You should now receive an email confirmation when you've completed a survey.

Finally, a huge thank you to Phil Barnes for all his wonderful photos. I still have some from St Editha's I haven't yet shared...

You can find us:

www.lichfieldgospelchoir.co.uk/members (password: gospelchoir)

Instagram: [@lichfieldgospel](https://www.instagram.com/lichfieldgospel)

Facebook: [Lichfield Gospel Choir](https://www.facebook.com/LichfieldGospelChoir)

And please do encourage your friends to sign up to our mailing list online [here](#).

Concerts Review - Andy Paterson



We enjoyed a diverse range of Concerts during the year, with the prestige of performing in July at London's Wigmore Hall as part of their African Concert Series. With a small stage, we were limited in the number of singers but a coachful of intrepid performers made landfall in the capital to enjoy an amazing collaboration with the African Imbube Singers. Under Themba & Gabriella's guidance, we took the normally staid venue by storm with aisle-dancing, rip-roaring applause and a standing ovation to conclude our now legendary performance.

Such was its success that it has now brought about our most ambitious concert to date. With the Imbube Singers and a full complement of singers, we're looking forward to a sell-out reprise in our own Cathedral in October, where we'll celebrate 15 years of Lichfield Gospel Choir.

In October, the familiar surroundings of St Peter & Paul Church hosted our concert in aid of Mercy Rescue Trust where we performed to full pews and raised a healthy contribution for Themba's sister Jedidah's Kenyan charity.

November brought us a challenging performance at St. Editha's church in Tamworth where their failed heating and an unexpected dressing of Christmas trees kept us all on our toes and looking lively as we warmed up the appreciative audience with a festive repertoire.

And as if freezing indoor temperatures weren't enough, a month later and in true festive spirit, we joined a collaboration of singers at the National Memorial Arboretum for a sparkling session of outdoor carols and a selection from our own African repertoire, ably led by our gloved, scarved and hatted Musical Directors.

Finally, thanks must go to Janet Gibson and Ian Wreeman for ongoing storage and transportation of all our staging components and - of course - to Themba & Gabriella for their indomitable leadership and inspiration throughout another wonderful year of joyful singing. Long may it continue.

Musical Directors' Review

Themba Mvula & Gabriella Liandu



This has been a very special year for the choir. With slightly fewer concerts in the diary than usual, our focus was largely on preparing for our performance at Wigmore Hall. This gave us the opportunity to learn lots of exciting new repertoire. Songs including *Hlohonolofatsa*, *Abanje* and *Kaya Silo* have stretched us in new ways and expanded the range of our repertoire.

The Wigmore Hall project—initiated by the African Concert Series—also introduced us to the Imbube Singers. They have been a real source of inspiration, introducing us to new choir favourites such as *Shasholozo* and *Thula Thula*, but also wowing us with the powerful voices and electric dance moves! The workshop they led was extremely memorable, and sharing the Wigmore Hall stage with them was an unforgettable experience (one we're incredibly excited to bring to Lichfield later this year).

Another highlight was our October concert in aid of Mercy Rescue, which was a huge success and raised a significant sum. It further strengthened our relationship with Ray Prince and Ian Reed who always add so much to our performances. And finally, there was the workshop at Birmingham University for Shaping The Arts, where we were joined by members from the Gospel Revisited Project Choir and the Birmingham University Gospel Choir. The sense of mutual appreciation between the groups was palpable, and we very much hope this will lead to future collaborations.

We continue to be immensely proud of the choir and delighted with how we are developing musically. We look forward to another exciting year ahead!

Financial Report - Michael Jones



The income that the Choir received in the financial year 2024/25 was £28,556.10 and the expenditure that the choir paid out was £25,453.29.

This means that at the 31st March 2025 the choir held a surplus of £7,406.37 (starting balance carried forward was £4,303.56)

During the last twelve months we have seen monthly subscriptions rise from £12 to £18 halfway through the year to cover against rising expenditure levels.

The current levels of choir membership mean that at present we are able to cover all our monthly expenditure.

The surplus which we held at the end of the financial year was helped by a successful gift aid claim which highlights the importance of this income stream moving forward.

