

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 248225

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
FOR

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND



BK Plus Limited
6 Manor Park Business Centre
Mackenzie Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 9TX

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages two and three.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking 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 in the statements 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Cinzia Hensley FCA FCCA
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6 Manor Park Business Centre
Mackenzie Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
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Date : 9 October 2024

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Hymn Society of Great Britain & Ireland was founded in 1936 for the purpose of encouraging study and research in the field of hymnody, promoting good standards of hymn-singing, encouraging the discerning use of hymns in worship, and sponsoring relevant publications.

Since the last Annual Report (2022-2023) there have been 14 new members. We have, sadly, received news of 11 deaths and were particularly saddened by the deaths of our two former Executive Presidents, Revd Alan Gaunt and Miss Elizabeth Cosnett. Membership now stands at 400, comprising 283 members in Great Britain & Northern Ireland, 67 in the USA and Canada, 36 in Europe/Scandinavia, 5 in Australia, 1 in Japan, 1 in South Africa, 3 in Nigeria, 1 in Cyprus, 1 in Mexico, 1 in Taiwan and 1 in South Korea. This represents a further slight reduction as, along with other larger like-minded organizations, maintaining membership remains difficult. We benefit with all our Officers being volunteers receiving no remuneration, but this can place a strain on both time and energy. There remain some 45 subscribing libraries, national deposit libraries, and other institutions and bodies which receive our publications.

Once again, there have been few extraneous activities during the year, but this does not diminish our zeal for hymns and curiosity about hymnody.

The Officers have met on two occasions in Birmingham, in October 2023 and April 2024. The Executive Committee have met, also in Birmingham, in February 2024 and immediately prior to this Conference in High Leigh. Apart from the Officers, the Executive Committee, normally numbering 9, has been running with a reduced number of 7, but we look forward to a full complement at this AGM. We are still lacking an RSCM nominee on the Executive which, at present, shows little sign of resolution. The Officers and Executive are continuing their work seeking to streamline the Society, exploring archiving, digital resources, and spreading workload to alleviate the Secretary.

We are grateful for the empathetic responses by our new Pastoral Link Person, Kay Griffiths, and for Claire Wilson continuing to assist when needed.

We remain grateful to Bulletin Editor, Andrew Pratt, standing down at the AGM after 20 years in post, and to his team who continue to produce our quarterly Bulletin. Printing and, especially, postal charges continue to rise unremittingly, and we remain diligent in seeking ways of mitigating these. The small number who opt to receive online mailings remains stable, the majority still preferring to receive mailings by post.

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

With the addition of *Presenting and Responding to Hymns*, there are now thirty Online Short Guides and the long-awaited Occasional Paper, *The Life and Hymns of James Montgomery (1771-1854)* by James Dickinson, is now printed and shortly to be mailed to members. Our presence on Twitter and Facebook continues and the Society is thankful to John Crothers and Ken Cope who facilitate this and to Ken for all his work on the website. We are grateful to Terence Atkins, and Michael and Viv Garland who continue their work on Indexing (presently Volume XXIII).

Regional Events are always encouraged. Last August, Janet Wootton presented a *Festival of Hymns* at the Charles Wood Summer School in Armagh; this April, there was a further successful regional 'London Day,' on this occasion at Union Chapel, North London.

The rising cost of Conferences continues to be challenging, with numbers tending, inevitably, to continue to reduce. We are grateful to High Leigh, Hoddesdon for their hospitality this year at what we hope is proving to be another successful Conference.

We are grateful to our lecturers Godfrey Butland (*Musical Celts and their Influence: then and now*); Michael Garland, Ian Sharp and Robert Canham (*Celebrating the lives of Alan Luff, Elizabeth Cosnett and Alan Gaunt*); Daniel Johnson (*Isaac Watts at 350: Then and Now*); Gordon Giles (*Introducing The Revised English Hymnal*); Martin Leckebusch (*One-Hit Wonders: Unique and Solitary Contributions to Hymnody*); Benjamin Brody (*At The Weaving of Creation: Fifty New Tunes by Benjamin Brody*); and Anne Harrison (*My Desert Island Dudley-Smith*). We are grateful to Janet Wootton, Andrew Pratt, Benjamin Brody and Michael Garland for their Sectionals; our twelve participants in Short Metre; and also Janet Wootton, Andrew Pratt and Gillian Warson for the Workshops. We are grateful to our chaplain Gordon Giles for his thoughtful and diverse worship and to all who, during the week, are contributing music accompaniments both in worship and in Conference sessions. Also, to Andrew Pratt, Ian Sharp and Philip Price in anticipation of an excellent *Festival of Hymns* and to St Augustine's, Broxbourne for their hosting the Festival. We are grateful to those overseeing the technical facilities and to Terence Atkins for managing our book sales.

As always, thanks to the Secretary's wife, Jenny Canham, who continues in her unstinting support and for once again handling the Conference bookings.

Robert A. Canham - Honorary Secretary
25 July 2024

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

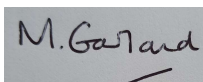
		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
RECEIPTS					
Subscriptions	Members	6,839	-	6,839	8,097
	Libraries	1,155	-	1,155	868
Grants		1,800	-	1,800	2,450
Donations		118	6,040	6,158	25
Occasional papers and books		20	-	20	50
Dividends and interest		1,361	-	1,361	1,149
Gift aid		842	-	842	954
Armagh Hymn Festival		72	-	72	
Conference income (Collections; Book sales)		-	17,533	17,533	17,335
Total receipts		12,207	23,573	35,780	30,928
PAYMENTS					
Bulletins		7,989	-	7,989	7,229
Booklet		718	-	718	1,018
Committee meetings		1,199	-	1,199	975
Administration costs		1,105	-	1,105	1,161
Stationery		187	-	187	684
Website		1,541	-	1,541	2,483
Photocopier hire		579	-	579	654
CCLI (Copyright licence)		375	30	405	357
Accountancy		300	-	300	300
Dictionary of Hymnology Fee		169	-	169	169
Regional events		-	-	-	400
Small grants		-	-	-	600
Piano hire		-	750	750	312
Insurance		290	-	290	290
University of Lancaster		-	-	-	17,968
BG University		-	20,091	20,091	-
Coach hire		-	-	-	495
Postage		-	-	-	206
Blackburn Cathedral		-	-	-	684
Grants for Washington conference		-	-	-	1,500
Book tokens		-	120	120	120
Donation to BGU chapel fund		-	100	100	244
Gifts		-	50	50	-
Lincoln Cathedral tour		-	286	286	-
Total payments		14,452	21,427	35,879	37,849
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)		(2,245)	2,146	(99)	(6,921)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Cash funds last year end		16,728	2,765	19,493	26,414
Transfer to/(from)		-	-	-	-
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END		14,483	4,911	19,394	19,493

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	31.12.23 Total funds	31.12.22 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS				
Bank accounts	10,329	2,206	12,535	16,219
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Debtors	550	-	550	-
Payments in advance	1,800	2,705	4,505	1,800
INVESTMENT ASSETS				
1309 units in M&G Charifund	2,599	-	2,599	2,599
Cost £2,599				
Market Value 31 December 2022 £19,236				
Market Value 31 December 2023 £18,784				
LIABILITIES				
2024 Subscriptions received in advance	495	-	495	825
Accrued expenses	300	-	300	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>14,483</u>	<u>4,911</u>	<u>19,394</u>	<u>19,493</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			14,483	16,728
Restricted funds – Conference fund			<u>4,911</u>	<u>2,765</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>19,394</u>	<u>19,493</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 25 July 2024. and were signed on its behalf by:



M Garland -Trustee