



Stanmore Choral Society

Registered CIO No. 1174548

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements Year ending 31st July 2025

Trustees and administration

The Society is managed by a committee whose members constitute the Trustees of the charity.

The Trustees for 2024-25:

Frances Goldingay (Chair), second re-appointment 20th November 2023

Dagmar Steffelbauer, appointed 19th January 2022

Robert Stonehouse, second re-appointment 2nd December 2024

Judy Walker, appointed 26th September 2022

Bridie Williams, second re-appointment 2nd December 2024

Lucy Wei, appointed 20th November 2023

Musical Director

Alexander Turner

Management

The Stanmore Choral Society is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a constitution (Association Model having Members in addition to Trustees) and registered by the Charities Commission on 7th September 2017

The trustees are appointed by the membership, normally at the AGM, to serve for a fixed term of office as specified in the constitution.

Objectives

The objectives of the Stanmore Choral Society are the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance.

Performances of Choral Music during 2024-25

Saturday 26th October 2024

'Feel the Spirit'

Bernstein (arr. Thomas) *Medley from West Side Story*

Gershwin (arr. Huff) *A Gershwin Portrait*

Arr. Britten *O, Waly, waly*

McLachlan *Angel*

Burleigh *Spiritual arrangements*

Arr. Price *Nobody knows the trouble I've seen*

Arr. Rutter *Feel the spirit*

Saturday 14th December 2024

Christmas Concert

Holst *Four Old English Carols*

Carols with audience participation

Saturday 5th April 2025

'Handel in Stanmore'

Handel *O, come let us sing unto the Lord*

Pepusch *O, praise the Lord*

Handel *Foundling Hospital Anthem*

Saturday 28th June 2025

'A Land without Music?'

Elgar *From the Bavarian Highlands*

Lehmann *Music, when soft voices die*

Smyth *A Spring Canticle & Sleepless Dreams*

Clarke *Infant Joy & Cradle Song*

Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*

Activities and achievements

In an enjoyable 2024-25 season, the choir has explored a variety of musical genres and included in its repertoire some rarely heard composers. Our Musical Director's imaginative planning has followed a variety of themes, exploring music history and linking with Stanmore's musical past.

The first concert of the season, *Feel the Spirit*, included some favourite melodies from *West Side Story* and an arrangement of Gershwin's lively songs. There was a very moving set of spirituals, with solos beautifully taken by Rachael Best-Babayeju. We enjoyed a warm welcome from Father Richard at St Mary the Virgin, Kenton, our usual concert venue.

The Christmas Concert remains very popular with our loyal supporters. The choir performed Old English Carols by Holst in honour of his 150th anniversary. We were pleased to be joined by some young singers from Kids Choir Harrow, who along with junior members of the audience, gave us a lovely rendering of *Jingle Bells*. Everyone got a chance to sing some favourites, and with mulled wine and mince pies at the interval, we felt that our Christmas celebrations had started in style.

The spring concert had a special feel to it as we returned to St Lawrence Whitchurch, where Handel was once composer in residence, and where he composed the Chandos anthems. In addition, we sang *O, Praise the Lord* by Pepusch, another musician who held the same role for James Brydges, the first Duke of Chandos. The church was a beautiful setting for these pieces, accompanied by the Brydges Players, James Edgeler, the tenor soloist, and James Mooney Dutton playing Handel's organ. With the *Hallelujah Chorus* to finish, we felt that we were bringing history to life.

The summer concert featured a variety of music influenced by the rich German heritage of the nineteenth century. Elgar and Vaughan Williams both took up the mantle of showing that English music accepted German influences but interpreted them in different ways. Elgar's travels in Bavaria inspired his set of songs, including the rhythmic sound of *The Marksmen*. With *Five Mystical Songs*, Vaughan Williams set to music the poetry of the metaphysical poet George Herbert finishing with a triumphant anthem in praise of God. The soloist was the baritone Harrison Robb, whose voice was much appreciated.

Stanmore Choral Society's members appreciate the work and energy which Alexander puts in to leading us through such a rich variety of music. We enjoy getting to know musicians from our local history and finding out about composers we've not met before. We look forward to our next season of musical exploration under his baton. Weekly rehearsals continue to be held in the Church Hall at St William of York, where we continue to appreciate the hospitality of Father Jonathan Goodall.

Financial Review

In 2024-25, there were 32 members compared to 30 the previous year, though as some only joined for part of the year total subscriptions were equivalent to approximately 29 full members. This income almost covered the cost of rehearsals, which includes the fees for the rehearsal venue, the Musical Director, the Assistant Musical Director and music hire.