Details of all income and expenditure can be seen in the balance sheet contained within the report.

Once again, we are grateful to Kate Farrington who kindly agreed to act as Honorary Independent Examiner for the choir's accounts this year.

LICHFIELD GOSPEL CHOIR		INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS 31 March ended 31 March 2025	
INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Balance brought forward			
Opening Cash	0.00		
Opening Bank	4,303.56		
Gift Aid	19,230.00	Musical Director Expenses	18,488.88
Gift Aid Returned	2,227.21	Refund from the	2,287.20
Ticket Sales	4,084.74	Accountant fees for Concerts	184.00
Concerts Fund	100.00	Director	1,265.26
Concerts Fund - Wigmore Hall	100.00	Chair Hire	162.00
Insurance	150.00	Equipment	254.47
Bank Interest	31.49	Printing, Stationery & Mailings	100.00
		Donations	1,000.00
		Marketing Music, Concerts	307.00
		Closing Cash & Bank Reconciliation	7,406.37
			7,406.37
			32,403.84

I approve these Accounts as correct and agreed by the Committee
M. A. J.

I certify these Accounts as examined by me.
C. Farrington

Committee & Charity Trustees



Above: Gerbo Huisman, Chair. Emily Bacon, Secretary. Michael Jones, Treasurer. Kate Slater, Digital Media Officer.

Below: Iona Chisholm, General Officer. Andy Paterson, Events Officer. Kate Courage, Social Events Officer. Hilary Ford, General Officer. Henry Drake, General Officer



2025 Election Schedule

Terms of Office & Election Schedule						
Name	Responsibility/Office	Elected In	To serve until	Available for re-election	Post open for elections	
Gerbo Huisman	Chair	2024	2027	n/a	No	
Emily Bacon	Secretary	2024	2027	n/a	No	
Michael Jones	Treasurer	2022	2025	Yes	Yes	
Kate Slater	Digital Media	2023	2026	n/a	No	
Andy Paterson	Concerts	2022	2025	Yes	Yes	
Kate Courage	Social Events	2023	2026	n/a	No	
Iona Chisholm	General	2024	2027	n/a	No	
Hilary Ford	General	2022	2025	No	Yes	
Henry Drake	General	2023	2026	tbc	tbc	

Secretary:
112 Gula Lane
Lichfield
WS13 7LS

Bank:
Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Burton-on-Trent branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Treasurer:
38 Bracken Close
Lichfield
WS14 9RU

Registered Charity No:
1153553

If you would prefer a hard-copy of this Annual Report, please request one from any member of the Committee or email lichfieldgospelchoir@gmail.com

Lichfield Gospel Choir is a Registered Charity No: 1153553

<http://www.lichfieldgospelchoir.co.uk>



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Linked to other sheets - input in white cells only

LICHFIELD GOSPEL CHOIR
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - 12 Months ended 31 March 2025

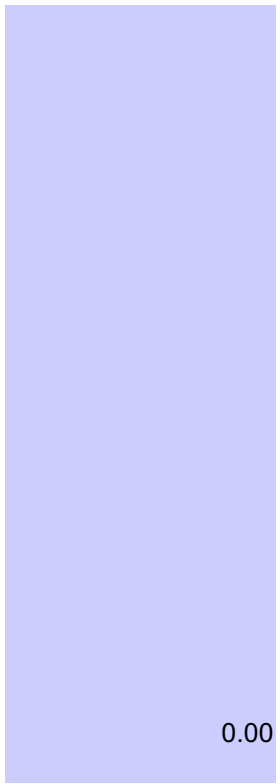
INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			
Opening Cash	0.00		
Opening Bank	4,303.56		
Subs	19,432.00	Musical Directors Expenses	19,105.89
Gift Aid Relaimed	2,527.01	Accompanists Fees for Concerts	434.30
Ticket Sales	3,059.63	Room hire	2,382.50
Concert Fees	2,745.11	Donation	1,396.36
Coach Fares	0.00	Coach Hire	950.00
Miscellaneous	1,270.86	Sundry	551.69
Bank Interest	33.49	Equipment	257.10
		Printing, advertising & website	358.45
		Zoom subscription & data	192.00
		Making Music Subscription	337.00
		Closing Cash & Bank from reconciliation	7,406.37
	<u>33,371.66</u>		<u>33,371.66</u>

I approve these Accounts as correct and accepted by the Committee

M Jones

I certify these Accounts as examined by me.

