WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY

Bringing exciting choral music to Somerset

Trustees' Report 2024-25

This report is by the trustees of the Incorporated charity (No 1207774) for the Season 1st Sept 24 to 31stAug 25. The season has been successful in terms of the events performed, the goals achieved and the improvements to our financial standing.

SEASON'S EVENTS

Our committee had budgeted for concert losses as usual but the huge popularity of the Karl Jenkins Celebration Concert (KJCC) in December 24 and the Carmina Burana concert in March 25 meant that these losses were much less than budgeted (see table below summarising last 7 seasons).

Full detail of the concert financial performance for this season is at Annex A. We emphasise that this table analyses only concert/C&S events and does not include the costs of rehearsals and other expenses paid for with subscriptions.

CONCERT& C&S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE BY SEASON

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Profit/loss	-27,362	-24,181	covid	-32,337	-7,221	5,349	-4,041
Publicity costs	2,041	no detail	no detail	485	1,242	2,059	1,425

This year was the first under direction of Tim Parsons and included:

1 December 24 ***Karl Jenkins Celebration Concert (KJCC)*** *- sell-out capacity audience*
2 February 25 ***Supersize Polyphony 2*** *– participation in event organised by Armonico Consort*
3 March 25 ***Carmina Burana and Elgar's Sea Pictures*** *- well attended*
4 March 25 ***Friend's & Benefactor's Social***
5 June 25 ***Come & Sing Matthew Coleridge Requiem*** *- successful*
6 August 25 ***Glastonbury Extravaganza -*** *opening set of four - audience of 5000+*

All members should be very proud of this season's events, including learning and performing with two highly popular living composers and with an outstanding outside summer event in Glastonbury.

The KJCC went ahead despite *Storm Darragh* preventing some of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra from making it. All credit to Sir Karl for agreeing to proceed so that we did not disappoint the capacity 900+ ticket holders most of whom made it despite the weather. All credit too to the Dean (personally)and staff/volunteers of the cathedral who battled with fallen trees and overall disruption to ensure the event could proceed. Demand for tickets exceeded the available numbers. Huge credit to *Harry Jordan*, first for being invited by Sir Karl to play the Benedictus cello solo, but then stepping up to conquer *Darragh* by joining other local musicians as a full member of the orchestra for the concert.

The Supersize Polyphony Concert in February organised and led by *Christopher Monks* was a participatory event in which Armonico Consort provided 360º sound continuity throughout and the two schools', the Cathedral's and WCOS choirs joined specific pieces. It was a unique experience and the thrill of the premiere of David Buckley's new work a thrilling climax to the event.

The Orff/Elgar concert was very well received and attended and the programme challenging and very enjoyable to learn and sing. We maintained the ticket prices at the raised level for Sir Karl Jenkins and the Nave was virtually sold out.

Matthew Coleridge's Come & Sing was hindered by Cathedral maintenance and not as well publicised as a result but those who came found it a very rewarding experience and good that we were able to meet Matthew for future opportunities. His music is stunning.

The Glastonbury Extravaganza was of course a totally new venture and an opportunity to perform in front of an audience of well over 5000 people (full capacity 10,000) many of whom would not normally attend a large choral performance. The feedback from members who performed and from known and unknown audience members was hugely positive and complementary about the programme. The Glastonbury Festival team and the stage and technical crew were outstanding making for a comfortable and hugely worthwhile experience from start to finish.

GOALS ACHIEVED

Reaching Out to wider audiences:

- The Glastonbury Extravaganza event has certainly brought WCOS to the attention of a much wider audience and given us publicity on the GF and Abbey websites
- KJCC building on last year's Come & Sing broadened our appeal to followers of Sir Karl
- Matthew Coleridge brought many of his followers into the Cathedral from long distances
- Social Media presence continues to grow with Meta followers now at 580 (+20%)
- Events have been actively promoted and shared shared in groups such as City of Wells, British Choirs on the Net Choral Conductors Forum, Friends of Cathedral Music, Castle Cary "Real News", Glastonbury Town Events & Info, ARMONICO MEMBERSHIP, Glastonbury (UK) Events and Gigs Guide, Bruton Somerset, Somerset Events UK and other regional event boards.
- These 16 Facebook groups have a combined reach of over 160,000 members, providing an invaluable platform to spread the word
- Public Mailing List increased from 650 last year to about 700

To build on this momentum, we encourage all members who use Meta to follow the WCOS page and to share details of our forthcoming concerts with their Facebook friends; every personal share helps us reach new audiences and supports the society's continued growth.

