



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 July 2024 To 30 June 2025

Charity name: CANTUS FIRMUS TRUST

Charity registration number: 1192862

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The object of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith including, but not limited to, the development of understanding, worship and mission • for the benefit of individual Christians, groups of Christians, practitioners, enquirers and learners • by means of the creative arts – including, but not limited to, demonstrations of and opportunities to participate in high quality music, dance and drama – together with associated education and training, and to support such education and training by the provision of materials and the making of grants • in locations throughout the United Kingdom, but principally in the counties of Essex and Suffolk.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Most Cantus Firmus activities are in-person events and services. During the Covid pandemic lockdowns, the Trust created video resources for churches and other organisations to use in their worship, and it maintains the capability to create more in the future. Most Cantus Firmus events and services are in partnership with local churches. Some of those events and services are to present Christian music and understanding to people who would not usually hear them. Some others are to help introduce congregations (and other people) to musical (and other artistic) styles and materials that they are not familiar with and want to consider using. Some Cantus Firmus events are in partnership with InHarmony, a small organisation at St Edmundsbury Cathedral to develop music across

		churches in Suffolk. Also, some Cantus Firmus events are in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music, a charity to develop music within Christian worship across the UK and elsewhere.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees continue to ensure that they have regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when carrying out activities to which it is relevant.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Cantus Firmus Trust has a practice of making donations to individuals who have been heavily involved in preparing and presenting its events and activities. The Artistic Director (who is not a trustee) makes proposals to the trustees on the amount of such donations and the trustees take these proposals into account when making a decision. A trustee is able to propose to the other trustees a donation to a person, who may or may not be already known to the trustees, who is undertaking study or other activity which is consistent with the objects of Cantus Firmus Trust and who is in need of financial support, and the trustees believe that such study or activity will generally advance those objects. Any such donation is at the trustees' absolute discretion and they will take into account the circumstances of the case and the amount of funding which Cantus Firmus Trust has available. A trustee may also propose a donation to an organisation whose aims are consistent with those of Cantus Firmus Trust; a similar set of decision criteria will apply as noted above in relation to an individual.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The Trust relies very heavily on, and is very grateful for, the contribution of volunteers both for administration, singing, accompanying, other performing, arranging and conducting music.
Other		During the reporting period, the trustees met in October 2024, January 2025, April 2025 and June 2025. The June 2025 meeting was an AGM.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	During 2024-25, Cantus Firmus provided the choir and musical leadership for services and events at churches who had asked for help exploring new ways forward for their music (choice of material and development of music teams). These included introducing Taize-style services and music to All Saints Feering, St Andrew's Abberton and Colchester Baptist Church. New repertoire from RSCM (<i>Last Words of Love</i>) was presented at a Palm Sunday service at St Luke's Church, Tiptree. Choral Music was reintroduced at Polstead Church for its annual Gospel Oak service, which marks the preaching of St Cedd at the ancient oak tree in Saxon times. These services all attracted larger congregations than the churches usually have and all the churches plan to continue using some of the new musical material presented by Cantus Firmus. Cantus Firmus ran one Pilgrimage of Song this year (through four villages along the Alde Valley), in the format created and used by the Trust. "Singing pilgrims" spent a day walking between churches, with short themed musical services at each – experiencing aspects of pilgrimage and the effectiveness of services using well chosen, simple music and liturgy. Many of the "singing pilgrims" reflected afterwards that the event had noticeably helped their spiritual growth. Also, one of the churches - Snape - invited the pilgrims to return the following day so the whole church could benefit from the experience. Messy Messiah, the innovative adaptation of Handel's Messiah by Cantus Firmus to include primary school children and to present the biblical Christmas story using multi-media, has previously been performed at St John's Ipswich (2019) and St Edmundsbury Cathedral (2023). The concept (including some of the Cantus Firmus resources) was taken up and performed at Portsmouth Cathedral over Easter 2025. In May 2025, Cantus Firmus rehearsed and provided 45 choir members for Prom Praise in the Royal Albert Hall London. Prom Praise is presented annually by All Souls Orchestra, a

		charity with similar objects to Cantus Firmus Trust, which operates from All Souls Church London. The Hall was well filled that evening for a wide spread of music (choral, band, solos, orchestral) and talks explaining key aspects of Christianity. The trust's events and activities are advertised widely to over 500 mailing list subscribers, to churches and to the general public. They are also regularly mentioned on BBC Radio Suffolk. All are welcome to attend and take part.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Accounts are maintained on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis. Donations from supporters of £1621 were received for general purposes, along with participant donations to defray the costs of events of £3706. The charity is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and claims were made on qualifying donations. Other income derives from organisations with whom we may partner when presenting an event. The total income was £10118. Expenditure of £8777 was incurred, which included £1496 of administrative support. The year-end balance was £12669, of which £926 is in restricted funds. There was a surplus for the year of £1341. (The full summary of the accounts is provided in the accompanying document.)
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Cantus Firmus Trust holds reserves for the following purposes: 1 Maintenance of essential activities 2 Risk of project losses 3 Take up of opportunities 4 Exceptional activities The trustees review this policy annually. They also decide on the appropriate level of reserves on a year-by-year basis, consistent with the above purposes, and consistent with the main risks and opportunities identified for the Trust.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£8500 at start of year £8500 at end of year
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	No fund is in deficit
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	No uncertainties with regard to the charity continuing as a going concern.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