C Farrington



0.00



29,068.10



Subs	Concert Fees	Bank Interest	Ticket Sales	Scarves Sales	Coach Fares	Miscellaneous	Gift Aid Relained
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1320.00
1260.00
1212.00
1260.00
1230.00
1698.00
1936.00
1878.00
1914.00
1878.00
1842.00
2004.00

33.49

500.00
1295.11

226.86
950.00
94.00

1882.81
336.00
840.82

2527.01

950.00

19,432.00	2,745.11	33.49	3,059.63	0.00	0.00	1,270.86	2,527.01
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Expenditure

Date	cheque no	Payee	Details	Value	Float paid into bank
9/4/2024 P		Emily Bacon	Material for Scarves	106.70	
19/4/2024 P		Gabriella Liandu	Recording Tracks	287.90	
19/4/2024		Andy Paterson	Microphone	79.00	
1/5/2024 P		Gabriella Liandu	Singing Day	205.30	
2/5/2024 P		Gabriella Liandu	APRIL	419.92	
2/5/2024 P		Themba Mvula	APRIL	1,536.47	
20/5/2024 P		Holycross	APRIL	305.00	
21/5/2024 P		Kate Slater	Data	66.00	
3/6/2024 P		Themba Mvula	MAY	809.09	
7/6/2024 E		Gabriella Liandu	MAY	501.90	
18/6/2024 E		Holycross	MAY	172.50	
24/6/2024 E		City Life	ADVERT	10.00	
7/3/2024 !!!		Holycross	MARCH	230.00	
1/7/2024		Michael Jones	Cups/Plates for concert	33.62	
1/7/2024 E		Themba Mvula	JUNE	643.28	
8/7/2024 E		Holycross	JUNE	172.50	
8/7/2024 P		Michael Jones	Coffee/Tea/Milk for concert	7.76	
9/7/2024 E		Andy Paterson	Staging	178.10	
10/7/2024 E		Gabriella Liandu	JUNE	249.70	
16/7/2024		Gabriella Liandu	ST CHADS	385.20	
16/7/2024		Themba Mvula	ST CHADS	406.05	
10/7/2024 E		LA TRAVEL	Coach Wigmore Hall	950.00	
1/8/2024 E		Woodhouse Farm	Picnic	50.00	
2/8/2024 E		Holycross	JULY	230.00	
5/8/2024 E		Kate Slater	Data	71.00	
5/8/2024 E		Kate Slater	Cards	9.00	
7/8/2024 E		Gabriella Liandu	Festival	334.65	
13/8/2024 E		Themba Mvula	JULY	1,826.66	
14/8/2024 E		Andy Paterson	Flowers	35.00	
27/8/2024 E		Gabriella Liandu	JULY	494.70	
13/9/2024 E		Holycross	AUGUST	30.00	