For each of the two Autumn term concerts, St Mary's fee for using the church was again at the higher rate of £220 to cover increased energy costs. The first concert, 'Feel the Spirit', unfortunately did not attract a large audience and so incurred a deficit of over £200. The Christmas concert was popular as always – many ticket sales being made on the night – and, even with a ticket price of only £10, still made a surplus.

The Spring concert, 'Handel in Stanmore', was well attended. The soloists and string quartet contributed greatly to the concert's musical success but also to the cost, which resulted in the concert incurring a deficit of over £400. The Summer term concert, 'A Land without Music?', made a small deficit as two 'bumpers' were required. It is worth noting that all the concerts incurred a cost to cover 'bumpers' due to the low numbers in one or more sections.

Overall, the concerts incurred a deficit of £600

Income from fund-raising activities was lower than the previous year as only one major fund-raising event was held in 2024-25, compared to two in 2023-24. In addition to the usual fund-raisers - raffle and refreshments at rehearsals, cake sales and Harrow Wins – making nearly £400, the quiz night made over £300.

Tax was reclaimed through Gift Aid on eligible donations made within the financial year 2024-25, which provided another valuable source of income.

Despite the revenue challenges, the Society generated a surplus of £509 by managing costs well. The 13% decrease in costs compared to last year was driven largely by a reduction in rehearsal costs, with the Society benefitting financially from Alexander and James generously continuing to cover both rehearsal roles when required for a small extra fee. Also, our Musical Director was able to reduce the total number of rehearsals.

Thanks go to the members for their generous donations, ticket-selling and fund-raising efforts and to our Musical Director for keeping costs low whilst providing a year of interesting concert programmes.

It was agreed to raise subscriptions and our musicians' rehearsal fees by an average of 3.4% for next year, which was the average CPI for March to August 2025.

Declaration

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by Frances Goldingay, Chair.

Signature: 

Date: 5 November 2025

Statement of Financial Activity

1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025

Receipts	Note	2024-25			2023-24		
		restricted	unrestricted	total	restricted	unrestricted	total
Subs		£ -	£ 5,290	£ 5,290	£ -	£ 5,195	£ 5,195
Donations		£ -	£ 403	£ 403	£ -	£ 330	£ 330
Friends		£ -	£ 60	£ 60	£ -	£ 60	£ 60
Gift Aid		£ -	£ 1,146	£ 1,146	£ -	£ 1,138	£ 1,138
Fund raising	1	£ -	£ 722	£ 722	£ -	£ 1,351	£ 1,351
Concert ticket sales		£ -	£ 5,373	£ 5,373	£ -	£ 5,138	£ 5,138
Concert other	2	£ -	£ 509	£ 509	£ -	£ 500	£ 500
Transfer from restricted fund	3	£ -	£ 80	£ 80	£ -	£ -	£ -
Bank interest		£ -	£ 14	£ 14	£ -	£ 13	£ 13
Total Receipts		£ -	£ 13,597	£ 13,597	£ -	£ 13,725	£ 13,725

Payments	Note	2024-25			2023-24		
		restricted	unrestricted	total	restricted	unrestricted	total
rehearsal venue		£ -	£ 840	£ 840	£ -	£ 960	£ 960
rehearsal music director		£ -	£ 3,417	£ 3,417	£ -	£ 3,620	£ 3,620
rehearsal accompanist		£ -	£ 1,113	£ 1,113	£ -	£ 1,814	£ 1,814
concert venue		£ -	£ 740	£ 740	£ -	£ 665	£ 665
concert conductor		£ -	£ 1,576	£ 1,576	£ -	£ 1,576	£ 1,576
concert accompanist		£ -	£ 1,280	£ 1,280	£ -	£ 1,280	£ 1,280
concert musical professionals		£ -	£ 2,285	£ 2,285	£ -	£ 2,072	£ 2,072
concert other	4	£ -	£ 601	£ 601	£ -	£ 558	£ 558
website charges & development		£ -	£ 262	£ 262	£ -	£ 331	£ 331
Insurance and Performing Rights		£ -	£ 408	£ 408	£ -	£ 335	£ 335
bank & SumUp fees		£ -	£ 64	£ 64	£ -	£ 60	£ 60
professional fees	5	£ -	£ 110	£ 110	£ -	£ 100	£ 100
gift aid	6	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,302	£ 1,302
other	7	£ -	£ 56	£ 56	£ -	£ 83	£ 83
Transfer to unrestricted fund	3	£ 80	£ -	£ 80	£ -	£ -	£ -
music hire/purchase		£ -	£ 257	£ 257	£ -	£ 301	£ 301
Total Payments		£ 80	£ 13,008	£ 13,088	£ -	£ 15,057	£ 15,057

