

**SONG & HYMN WRITERS FOUNDATION CIO**

**Accounts – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

## **SONG & HYMN WRITERS FOUNDATION CIO**

Charity number: 1170493

Accounts – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**Reference and Administration Details**

The charity's name is Song & Hymn Writers Foundation CIO ("SHWF").

Charity registration number:	1170493
Registered address and principal working office:	12 Hastings Road Woodhouse Eaves Loughborough LE12 8QU

**Trustees**

The trustees who served during the year and since the year end to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr Alex Guest  
Mrs Anne Harrison  
Ms Nina Kurlberg  
Rev Matthew Swires-Hennessy  
Rev Mark Thomas (resigned 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024)  
Mr Simon Upcott (Chair of Trustees)

**Purpose, Objects, Activities and Working Names of SHWF**

SHWF's purpose statement, which embraces all its activities, is '**Enriching the Song of the Church**'.

Its overall objectives are:

1. To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit, in particular, but not exclusively by the following means:
  - a. by furthering the growth of writing, composing and use of hymns and songs;
  - b. by providing resources to assist church musicians in developing the use of other music for Christian worship and thereby to support proclamation of the gospel in churches, Christian organisations and gatherings of a similar nature;
  - c. by developing hymns, songs and other music for Christian worship with a view to increasing the effectiveness of such worship.
2. To advance education in the writing of hymns, songs and other words and music for Christian worship and in high standards of professional practice both for new and existing writers, in particular but not exclusively by the following means:
  - a. by providing educational events and resources to enhance and improve the composition of words and music for Christian worship.
  - b. by making grants to individuals and institutions in order to make educational opportunities more accessible to writers of Christian music.

**Values**

During the year SHWF identified three key values which underscore its work. The values are expressed as follows:

We believe that when the church sings it should:

- 1. Glorify God**
- 2. Grow Disciples**
- 3. Build Community**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (Continued)**

In realising these values, SHWF has **seven aims**:

**1. Publish Songs & Hymns**

Publish songs and hymns that deepen the worship of the church, engaging with themes and styles that broaden its language of worship and reflecting the richness of scripture and diversity of Christian discipleship.

**2. Serve the Church**

Serve the church by producing and modelling songs and hymns that encourage and enable congregational singing, that are not built around personalities and performing artists, but treat the congregation as the most important voice.

**3. Grow the Talent Pool**

Grow & diversify the pool of talent by discovering, nurturing and giving a platform to writers outside the few dominant labels, with a particular focus on UK sources.

**4. Champion the Grassroots Writer**

Champion the role of the grass-roots songwriter as a unique voice in each local church, resourcing them to help grow their skills and provide a healthy balance alongside the globalised song-sources and traditional repertoire.

**5. Develop Community**

Develop community among songwriters that leads to wider accountability, greater skill, deeper understanding and a mutual, organic sharing of songs across churches that is independent of market systems.

**6. Value Writers**

Value the writer as a person and member of the wider church they serve, through publishing models that favour creatives over corporations and which are relational, generous & empowering.

**7. Work in Partnership**

Work in partnership with churches, organisations and other publishers, to pursue greater creativity and to model generous kingdom values throughout the industry.

SHWF carries out most of its work under the working names Jubilate and Resound Worship. Jubilate is primarily focused on writing and publishing new hymns; Resound Worship is primarily focused on writing and publishing new worship songs, and working to develop and encourage grass-roots songwriters in local churches.

SHWF has a wholly-owned subsidiary, Jubilate Hymns Limited ("JHL") which operates as an agency collecting royalties for song and hymn writers. The company Gift Aids its profits to SHWF, providing a key source of funds to SHWF.

**Achievements and Performance in 2024**

Among the various activities of the charity during 2024, the following are of particular note:

**Downcast Souls Expectant Hearts (Resound Worship)**

The new double album on the twin themes of lament and hope was released in January 2024. The songs were intended to offer a vocabulary for times of struggle - disc one looking towards the struggle and expressing our pain before God, disc two looking out from and beyond the struggle to a sure and certain hope. A series of 14 concerts took place across the year to share the songs and promote the work of the charity, including small ensemble concerts and full-band events. Donor funding of approximately £5750 was secured to subsidise the concert costs and make them affordable to churches. The concerts were very warmly received, with a healthy volume of CD and songbook sales. There was sufficient interest from churches such that a further series of concerts was planned to take place in 2025. A devotional booklet with 20 chapters by the songwriters telling the stories and scriptures that inspired the songs was produced and sold at the November concerts.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (Continued)**

**Journey to Resurrection (Jubilate)**

A collection of new songs and hymns for Holy Week and Easter was released in January, alongside an accompanying book of biblical reflections. Due to the relatively low uptake of new Jubilate material in recent years, the decision was taken to experiment with giving the collection away for free. This was done by promoting the offer through Christian press and denominational / diocesan communications channels. This resulted in at least 500 people accessing and downloading the material who otherwise would have been unlikely to do so.