13/9/2024 E	City Life	Advert	10.00
9/9/2024	J Clarke	Refund of Subs	12.00
23/9/2024 E	Themba Mvula	SEPTEMBER	1,133.84
30/9/2024 E	Gabriella Liandu	SEPTEMBER	554.93
8/10/2024 E	Holycross	SEPTEMBER	172.50
21/10/2024 E	Lichfield Community	Advert Concert	66.00
22/10/2024 E	Gabriella Liandu	October (part)	695.93
28/10/2024 E	Kate Slater	Flyers for Concert	37.65
29/10/2024	Kate Slater		32.00
31/10/2024 E	Gabriella Liandu	october (part) and Concert	564.20
1/11/2024 E	Themba Mvula	OCTOBER	1,509.19
1/11/2024 E	Ian Reid		212.60
1/11/2024 E	The Principal		221.70
11/11/2024	Mercy Rescue	Surplus from Concert	1,396.36
14/11/2024 E	Andy Paterson		50.00
18/11/2024 E	Holycross	OCTOBER	362.50
22/11/2024 E	Gabriella Liandu	OCTOBER	822.85
6/12/2024 E	Making Music		337.00
11/12/2024	Emily Bacon		75.00
12/12/2024 E	Themba Mvula	NOVEMBER	1,684.07
20/12/2024 E	Holycross	NOVEMBER	172.50
20/12/2024 E	Gabriella Liandu	NOVEMBER	642.85
8/1/2025 E	Themba Mvula	DECEMBER	397.43
15/1/2025 E	Holycross	DECEMBER	57.50
23/1/2025 E	Gerbo HUISMAN	15th PARTY	30.99
23/1/2025	Gerbo HUISMAN	15th PARTY	64.65
23/1/2025 E	Kate Slater	Website	244.80
23/1/2025 E	Kate Slater	DATA	55.00
30/1/2025 E	Themba Mvula	January	775.47
3/2/2025 E	Gabriella Liandu	Concert NMA	375.70
3/2/2025 E	Gabriella Liandu	January	350.00
11/3/2025 E	Gabriella Liandu	FEBRUARY	751.24
13/3/2025	Michael Jones	Printer Paper	7.00

25/3/2025 E	Holycross	FEBRUARY	230.00	
28/3/2025 E	Andy Paterson		102.97	
3/3/2025 E	Themba Mvula	FEBRUARY	747.37	
4/3/2025 E	Holycross	JANUARY	172.50	
			0.00	
			0.00	
			0.00	
			0.00	
			25,965.29	0.00
			25,965.29	



Musical Directors Expenses	Accompanists Fees for Concerts	Room hire	Making Music Subscription	Donation	Sundry	Equipment	Coach Hire	Printing, advertising & website	Zoom subscription & data
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					106.70				
287.9									
						79.00			
205.30									
419.92									
1536.47									
		305.00							
									66.00
809.09									
501.90									
		172.50							
								10.00	
		230.00							
					33.62				
643.28									
		172.50							
					7.76				
						178.10			
249.70									
385.20									
406.05									
							950.00		
					50.00				
		230.00							
									71.00
					9.00				
334.65									
1,826.66									
					35.00				
494.70									
		30.00							

230.00

102.97

747.37

172.5

19,105.89	434.30	2,382.50	337.00	1,396.36	551.69	257.10	950.00	358.45	192.00
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Reconciliation (Input in yellow cells only)

£

Opening Bank (current account & saving account)	4,303.56
Opening Cash	0.00
Add Income	29,068.10
Less Expenditure	25,965.29
Theoretical closing bank (current account & saving account)	7,406.37

Actual bank

Per bank statements 31/03/2025	5,574.61
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Add

Monies paid in not on bank statement

Date	£
Total	0.00

Less

payments due not yet on bank statement

details	£

date cleared

Total	0.00

Bank restated 5,574.61

Difference to theoretical balance -1,831.76

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Lichfield Gospel Choir (Charity Number 1153553)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lichfield Gospel Choir (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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.

Signed: 

Name: Catherine Farrington

Address: 101 Gillway Lane, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 8PJ

Date: 8 September 2025

LICHFIELD GOSPEL CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1153553

Accounts

[View this email in your browser](#)



Lichfield Gospel Choir
Annual Report
2023 - 2024



On Reflection - Gerbo Huisman



It's a privilege to be allowed to write the introduction to our Annual Report 2023-2024, a report which reflects another successful and inspirational year of singing (and dancing), either amongst ourselves in universally enjoyable rehearsals (a weekly highlight for many), or in front of an always enthusiastic audience.

I am intending to keep things short this time (I know I can go on a bit sometimes), specially as significant contributions to this annual report by Kate (all you need to know about social media, our website and surveys), Andy (reflecting on wonderful events in exciting locations), Mike (as always ensuring our financial health) and Themba tell you all you need to know (and feel; i.e. an enormous amount of justified personal and collective pride in being part of something special)

It's great to work with a group of talented people in our committee who clearly just love everything choir related and put an awful lot of time and effort in making it possible for the choir to function as it does, and this makes life as chair very easy and enjoyable.