New Website

WCOS website underwent a full redesign in Autumn 2024, launching in January 2025 with improved brand presence, usability, content quality and volunteer management capabilities. Compared to 2024, in only eight months the new site has delivered:

- increased visitor numbers (+8%)
- unique visitors (+22%) despite fewer page views due to streamlined content
- concert information driving ticket sales
- 124 new mailing list signups this year
- mobile usage (50% of visits) validates the mobile-optimised redesign
- 85% of visits from UK, 7% from USA and others from across Europe and countries as far as S Africa, Philippines and Syria, Kazakhstan and China!

Key challenges and webmaster, Ali Ballamy's, recommendations will continue through next year.

The website redesign has successfully modernised WCOS's digital presence while supporting the choir's priorities of driving ticket sales, sponsorship, and fulfilling charitable objectives.

Friends and Benefactors

The new website includes a section on Friends and Benefactors seeking support by

- Making a Donation
- Becoming a Friend

- Corporate Benefactors
- Leaving a Legacy

We held a Friend's and Benefactor's social with a short performance by choir members after the March concert, which though poorly attended was much appreciated by those who did come along and an annual event to build on. Many thanks to Sue Curragh for being Friend's Secretary for many years. She has been succeeded by Jill Beange. Numbers have dropped slightly and are currently 32.

We have secured two key benefactors who are contributing very generously to our revenues;

- The Blair Foundation
- Forsey Funeral Directors

We hope all members will think about friends and contacts who might like to support us and also encourage them to become friends/benefactors and participate.

New Tools

We introduced two new tools to aid the management of the choir this year: The *MemberMojo* platform and the *JohnFletcher* Rehearsal Files website. The *MemberMojo* platform is a membership database tool that will help us better maintain a record of all our members. The *JohnFletcher* website is an excellent repository of SATB parts for thousands of choral pieces that will help our members at home with their practice between rehearsals.

Membership

Our thanks to Dot Hunter for acting as Membership Secretary for the last two years and to Patrick Aspinall for stepping in to the role and assuming management of our *Membermojo* platform. Our membership remained at about 125 throughout the year with a few leavers and joiners. We have a waiting list of about 12 as we prepare for the 25/26 Season.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Committee agreed to change the start of the WCOS financial year from 1 July, to 2 January each year. This decision will better align annual subscriptions with the calendar year. The new CIO came into effect on 9th April 2024, and the Financial Report therefore covers the first Financial Year (the period 9th April 2024 to 1 January 2025). Details will be presented by the treasurer but suffice it to say that with the increased subscriptions introduced last year, the sell-out of the Karl Jenkins Come & Sing in June last year, we began the 2025 Financial Year in a much-improved position. With the success of concerts reported for this season this trend will continue which gives us the luxury of being able to consider larger orchestral events as we look forward.

We now look forward to preparing and singing the Brahms Requiem, Handel's Messiah and the Haydn Creation, as starters, for the coming season. We are looking to continue to work with scholars and staff of Wells Cathedral School where appropriate and will participate in the January Wells Community Day once again. Christopher Monks has approached us about Supersize Polyphony 3 in Autumn next year and the Trustees and Committee are looking with Tim at other activities in the UK and overseas. All ideas are welcome. Watch this space.