		The principal sources of funding are donations and offerings associated with events. In recent
--	--	--

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	years there has been a small amount of regular donations from supporters. An appeal for more regular donations was made to supporters in Spring 2025, which has increased the level of regular donations. A small amount of that increase shows in this year's accounts but the full effect will show next year. Some income results from Gift Aid claims to HMRC.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Not applicable
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The three principal areas of risk identified in the Trust's work are: 1. Financial: expenditure (most likely on projects) may exceed income; new opportunities may arise at short notice that can only be taken up with additional funding; assets may need replacing early because of faults. 2. Safety: the Trust's live events have inevitable safety hazards (e.g. tripping hazards in staged productions and services, road hazards in outdoor pilgrimages of song) which need to be assessed and mitigated. 3. Safeguarding: the Trust does not work with adults at risk. Some projects do involve under 18s; in nearly all cases the involvement is via a school or church, in which case the school or church supervises them, but on rare occasions it is necessary for the Trust to provide supervision.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Charity is governed by a Constitution approved by the Charity Commission when Cantus Firmus Trust CIO was approved.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods, including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	As specified by the Constitution (and apart from the first charity trustees) every trustee is appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective governance and running of the CIO.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	After initial, informal discussions with the chairman, a prospective trustee attends a trustees' meeting as an observer. A DBS check is carried out, if appropriate. After appointment, he or she is provided with information about the trust's policies and methods of working.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The trustees meet approximately three-monthly to make strategic and financial decisions. There are two Steering Groups, one for Essex and one for Suffolk, with at least one trustee in each, whose members propose and manage events in their respective counties. In the early stages of planning each event, the steering groups prepare, for the trustees' consideration and approval, a budget and a summary of its structure and content, which shows how it aligns with the trust's objectives.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	The Trust has close links with: St Edmundsbury Cathedral, which employs Richard Hubbard part time (the Trust's Artistic Director) as St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Music Development Director. Several churches in Suffolk and Essex.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Cantus Firmus Trust
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1192862
Charity's principal address	49 Marlborough Road Ipswich Suffolk IP4 5AX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity			
	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Deborah Ruth Cook		
2	Andrew Philip Charles Davies		
3	David Freestone	Chair	
4	Howard Roy Gardner		
5	David John Gunton	Treasurer	
6	Andrew James Gosden		
8	Owen Anthony Thurtle		
9	Geoffrey Weaver		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
	None	

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
	None	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Not applicable
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

--

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	D. Freestone	
Full name(s)	DAVID FREESTONE	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	
Date	3 November 2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Cantus Firmus Trust

1192862

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1st July 2024

to

Period end date
30th June 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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations (private - non-specific)	1 621	-	-	1 621	822
Donations (private - event-related)	3 706	-	-	3 706	4 406
Donation (churches/collaborators)	50	-	-	50	2 065
Gift Aid recovered	904	-	-	904	1 784
Ticket sales	3 133	-	-	3 133	-
Sundries (meals at events)	-	-	-	-	340
Interest and on-line refunds	24	-	-	24	32
Erroneous double payment	679	-	-	679	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10 117	-	-	10 117	9 449
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Lighting/sound equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10 117	-	-	10 117	9 449
A3 Payments					
Support services (web hosting, insurance, bank charges, etc)	672	-	-	672	531
Computer hardware	-	-	-	-	-
Admin support	1 496	-	-	1 496	2 080
Donations	1 063	-	-	1 063	3 720
Room hire and travel	3 923	-	-	3 923	1 744
Music hire	82	-	-	82	114
Equipment / resources	48	-	-	48	44
Consumables	503	-	-	503	752
Printing/postage	310	-	-	310	509
Refund of double payment	679	-	-	679	-
Sub total	8 776	-	-	8 776	9 494
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8 776	-	-	8 776	9 494
Net of receipts/(payments)	1 341	-	-	1 341	- 45
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10 402	926	-	11 328	-
Cash funds this year end	11 743	926	-	12 669	45

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 £
B1 Cash funds	General (at bank)	11 635		-
	Cash in hand	108	-	-
	Bursary and youth funds (at bank)	-	926	-
	Total cash funds	11 743	926	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Equipment	Unrestricted	-	500
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>D.J. Gunton</i>	D J Gunton	20 October 2025
	Trustee and Treasurer	