So many people outside the committee also contribute what they can when needed, (transport, storage, stage building, making photos, baking cakes etc), whilst the contributions of all members (through your voices, through friendships, through your enthusiasm) are essential in making the choir as successful and meaningful and a source of inspiration and support for many as it is.

sharing the recognition and appreciation of the incredible dedication, energy and inspiration provided by our two Music Directors. Having an extended period without the “distraction” of performances in the first part of 2024 with plenty of time to learn exciting new repertoire has been good for the choir. The continuous improvement in what we manage to achieve is evident, if only through what have now become customary affirmative and encouraging comments by Themba during our rehearsals. How lucky are we to have Gabriella and Themba making their way from (and back to) London on a weekly basis, not because it is a job, but just because they love being part of our wonderful choir, believe in us, and enjoy sharing their unique talents with us.

Whilst singing and performing within LGC remains a source of great joy and inspiration also for me, I remain very grateful to be able to serve it as its chair.

Favourite Things - Kate Slater



One of my favourite things about running our social media is getting to share the wonderful things people post after a concert. Instagram is probably where this happens most, but there’s sometimes great feedback on Facebook too! As always, it’s lovely to have your photos and snippets of videos so please do keep them coming!

In the run up to a concert, alongside promoting it on our website, socials and mailing list, I usually design a new printed flyer or poster to spread the word to friends, colleagues, family and wherever we can distribute them. Selling tickets online via our own website has proved successful and we now offer this as an option to our hosts. This year I also tried printing tickets for one of the concerts so we could take cash alongside online payments, but it’s an evolving process and trying to keep the sales system streamlined can be a challenge!



Our newer members should already have discovered the treasure trove of resources in the website Members' Area. The diary is usually as up-to-date as it can be (we rarely plan very far ahead!) and the Members' Gallery is handy if you're trying to remember new names. It's worth highlighting that the learning tracks are a relatively recent addition; although there are now about 20, the library certainly doesn't contain our full repertoire. Pre-pandemic we didn't have anything like this — in fact you can work out which are the very first 'virtual choir' performance tracks because Themba sings all the parts and they still have the "1,2, 3, clap..." instruction at the start for synching sound to video!

Zoom rehearsals began for the same reason; a lifeline when we were all stuck at home, they continued to support those who weren't yet ready to return in-person. It wasn't long til everyone became so used to being able to join on Zoom or catch up on YouTube that we decided to keep it going, but, as I'm sure you're all aware, it's not without its hiccups! Sound quality is never going to be perfect, although I understand it's usually better live on Zoom before it's compressed by YouTube. Also, because my phone is the one set up in front doing the recording (we usually use Emily's as a co-host 'monitor' to let people into the meeting) it means that if you are having any issues you need to contact someone else you know is at rehearsal rather than me, as I obviously can't access my phone until it's over.

I'm grateful for your patience with all the surveys! With over 100 members they're a necessary piece of the admin puzzle, especially when we're trying to plan concerts. The good news is that I've just discovered (albeit rather belatedly) that I can set them up to send a confirmation email when you've completed the form, which should make things clearer in future.

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Finally, a huge thank you to Phil Barnes for all his wonderful photos! Phil regularly puts up with my *many* impossible requests ("I'd really love a photo where everyone is singing AND smiling. And dancing. And maybe with a dark background so I can overlay text? And could you hide that giant crucifix... and in fact perhaps just ask them all to form a human pyramid because I think that would look best on the poster..."). Phil also takes photos for the members' gallery, if yours is missing or you'd like an update, do let us know!

You can find us:

www.lichfieldgospelchoir.co.uk/members (password: gospelchoir)

Instagram: [@lichfieldgospel](https://www.instagram.com/lichfieldgospel)

Facebook: [Lichfield Gospel Choir](https://www.facebook.com/LichfieldGospelChoir)

And please do encourage your friends to sign up to our mailing list online [here](#).