Annex A

Concerts - Profit and Loss

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society

For the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

Account	2024-12 KJCC (Concert)	2025-03 Carmina Concert	2025-06 C&S	2025-08 Glastonbury Extravaganza	Total
Turnover					
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Members' Music Hire	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00
Programme Sales	1,588.40	627.00	0.00	0.00	2,215.40
Ticket Sales (Gross)	28,009.00	19,313.65	1,960.00	0.00	49,282.65
Total Turnover	**29,606.40**	**19,940.65**	**1,960.00**	**1,500.00**	**53,007.05**
Cost of Sales					
Accompanist	250.00	650.00	170.00	235.00	1,305.00
Cathedral charges	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Choral Scholars	60.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Conductor fee	9,000.00	900.00	0.00	240.00	10,140.00
Music hire	0.00	86.51	0.00	0.00	86.51
Music purchased for sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	229.95	229.95
Orchestra	17,064.00	3,276.56	0.00	663.00	21,003.56
Other concert/event costs (inc Catering)	1,227.19	82.45	459.50	0.00	1,769.14
Performing Right fee	1,914.18	1,506.47	4.31	0.00	3,424.96
Printing	0.00	257.81	0.00	22.00	279.81
Programme Print	0.00	515.00	0.00	0.00	515.00
Publicity	1,101.80	323.00	0.00	0.00	1,424.80
Soloists	1,250.00	1,783.28	0.00	0.00	3,033.28
Ticket Sales Commission	3,163.52	4,499.69	447.70	0.00	8,110.91
Venue charges	2,304.00	3,072.00	0.00	0.00	5,376.00
Total Cost of Sales	**37,484.69**	**16,982.77**	**1,081.51**	**1,389.95**	**56,938.92**
Gross Profit	**(7,878.29)**	**2,957.88**	**878.49**	**110.05**	**(3,931.87)**
Administrative Costs					
Bank & Card Payment	7.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.68
Gifts	46.25	55.36	0.00	0.00	101.61
Total Administrative	**53.93**	**55.36**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**109.29**
Operating Profit	**(7,932.22)**	**2,902.52**	**878.49**	**110.05**	**(4,041.16)**
Profit on Ordinary	**(7,932.22)**	**2,902.52**	**878.49**	**110.05**	**(4,041.16)**
Profit after Taxation	**(7,932.22)**	**2,902.52**	**878.49**	**110.05**	**(4,041.16)**

CIO Opening Accounts

For the Period of 9 April 2024 to 1 January 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Introduction

The Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society (WCOS) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) No. 1207774 which was established with the Charity Commission (CC) on 9 April 2024. In agreement with the CC, this first period of financial operation ended on 1 January 2025. Consequently, this set of opening financial accounts covers the first period of CIO operation 9 April 2024 to 1 January 2025. Subsequent accounts will run a full financial year, starting 2 January each year.

We have carried across all policies and financial practices from the previous charity (No.800481) which includes a Chart of Accounts to provide greater granularity and visibility of our financial performance, as well as a two-year cashflow forecast to ensure that trustees understand the financial outlook when making day-to-day decisions. Our Treasurer provides a monthly summary to trustees with a particular focus on remaining within budget and ensuring the Society's Reserve is developed and protected. During this period the Treasurer has continued providing financial updates to all members which has been well received.

Income & Expenditure

Income for the period to 1 January 2025 was £54,613.94 and total Expenditure[1] was £48,631.08, resulting in an operating profit for the period of £5,982.86.

Income

The main sources of the income over this period were as follows. For more detail on this income refer to the notes at Page 5:

Account	9 Apr 2024-1 Jan 2025
Come & Sing (hereafter C&S) Attendees	8,760.00
Members' Music Hire	1,589.00
Membership Subscriptions	23,116.29
Programme Sales	1,588.40
Tax reclaimed	4,263.84
Ticket Sales (Gross)	14,035.00

[1] Total expenditure includes Cost of delivering the musical programme and the CIO's administration costs.

Expenditure

Like many charities and music groups, costs have continued to rise significantly this accounting year.

The main expenditure items over this period were as follows. For more detail on this expenditure refer to the notes at Page 5:

Account	9 Apr 2024-1 Jan 2025
Conductor & Accompanist	14,274.94
Choral Scholars	570.00
Music Hire	1,825.00
Music Purchased for onward Sale	2,443.98
Orchestra	17,064.00
Printing & Publicity	2,680.56
Soloists	1,200.00
Other Concert Costs	452.06
Ticket sales Commission	2,511.69
Cathedral venue charges	3,204.00
Choir Administration Costs	2,173.30

Concerts & Events

The Society's P&L for this period includes ticket sales from the Spring Gerontius concert and the June Armed Man C&S. However, the much better than expected income from ticket and programme sales for the December Sir Karl Jenkins Celebration Concert (KJCC) were received outside this accounting period and will be covered in the Society's next set of accounts.

