

## **Choral Evensong Trust Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2025**

As in previous years, our core function was to maintain and update the website [www.choralevensong.org](http://www.choralevensong.org), enabling anyone to look up where and when choral evensong services would be happening near any location in Britain or Ireland. Then with one or two clicks, in many cases it is possible to go to the music list and see exactly what will be sung in each service. This website is particularly useful in London, Oxford and Cambridge, each of which has a special page, because of multiple evensongs on every day of the week. As well as all Anglican cathedrals, this website lists choral evensong services in more than 600 parish churches, and also covers choral vespers in Roman Catholic cathedrals and monasteries.

The Trust also maintains social media on Facebook and Instagram, and these give a continual stream of updates relating to choral evensong the website and social media were principally managed by Tim Popple, who was employed as a part time website and social media co-ordinator throughout the year.

### **Patronal Festivals**

In 2025, the Choral Evensong Trust launched a new initiative to promote choral evensong in parish churches and in particular in connection with a revival of the church's patronal festival. Almost every Anglican church has a dedication, usually to a saint, such as St John the Baptist, St Mary Magdalene and the Blessed Virgin Mary, or to an aspect of God, as in Holy Trinity churches, or of Christ, as in Holy Redeemer churches and Christ churches. Each of these dedications has a particular feast day during the year, such as Trinity Sunday, St Mary Magdalene's day on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and St Michael and All Angels on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

In pre-Reformation England each parish celebrated its saint's day or feast of title (as in the case of churches dedicated to Holy Trinity or to Christ) and in countries like Italy and Spain these feast days are still celebrated in towns and villages in a way that involves most of the community with processions special services and feasting.

To assist the revival of patronal festivals in the UK, the trust offered grants to parish churches at two levels. The full patronal festival grant of £500 was for churches without a choir of their own, to help cover the cost of a visiting choir, for example, from a local cathedral, and also to cover a reception after choral evensong. For churches with their own choir, there were patronal festivities grants of £250 to help towards the costs of the party after the service and other festivities, including bell ringing.

We advertised these grants at the end of 2024, and the closing date was February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025. We were expecting only a small number of applications and advertised this project on a trial basis only in two dioceses, Bath and Well and Chichester and also through the Save the Parish newsletter. We received 87 applications of which 80 were eligible for the grant. We raised funds through private donations from trustees, their friends, families and well-wishers that were sufficient to cover grants towards 80 churches.

In practically every case these festivals were a great success with full churches, beautiful singing, and a joyful sense of community. They were written up in the Church Times: see the attached article. The Patronal Festival of the Year Award went to one of the last festivals in the year at St Nicholas Kittisford, the smallest village in Somerset, as described in another article in the Church Times, attached

On our website we had map of Britain and Ireland indicating where festivals were taking place, and a calendar of festivals we were sponsoring throughout the year. Reports from various churches are online [HERE](#).

These grants were one-off and were given in the hope that churches would continue to celebrate these festivals in years to come, finding ways of funding them locally. This is indeed the intention of most parishes who received these grants, and some are also planning to institute regular choral evensong services because of the success of these festivals. In some cases, churches formed new choirs for this purpose, and these choirs want to continue to sing together.

The Trust is planning to award similar grants to churches throughout the UK in 2026.

## **Trustees**

For most of 2025 the Trustees of the Trust were, as before,

Chairman:

Dr Ralph Allwood

Trustees:

Sir Jonathan Jones

Dr Guy Hayward

Dr Rupert Sheldrake

A new Trustee was appointed this year, Ms Sian Ferguson.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**THE CHORAL EVENSONG TRUST**

No (if any)  
**1190208**

**CC16a**

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	44,450	-	-	44,450	12,000
Gift Aid	2,793	-	-	2,793	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>47,243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,243</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>47,243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,243</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	-
Patronal Festival Grants	30,000	-	-	30,000	-
Website costs	7,296	-	-	7,296	4,293
Accountancy fees	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Fees	-	-	-	-	72
Administration Costs	198	-	-	198	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>37,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,494</b>	<b>4,365</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>37,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,494</b>	<b>4,365</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>9,749</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,749</b>	<b>7,635</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>11,371</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,371</b>	<b>3,736</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>21,120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,120</b>	<b>11,371</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at Bank	21,120	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>21,120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Guy Hayward		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

THE CHORAL EVENSONG TRUST

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 December 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1190208

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

17/2/2026

Name:

GUY BARAGWANATH FCA

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

FCA (ICAEW)

Address:

C&GB ASSOCIATES

37-39 WESTGATE, THIRSK, YO7 1QR

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.**