Events Review - Andy Paterson



It's been a thrilling year so far! However, for this Annual Report, much of our recent high-profile excitement falls outside the period in question, so let's just remind ourselves what we achieved and enjoyed in the year up to March 2024!

First off, Themba & Gabriella turned in a successful musical workshop at St Michael's Primary School, resulting in our concert at Ss Peter & Pauls church (SSPP) on 14 July, where we were joined by pupils from the school, singing their confident hearts out and proving that you need neither age or experience to sing well!

On 23rd July, we again formed a significant part of Community Spirit on the prestigious stage at Symphony Hall, adding our collective voice to an all-embracing collection of Midland community choirs.

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In August, we took to a less familiar outdoor stage at The National Memorial Arboretum for the Windrush celebration. Here we sang alongside a gathering of other choirs, bands and troupes of dancers, all performing to an invited and appreciative audience of Windrush VIP veterans from around the UK.

September saw us again singing outdoors, in the slightly more relaxed and bucolic surroundings of Woodhouse Farm for our own Summer picnic. Despite the informality of the occasion, Themba & Gabriella didn't stint in their musical leadership, gathering us for a delightful medley of our favourites, sung with gusto beneath an exceptionally blue summer sky.



October saw us back at SSPP, for what has become an almost traditional autumn concert, this time in aid of local charity, Pathway Project. Between us – and thanks to Kate Slater's tireless web skills on the ticketing front - we managed to fill the pews to capacity and raised both our voices and funds for a worthy cause.

An early festive concert in November for The Thomas Project in Aldridge saw us again filling the hall with Christmas spirit – where dancing in the aisles also seems to be the natural reaction to our uplifting spirituals in this particular location!

A busy December had us singing alongside our formative patrons, Black Voices, for a Christmas Extravaganza in the acoustic splendour of Birmingham Town Hall. This was followed almost immediately with our 'Very Gospel Christmas' performance at St Martin in The Bullring in aid of Mary's Meals and then – with little breathing space between - onwards to a 'Families Together' concert back in the Town Hall.

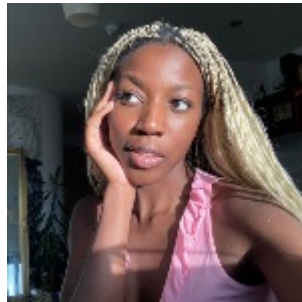
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Early 2024 was thankfully a little quieter, allowing us an uninterrupted run of Tuesday evening rehearsals at SSPP – with Themba & Gabriella coaxing the best out of us with their inimitable and wholly enjoyable energy and direction, thank you both, as ever!

And finally, thanks must also again be extended to Soprano Janet Gibson, in whose garage we store all our staging – and to Ian Weetman, whose manoeuvring skill with a trailer full of the stuff needs to be seen to be believed. Long may it all continue, thank you!

Music Directors' Review

Themba Mvula & Gabriella Liandu



It's really wonderful to look back over the past year and remember each of the concerts and projects we've been a part of. Every year seems to bring something new and exciting for us. One particular highlight was performing at St. Martin's in the Bull Ring in Birmingham—a brilliant and

entirely new venue for us, with a new audience - and we went down a storm!

Another special moment was when the children from St. Michael's joined us for a concert at SSPP. It worked so well and was memorable for entirely different reasons. Supporting Black Voices at Birmingham Town Hall was also a fantastic experience, and particularly meaningful, given their importance to us as a choir and how much they've supported and championed us over the years.

However, the real standout from this past year isn't any one concert or event—it's the remarkable growth of the choir itself. The uplift in musicality, vocal development (each section has improved in its own way and has never sounded so good!), and the overall quality of our performances have been incredible. We've tackled a range of new material, some of which was quite tricky, and we've risen to the challenge every time.

This progress is down to the enthusiasm and willingness of our members to throw themselves into everything we do. Whether it's getting to grips with a new rhythm, learning a song in a new language, or launching into whatever new exercises we come up with each week, our members are the driving force that makes Lichfield Gospel Choir so unique.

You, our members, are the reason we keep moving forward to bigger and better things every year.