Subscriptions

The Society had not raised its member subscription rate (£135 pa) for several years. Meanwhile, all costs have been rising significantly, particularly in the case of the Wells Cathedral costs (venue hire etc), which have risen by approximately 40% over the last two years. Apart from concert ticket and programmes sales, the Society really only has sponsorship and member annual subscriptions to cover these rising costs. Consequently, the Trustees decided to increase annual subscriptions (to £195 pa) from 1 September 2024. This has helped the Society continue to manage our rising annual expenditure, whilst also building a Reserve for the future.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the level of cash holdings (Reserve) at every committee meeting in order to ensure that the Society has enough funds to ensure its future, whilst not accumulating unnecessarily large balances. The Trustees have decided that the minimum level of WCOS Reserves should:

I. provide a short-term cash flow buffer for the first concert in each season, e.g. to book an orchestra and soloists – before membership subscriptions and Gift Aid have been received. The Committee's assessment of the minimum currently required for this is £15,000.
II. provide for a loss on concerts greater than forecast, for example catastrophic ticket sales after all expenses have been incurred, e.g. rehearsals, music hire etc. The Committee's current assessment of this additional risk is £7,000.

Therefore, the current minimum level of reserves required to cover (i) and (ii) is estimated to be £22,000, defined as the Society's minimum Reserve holding. Given the rising level of costs, these Reserve assumptions will be reviewed during the next accounting period.

When it is possible to accumulate greater reserves, this will provide funds for concerts and projects demanding large resources.

Year End Reserves

The Reserves at the end of this period on 1st January 2025 were £26,179.17.

Although finishing the year with higher Capital and Reserves than forecast due to the very successful Armed Man C&S, a strong end of year result was always planned as the Society moves in to the new choir year following the relatively expensive December concert.

Profit and Loss

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society (CIO)

For the period 9 April 2024 to 1 January 2025

Account	9 Apr 2024-1 Jan 2025	
Turnover		**Notes**
Bank Interest	108.46	
C&S Attendees	8,760.00	(a)
Friends Subscriptions	169.75	
Members' Music Hire	1,589.00	(b)
Members' Music Sales	683.00	(c)
Membership Subscriptions	23,116.29	(d)
Programme Sales	1,588.40	(e)
Social income	172.20	
Sponsors/donations	118.00	
Tax Reclaimed	4,263.84	(f)
Ticket Sales (Gross)	14,035.00	(g)
Unallocated Income	10.00	
Total Turnover	**54,613.94**	
Cost of Sales		
Accompanist	1,743.00	(h)
Choral Scholars	570.00	(i)
Conductor fee	12,531.94	(j)
Miscellaneous expenses	47.16	
Music hire	1,825.00	(k)
Music purchased for sale	2,443.98	(l)
Orchestra	17,064.00	(m)
Other concert/event costs (inc	452.06	
Performing Right fee	184.39	
Printing	1,276.20	
Publicity	1,404.36	
Soloists	1,200.00	
Ticket Sales Commission	2,511.69	(n)
Venue charges	3,204.00	(o)
Total Cost of Sales	**46,457.78**	
Gross Profit	**8,156.16**	
Administrative Costs		
Bank & Card Payment Charge	115.68	
Computer and Software	19.20	
Dishonoured & Reversed Pay	147.00	
Insurance	155.00	
Internet	244.80	
Legal Support	500.00	(p)
Stripe Fees	97.22	
Subscriptions	884.40	(q)
Unallocated Expense	10.00	
Total Administrative Costs	**2,173.30**	
Operating Profit	**5,982.86**	
Profit on Ordinary Activities E	**5,982.86**	
Profit after Taxation	**5,982.86**	

Profit & Loss Notes

(a) Hugely successful Armed Man C&S in June 2024 resulted in unprecedented level of income in this accounting period.

(b) Score hire predominantly supporting Armed Man C&S and the KJCC rehearsals.

(c) Armed Man score sales for June C&S.

(d) Reflects new level of annual subscription @ £195 pa.

(e) KJCC programme sales.

(f) Gift Aid tax return.

(g) This figure reflects the Gerontius Concert (March 2024) ticket sales (gross). NB. KJCC (December 2024) tickets sale income occurred outside this period and will be covered in the next annual report.

(h) Accompanist charges submitted for Gerontius concert (Mar 24), Armed Man C&S (June 24) and KJCC (Dec 24).

(i) Charges covering two choral scholars for first term of new season (Sept to Dec 24).