**Jubilate Big Sing**

Around 100 musicians, singers and personnel gathered at St Augustine's Queensgate, London to make a live recording of 15 Jubilate pieces, both classics and compositions, for use on our website and via social media channels. The musicians and scratch choir were directed by Noel Tredinnick. Video was recorded in-house, alongside the audio, and videos began to be released in autumn 2024, with more scheduled for 2025.

**Worship Songwriter Retreats in Yorkshire & Tennessee**

Resound's popular annual retreat at Wydale Hall took place again in July over 5 days, with 57 in attendance. Two new songs that were debuted at the retreat have since been recorded by Resound and will be released in early 2025. A highlight was a visit by Scottish singer-songwriter Stephe Macleod who delivered some input and performed a concert. A reduced roster of external speakers for the 2024 event allowed the charity to share the costs and income of this retreat with an inaugural event at Eagle Rock in the Smoky Mountains, Tennessee, run in partnership with United Adoration. 5 members of the Resound Worship leadership and writing team travelled to the US for the retreat with 30 in attendance, many of whom have participated in the 12 Song Challenge over several years.

**12 Song Challenge & Songclub**

A season of the 12 Song Challenge ran from January to December. There was significant growth from the previous season with over 400 taking part from 15 countries (growing from 270 the previous season). Themes included gathering, the earthly life of Jesus, joy, commitment, word-for-word scripture, and an experiment with using AI tools in songwriting. The entire season took place on *Songclub*, our new bespoke platform created to allow collaborative songwriting and host the activities of the 12 Song Challenge. The new platform proved very successful and, because it is designed and managed in-house, had new features added throughout the season. The *Resound Worship Songwriting Podcast* continued to accompany the challenge, and during the off-season.

**Donor Income & Five-year Giving Campaign**

In addition to the funding secured specifically to subsidise concert costs (see above), we saw continued growth in general fund donor income during the year, up to £27,680 from £20,980 the previous year. This was in part a reflection of a regular giving push in the last quarter of 2023, the results of which were most clearly seen the following year. We also ran a major campaign in November / December 2024 through Resound Worship aiming to raise an additional £100,000 over five years through one-off gifts, committed regular giving and Partner Churches. This was considered the first phase of the campaign. We reached approximately half of the target by the end of the year, most of which would be realised through regular giving. An additional effort via the Jubilate label was planned for 2025.

**Plans for 2025 and Beyond**

We aim to continue the growth of the 12 Song Challenge, with a new season beginning in April, including the development of the Songclub platform. Our goal is to recruit a volunteer team to assist in this development.

The major Jubilate writing project for 2025 will be a collection of songs and hymns for regular Sunday services, covering some of the usual signpost moments including gathering, prayer, the word, communion, etc. Invitations for submissions will be open during the early part of the year with an editorial process during mid to late 2025 and a live recording of the full collection scheduled for 2026.

The Resound Worship focus for the coming year will be 'Community Songs', reflecting the third of SHWF's values – songs that 'build community'. It is anticipated this will take the form of several EPs, written and recorded in community in different locations, including a writing camp, the summer retreat and other gatherings. It will also feature in the 12 Song Challenge followed by an invitation for submission from that community.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (Continued)**

**Employment of Staff**

Five staff were employed by the charity during the year:

- Executive Director (21 hours per week) / Resound Worship Coordinator (14 hours per week)
- Head of Publishing (7 hours per week, increased to 14 hpw from August)
- Jubilate Coordinator (8 hours per week, reduced to 6 hpw from September)
- Web Manager and Systems Developer (21 hours per week)
- Administrator (9 hours per week, increased to 17.5 hpw from October)

Chris Juby, who has worked as Agency Manager for JHL for several years, was appointed to a new role of Head of Publishing from February 2024, overseeing copyright, IP, and publishing for the charity, while also being involved in writing projects and the 12 Song Challenge community.

The role of Administrator was increased to reflect increased workload and allow 7 hours per week to be bought in by JHL following the retirement of their Finance Manager in September 2024.

The trustees record their thanks for the energetic, creative and faithful work of the staff team during the year, and for their willingness to be adaptable in their roles to manage a transition period following a retirement.

**Joint Strategy Meeting**

An overnight gathering of staff, trustees and directors of SHWF and JHL took place in June at the home of Joel Payne, Executive Director to take a strategic view of the operations of SHWF and its subsidiary JHL going forward. The ground covered included ongoing plans to restructure and streamline operations, and some blue-sky thinking around increasing funding and profile.

**Grant Making**

The charity has not made any grants in the period but has offered bursary places on events. To access this bursary the applicant has provided a reference from a church leader stating their suitability and undertaken to raise half the cost from other means.