Net receipts / payments	-£80	£589	£509	£0	-£1,332	-£1,332
Total Funds brought forward	£80	£5,163	£5,243	£80	£6,495	£6,575
Balance at end of year	£0	£5,752	£5,752	£80	£5,163	£5,243

Notes for 2024-25

1. Raffles, refreshments and cake sales at rehearsals, Harrow Wins, quiz
2. Programme sales, refreshment donations, Xmas raffle
3. Restricted fund transferred to unrestricted as agreed by Trustees on 4th September 2024
4. Advertising, programme printing, refreshment expenses, piano tuner, musicians' music hire
5. Independent examiner
6. Overpayment of £1302 in 2022-23, returned 2023-24
7. General flyer printing and stationery

BALANCE SHEET		
As at:	31 July 2025	31 July 2024
	£	£
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	5,752	5,243
Net Current Assets	5,752	5,243
RESERVE S		
Represented by:		
Unrestricted fund	5,752	5,163
Restricted fund	-	80
Total reserves	5,752	5,243

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Practice These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance for small charities.

2. Policy on Reserves The Society's policy on reserves is to maintain a balance which is sufficient to preserve the financial viability of the Society in the event that one of its concerts is a failure due to unforeseen circumstances. This is currently set at £3000.

3. Restricted Fund In 2019, the choir received donations for the purpose of hiring an organ to accompany the Spring Concert. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown the Spring 2020 concert was cancelled and the donated fund was carried forward. Part was used for a similar purpose at a subsequent concert. The donors agreed that the remainder be (i) used for a similar purpose at a future concert or (ii) transferred to the General Fund, which was done in 2024-25.

4, Concert financial analysis	Autumn	Christmas	Spring	Summer	Total
Ticket sales	1,039	1,090	2,002	1,242	£5,373
Programme sales	32	0	58	39	£129
Refreshment donations	53	66	40	91	£250
Other	23#	122*	-	-	£145
Total Income	£1,147	£1,278	£2,100	£1,373	£5,898
Conductor	394	394	394	394	£1,576
Accompanist	320	320	320	320	£1,280
Venue	220	220	150	150	£740
Soloists & Musicians	320	120	1,310	535	£2,285
Programme printing	23	0	40	24	£87
Advertising	29	34	34	35	£132
Refreshment expenses	15	16	0	0	£31
Other	45^	45^^	278**	-	£368
Total Expenses	£1,366	£1,149	£2,525	£1,458	£6,498
TOTAL	-£218	£128	-£425	-£85	-£600

Donation, * Christmas raffle, ^Piano Tuner, ^^Piano tuner, **Musicians' music hire

5. Financial Management The Society's financial governance policies and procedures require that:

- (i) all committee members sign the HM Revenue & Customs "Fit for Purpose Declaration Form";
- (ii) no person can be one of the two signatories on a cheque for which they are the payee;
- (iii) online payments require authorisation by two people;
- (iv) the committee see the up-to-date bank statement at each committee meeting;
- (v) the Chair and the Secretary have online access to the Bank account at all times.

**Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of
Stanmore Choral Society (Registered CIO No. 1174548)**

Opinion

In my opinion, the Stanmore Choral Society financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 July 2025; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I have audited the financial statements included within the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, which comprise: the balance sheet as at 31 July 2025; the statement of financial activity; and the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Independence

I remained independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, as applicable to other entities of public interest, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I have not provided no non-audit services to the charity in the period under audit.

Activities and Achievements for the year and Financial Review

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Activities and Achievements for the year and Financial Review for the year ended 31 July 2025, is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I did not identify any material misstatements in the Activities and Achievements for the year and Financial Review.

Responsibilities of the Trustees for the financial statements

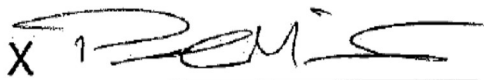
The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they deem necessary, to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Use of this Report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charities trustees as a body in accordance with Part 8 Chapter 1 of the Charities Act 2011 and for no other purpose. I do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save, where expressly agreed by my prior consent in writing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Marriner', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Marriner

Paul Marriner (FCCA)

11 Franklyn Road

Walton-on-Thames

Surrey,

KT12 2LF

Date: 12 November 2025