(j) Conductor charges covering Armed Man C&S rehearsals, June C&S itself and the Dec KJCC.

(k) Amed Man score hire covering C&S and KJCC rehearsals.

(l) KJCC music purchases for onward sale.

(m) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra costs for Dec KJCC.

(n) Wells Cathedral and Eventbrite ticket sale commission for Gerontius concert (Mar 24) and Armed Man C&S ticket sales. NB. This figure does not include KJCC ticket sale commission, which was not charged in this period.

(o) Cathedral venue charges for Gerontius and C&S rehearsals, and KJCC rehearsals and concert.

(p) Last invoice for specialist legal support to assist the Society's preparation to transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

(q) Includes costs for accountancy system (Xero) subscription and Making Music annual Membership, insurance and platform subscription.

Balance Sheet

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society
As at 1 January 2025

Account	1 Jan 2025
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	
CIO Wells Cathedral Oratorio	26,179.17
Total Cash at bank and in hand	**26,179.17**
Assets	49.99
Total Current Assets	**26,229.16**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Accounts Payable	2,304.00
Accruals	4.41
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one ye	**2,308.41**
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	**23,920.75**
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	**23,920.75**
Net Assets	**23,920.75**
Capital and Reserves	
Current Year Earnings	5,982.86
Retained Earnings	17,937.89
Total Capital and Reserves	**23,920.75**

NOTES:

1. All the Society's activities & income are within a general, unrestricted fund.

For and on behalf of the Trustees

P Lawrence

Chair WCOS

Dated: 10 August 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

These accounts continue to be accounted for on an Accruals basis during this period.

Legal & Administrative Information

Name of Charity	Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society
Legal Status	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Governing Document	Constitution – adopted 9 April 2024.
Charity Registration Number	1207774
Registered address	21 Portway, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2BA

Trustees & Committee

The Trustees of the charity, are collectively responsible for the management of the Society, and are elected on an annual basis at AGM.

Committee members assist the Trustees in the day-to-day administration of the Society and are elected by the Trustees.

The members of the Society Committee during this period were:

Name	Role
Peter Christopher Lawrence	Chair & Trustee
Peter Beange	Treasurer & Trustee
Stacey Williams	Marketing & Trustee
Michael Lovering	Concert Management & Trustee
Richard Garstang	Secretary
Dot Hunter	Membership Sec
Sue Curragh	Friends Rep, Voice Tuition
Alison Ballamy	Webmaster

Transactions with Trustees during the year are detailed at Annex A and relate to reimbursements of WCOS expenses items that had to be paid during the year.

The Committee is also grateful for the assistance of other specialist volunteers that continue to help in a variety of support roles throughout the year.

Bank Details

Lloyds Bank plc, 24/26 High Street Wells BA5 2SJ

Report of the Independent Examiner
to the Trustees of Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society

I report on the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the period from 9 April 2024 to 1 January 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the period under section 144 (2) the Act.

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CIO and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view," and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Samuel Forsey
Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)
Kelson House
Bakers Lane
Chilcompton
RADSTOCK
BA3 4EW

Dated: 20 August 2025

Annex A

Trustee/Committee Member (personal) transactions for the period 9 Apr 24 to 1 Jan 25 (Other than normal membership subscription payments):

Trustee/Committee Member	Date	Value	Comment
Peter Beange	7 May 24	(£72)	Reimbursement of Xero subscription charges
	12 Aug 24	(£72)	Reimbursement of Xero subscription charges
	2 Dec 24	(£53.96)	Reimbursement for collection buckets & Logo stickers
	4 Dec 24	(£49.99)	Reimbursement for additional SumUp card reader m/c
Sue Curragh	30 Mar 24	(£20.01)	Reimbursement for wine and soft drinks for WCOS Friends at Gerontius concert
	31 Dec 24	(£8.80)	Reimbursement for Friends drinks at Armed Man Concert
Richard Garstang	15 Apr 24	(£113.27)	Reimbursement for social costs (wine, glasses, soft drinks)
Stacey Williams	7 May 24	(£26)	Reimbursement for Meta Advert to Gerontius concert

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Samuel Forsey
Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)
Kelson House
Bakers Lane
Chilcompton
RADSTOCK
BA3 4EW

Dated: 20 August 2025