

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 248225

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024  
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**  
**CONTENTS OF THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Page
Independent Examiner's Report	1
Annual Report	2
Receipts and Payments	3
Statement of Assets and liabilities	4

**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 2024 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  
BK Plus Limited  
6 Manor Park Business Centre  
Mackenzie Way  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL51 9TX

Date

# THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

First, some dull but vital statistics. Our membership stands at 382: 276 in the UK and Ireland, 61 in Canada and the USA, 35 in continental Europe and 10 across Australia, Ghana, Japan, Nigeria, South Africa, South Korea and Taiwan. This is a reduction of 4.5% over the year. We have 43 subscribing libraries, national deposit libraries and other institutions receiving our publications. These figures include 14 new members and also take account of 11 deaths among our membership. The latter include various friends who have been active in the Society, but particular mention must be made of Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith who died in August 2024 at the age of 97. Timothy had long been a member of, and a great ambassador for, the Society – I am one of many members whose first contact was through him – and for over 20 years he was one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents.

We remain thankful for those who serve the Society in numerous ways. Our Executive Committee met in Birmingham in February, and at Highgate House, Northamptonshire in July, ahead of the annual Conference. We plan to try an online meeting in October, but with a contingency date next February for a meeting in person. The Officers met online in March and June, with a further session scheduled for September.

Among our Officers we appreciate the work done by Michael Garland, our long-serving Treasurer; Anne Harrison, our Executive Vice-President; and Janet Wootton who has settled well into her new role as *Bulletin* editor, ably supported by the Editorial Committee: Michael Garland, Anne Harrison and Phil Price. We continue the process of secretarial transition from Robert Canham to his successors. Part of that is the appointment of Jonathan Buchan as our Archivist; we are working on how best to transfer the core of a physical archive from Robert in Cumbria to Jonathan in Glasgow. In the meantime, we are grateful for extra work by Executive members.

We are grateful that Phil Price has taken on the role of Website and Social Media Co-Ordinator; Ken Cope continues to manage our website, but Phil now provides a valuable focal point for contact with Ken. Thanks are also due to Kay Griffiths, whose pastoral contacts on our behalf are greatly appreciated, and to all who help in other ways: proof-reading, music setting and so on.

Our main event continues to be our annual Conference, whose highlight is obviously our AGM. But there are other high spots: the Festival of Hymns, this year at St Matthew's Church, Northampton, with commentary by Michael Garland and accompaniment by Thomas Moore; lectures by Rosalind Brown, Victoria Johnson, Iain McLarty, Mark Porter, Phil Price, Ian Sharp, Martin Tel and Gillian Warson with Immanuel's Ground Quire; not forgetting sectionals, Short Metre presentations and online demonstrations. The planning group of Michael Garland, Anne Harrison, Gillian Warson, Janet Wootton and myself are grateful for positive feedback, both verbal and written, from participants for this first Conference we have planned; a slightly reconstituted group will shortly look at lessons to be learned and press on with plans for 2026.

Other events in our own name have been rarer. On our behalf John Crothers led the Hymn Festival at the Charles Wood Summer School in Armagh last August. We have been interested in and supportive of the fortieth anniversary celebrations of the Pratt Green Trust in 2024; its hymn competition numbered several of our members among the judges and others among the entrants. Collaborations continue with our sister Societies, IAH in continental Europe (for whom Phil Price is now our representative) and in North America, HSUSC (with whom Gillian Warson keeps in close touch). We are also exploring new ways to partner with the Wild Goose Resource Group, represented at Conference by Iain McLarty.

As for the future, I feel we are in good heart despite the continual challenges of adapting to changing church landscapes, finding volunteers, reducing costs, and embracing new technology. Our particular focus going forward is our 90th anniversary year, 2026, with at least half an eye on our centenary ten years later. Janet Wootton is currently coordinating our planning for these areas and I'm sure will welcome your ideas and offers of help.

*Martin Leckebusch*  
(Executive President) July 2025

**THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Subscriptions	Members	7,400	-	7,520	6,839
	Libraries	780	-	780	1,155
Grants		7,300	-	7,300	1,800
Donations		-	-	-	6,158
Occasional papers and books		10	-	10	20
Dividends and interest		1,480	-	1,480	1,361
Gift aid		831	-	831	842
Royalties		43	-	43	-
Copyright payments		120	-	120	
Regional Day Receipts		370	-	370	
Armagh Hymn Festival		120	-	-	72
Conference income (Collections; Book sales)		-	17,116	17,116	17,533
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>18,454</b>	<b>17,116</b>	<b>35,570</b>	<b>35,780</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Bulletins		8,518	-	8,518	7,989
Booklet		340	347	687	718
Committee meetings		1,380	-	1,380	1,199
Administration costs		1,239	-	1,239	1,105
Stationery		310	114	424	187
Website		2,160	-	2,160	1,541
Photocopier hire		578	36	614	579
CCLI (Copyright licence)		240	-	240	405
Accountancy		300	-	300	300
Dictionary of Hymnology Fee		199	-	199	169
Regional events		452	-	452	-
Armagh Festival		200	-	200	-
Piano hire		-	-	-	750
Insurance		347	-	347	290
BG University		-	-	-	20,091
Coach hire		-	270	270	-
High Leigh Conference Centre		-	13,914	13,914	-
Gifts		-	-	-	50
Lincoln Cathedral tour		-	-	-	286
Book tokens		-	120	120	120
Donation to BGU chapel fund		-	160	160	100
Occasional paper		1,423	-	1,423	-
Copyright fee		-	84	84	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>17,686</b>	<b>15,045</b>	<b>32,731</b>	<b>35,879</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>		<b>768</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>(99)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Cash funds last year end		14,483	4,911	19,394	19,493
Transfer to/(from)		-	-	-	-
<b>CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END</b>		<b>15,251</b>	<b>6,982</b>	<b>22,233</b>	<b>19,394</b>

**THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Bank accounts	11,152	4,255	15,407	12,535
<b>OTHER MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	-	-	-	550
Payments in advance	1,800	2,727	4,527	4,505
<b>INVESTMENT ASSETS</b>				
1309 units in M&G Charifund				
Cost £2,599	2,599	-	2,599	2,599
Market Value 31 December 2021 £20,371				
Market Value 31 December 2022 £19,236				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
2025 Subscriptions received in advance	-	-	-	495
Accrued expenses	300	-	300	300
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>	<u>15,251</u>	<u>6,982</u>	<u>22,233</u>	<u>19,394</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			15,251	14,483
Restricted funds – Conference fund			<u>6,982</u>	<u>4,911</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>22,233</u>	<u>19,394</u>

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

M Garland -Trustee