Financial Report - Michael Jones



The opening balance carried forward was £3,639.90. The total income received in the year 2023/24 was £27,891.71 and the total expenditure was £27,228.05. This gave a surplus of £4,303.56 as at the 31st March 2024.

The money received from subscriptions was slightly higher than in 2022/23 (up from £14,124.00 to £14,940.00 - an increase of just under 6%) The monies paid out for Music Directors and the hire of the venue for rehearsals increased from £15,243.08 to £22,314.06. (an increase of 46%)

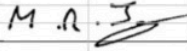
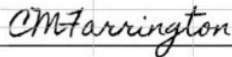
This figure includes covering the costs of two Music Directors, travel for Themba and Gabriella, plus the hire of St Peters and St Pauls church for rehearsals. In addition to the above an amount of £1,707.10 was paid to Ray and Ian for accompanying the choir at four concerts.

As highlighted in last year's Financial Report, income was not covering expenditure and this has continued to be the case in 2023/24. This gap has widened during the last 12-month period.

The choir received a payment of £7,099.02 from our Gift Aid claim during this period which - as you can see from the accounts - covered much of the increased expenditure. However, that was backdated over a four-year period, so moving forward any further claims would only be for one year.

The choir has been fortunate to keep subscription rates at £12.00 for a number of years but as mentioned in last year's financial report it looks very likely that monthly subscriptions will have to rise to cover the monthly shortfall of income against expenditure which is currently not sustainable.

Once again we are grateful to Kate Farrington who kindly agreed yet again to act as Honorary Independent Examiner for the choir's accounts this year.

Subscribe	Past Issues			Translate ▼
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£		£
Opening Cash		0.00		
Opening Bank		3,639.90		
Subs		14,940.00	Musical Directors Expenses	20,154.06
Gift Aid Relaimed		7,099.02	Accompanists Fees for Concerts	1,707.10
Ticket Sales		3,499.50	Room hire	2,160.00
Concert Fees		1,900.00	Donation	34.89
Coach Fares		337.00	Coach Hire	395.00
Miscellaneous		80.00	Sundry	181.29
Bank Interest		36.19	Equipment	1,521.54
			Printing, advertising & website	445.89
			Zoom subscription & data	305.28
			Making Music Subscription	323.00
			Closing Cash & Bank from reconciliation	4,303.56
		31,531.61		31,531.61
				0.00
I approve these Accounts as correct and accepted by the Committee				
		M Jones		
I certify these Accounts as examined by me.				
		C Farrington		

Committee & Charity Trustees



Above (l to r): Gerbo Huisman, Chair. Emily Bacon, Secretary. Michael Jones, Treasurer. Kate Slater, Digital Media Officer.

Below (l to r): Cat Ghaffoori, Charity Commission Officer. Andy Paterson, Events Officer, Kate Courage, Social Events Officer. Hilary Ford, General Officer. Henry Drake, General Officer.



2024 Election Schedule

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Name	Position	Elected in	To serve until	Available for re-election	Post open for elections
Gerbo Huisman	Chair	2021	2024	yes	yes
Emily Bacon	Secretary	2021	2024	yes	yes
Michael Jones *	Treasurer	2022	2025	n/a	n/a
Andy Paterson	Events	2022	2025	n/a	no
Kate Slater	Digital Media	2023	2026	n/a	no
Kate Courage	Social Events	2023	2026	n/a	no
Cat Ghaffoori	Charity Commission	2021	2024	no	yes
Hilary Ford	Member Rep	2022	2025	n/a	no
Henry Drake	Member Rep	2023	2026	n/a	no

**Note: Michael Jones has given notice to retire in 2024 but has agreed to stay on until new candidate is available.*

Secretary:

112 Gaia Lane
Lichfield
WS13 7LS

Treasurer:

38 Bracken Close
Lichfield
WS14 9RU

Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Burton-on-Trent branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Registered Charity No:

1153553

If you would prefer a hard-copy of this Annual Report, please request one from any member of the Committee or by e-mailing lichfieldgospelchoir@gmail.com

Lichfield Gospel Choir is a Registered Charity No: 1153553

<http://www.lichfieldgospelchoir.co.uk>



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