**Reserves Policy**

The trustees have agreed to hold reserves equivalent to 3 months salaries (including oncosts) in order to cover those expenses in the event of short-term fluctuation in income. The charity has cash reserves of £57,008.

**Principal Sources of Funding**

As noted, SHWF's subsidiary company JHL Gift Aids its profits to the charity, providing a key source of funds. Sales of scores and recordings, along with fundraising, supplement this income to fund the charity's activities. Fees for events generally covered the direct costs incurred without generating additional income.

**Financial Review**

Gross income for 2024 was £159,356. Gross expenditure was £152,458 thus resulting in a net income of £6,898.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

SHWF is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its formal constitution. The charity has a board of trustees who are each appointed by agreement of the existing trustees, after appropriate due diligence of their aptitude, skills and willingness to serve in that capacity.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (Continued)**

**Structure, Governance and Management (continued)**

The board of trustees continued to meet regularly during the year, and attended to all key governance requirements of SHWF. It reviews key risks at least once a year, more often when necessary to attend to changing governance developments. It cyclically reviews SHWF's policy framework, ensuring its adequacy in the context of the charity's operations.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 3rd July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

S C Upcott

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Chair of Trustees

A Guest

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Trustee

Loughborough

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Song & Hymn Writers Foundation for the year ended 31st December 2024.

**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 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

A P Williams FCCA CTA  
A J Carter & Co Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants

22b High Street  
Witney  
Oxon  
OX28 6RB

6th August 2025



**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Charity Fundraising & Special Donations	26,981	3,906	30,887	22,657
Jubilate Hymns Ltd	41,700	-	41,700	48,500
<b>Jubilate</b>				
Physical Resource Sales	524	-	524	4
Postage & Packaging	54	-	54	2
Website Sales	2,329	-	2,329	1,904
Events	-	-	-	150
<b>Resound Worship</b>				
Events	48,367	5,737	54,104	24,113
Postage & Packaging	185	-	185	89
Physical Resource Sales	9,467	-	9,467	3,391
Digital Resellers	1,370	-	1,370	1,124
Website Sales	5,392	-	5,392	5,160
Crowdfunding	-	-	-	15,018
Partner Churches	1,900	-	1,900	2,225
<b>Other</b>				
Royalties	35	-	35	13
Consultancy	9,951	-	9,951	6,915
Bank Account Interest	1,458	-	1,458	1,129
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>149,713</b>	<b>9,643</b>	<b>159,356</b>	<b>132,394</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Bank Charges	60	-	60	60
Accountancy Fees	720	-	720	690
Jubilate Events	-	-	-	-
Jubilate Recording	3,694	-	3,694	2,186
Resound Events	32,257	5,737	37,994	19,321
Office Expenses	3,544	-	3,544	3,828
Postage & Packing	364	-	364	107
Sundry Expenses	255	-	255	1,892
Paypal, Distrokid, Zettle and Stripe Charges	1,738	-	1,738	1,540
Salaries & On Costs	91,833	3,000	94,833	74,589
Travel Expenses	1,222	-	1,222	1,418
Trustee Expenses	451	-	451	783
Website Expenses	371	-	371	179
Conferences & Training	1,595	-	1,595	1,918
Resound Recording	313	906	1,219	22,997
Resound CD/Book Re-printing	1,994	-	1,994	-
Royalty Payments	2,404	-	2,404	1,594
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>142,815</b>	<b>9,643</b>	<b>152,458</b>	<b>133,102</b>

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>	6,898	-	6,898	(708)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Bank Balances at 1 January 2024	50,110	-	50,110	50,818
Deficit/Surplus for Year	6,898	-	6,898	(708)
<b>Bank Balances at 31 December 2024</b>	<u>£57,008</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£57,008</u>	<u>£50,110</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
<b>Cash Funds</b>		
Cash in Hand	-	-
CAF Cash Account	8,594	2,750
CAF Gold Account	48,414	47,360
	<u>57,008</u>	<u>50,110</u>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>		
Stock (at cost)	18,229	20,890
<b>Debtors</b>		
Sales	25	91
PayPal	4,410	4,478
Gift Aid	3,073	3,439
Other	625	625
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>83,370</u>	<u>79,633</u>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
<b>Creditors</b>		
Accountancy Fee	756	720
Payroll Fee	-	18
PayPal	135	171
Song Writing Retreat Fees	10,243	7,559
Song Challenge Fees	904	1,200
SWR Bursary	-	-
Royalties	2,336	2,404
	<u>14,374</u>	<u>12,072</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>£68,996</u>	<u>£67,561</u>

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on: 3rd July 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

S Upcott

.....  
Chair of Trustees

A Guest

.....  
Trustee