



www.godalmingchoral.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY 254800

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Objects

The Society provides opportunity and encouragement for local people to participate in the study & practice of choral music, both secular and religious. The Society also aims to bring choral music to audiences from Godalming and surrounding areas with a view to encouraging greater musical knowledge and appreciation as well as reinforcing the sense of community amongst local residents.

Governance & Administration

The Society operates under the Constitution adopted on 1 November 1967 as amended by subsequent General Meetings of the Society. The last revision was in February 2023 which was filed and accepted by the Charity Commissioners. The Society is an Unincorporated Charitable Association with members and elected officers and trustees.

There is a main board of trustees with Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as officers. Sub committees deal with specific issues & projects. Sub committees are appointed from the main board of trustees supplemented by members when required. Society members also perform additional functions under the guidance & control of the main board of trustees.

No member, trustee or otherwise, is paid for his or her role. For the year ending on 31 July 2025 the Trustees were:

Alyson Burton (Secretary),
William Middleton-Smith (Treasurer)
Henrietta Bradshaw
Helen Gee (resigned November 2024)
Elisabeth Sims (resigned November 2024)
Pauline Powlesland
Gilles Gergaud
Elizabeth Bevan-Jones

Selection of Trustees

Trustees are members and are elected at the Society's AGM.

Employees

The Society has no employees. Two professional musicians are hired on a renewable contract or ad-hoc basis to assist the Society in fulfilling its Objects. Orchestras and Soloists are engaged as required for the performances given and paid for this role.

Advisers

The Society banks with Lloyds Bank plc
Independent Examiner: A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA

Review of developments, activities and achievements

George de Voil was appointed to replace Paul Jeanes after his resignation. He has given us a new impetus. He pushes us to sing better and encourages us to sing together. This is something that he does with charm, elegance and confidence. We are lucky to have him leading us. He is also very good at spotting talent and he has been excellent at choosing musicians and soloists for our concerts.

We have continued our recruitment drive and we have seen a pleasing number of new members joining us. The number of members is around 80.

We gave three successful concerts:

30 November 2024 Saint John's church

- Mass in G Major Schubert
- In Terra Pax Gerald Finzi
- Seek that maketh the seven stars Jonathan Dove
- On Christmas night Bob Chilcott

With the organist, James Speakman, the baritone Michael Hickman and the soprano Ruby Skilbeck.

We performed to a smallish audience and the young soprano Ruby Skilbeck, although only a second-year undergraduate at the Royal Academy of Music was the star for the evening

30 March 2025 Charterhouse Chapel

- Elijah Mendelssohn

With baritone George Robarts, tenor Richard Robins, Alto Hannah Bennett, Soprano Charlotte Bowden, trebles Rufus Travers-Brown and Harry Lewis and the Chameleon Arts Orchestra. George de Voil conducting us.

After a hesitant start early in the afternoon when it took time for us to adjust to the constraints of the building and the setting up of the orchestra; the dress rehearsal got better and better. The evening performance turned into an evening of musical delight.

George de Voil managed to turn the chapel acoustics, the orchestra, the choir and the organ into a beautiful and single unified piece.

The Chameleon Arts Orchestra were very sensitive our needs and they were able to respond to the powerful organ. The soloists added so much to the drama of the piece and their beautiful voices reached deep into the audience.

5 July 2025 Saint John's Church

- William Tell overture Rossini
- Petite Messe Solennelle Rossini
- The Londonderry Air Bob Chilcott

With the participation of our Godalming Children's Choir in the Londonderry Air and pianist James Spearman, soprano Dani O'Neill, contralto Lydia Shariff, tenor James Robinson, bass Charles Baigent and accordionist Ben de Souza.

The concert went well. George's perseverance and exigence made us sound pretty good on the night.

Financial Review

Activities for the year generated a modest loss overall of £800. Our Godalming Children's Choir, formed in September 2023, does not produce separate formal accounts and its financial activities are included within the annual accounts of the Society: the outcome combines the loss of £2,350 made by the Children's Choir with the adult choir profit of £1,550. The Children's Choir was formed with stand-alone funding from a foundation donation by our former Chairman, and retains sufficient resources from that and subsequent fundraising to continue for at least a further 12 months in its existing format: we are however reviewing that format with the aim of attracting more children to participate, and exploring additional funding sources to address its continuing viability. More widely, donations and other fund-raising activities continue to help the Society's finances.

Our concerts over the year made a loss of £1,830 in total, of which £1,670 arose from our performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah: even with strong ticket sales it is difficult to break even on large productions with orchestra and soloists, held in prestigious venues.

The trustees' policy on reserves in the Bradish Bequest funds remains broadly unchanged - they will still essentially be used to generate investment income and fund exceptional future planned capital expenditure. The members have approved the allocation of up to £3,000 each year from the Bradish Bequest funds, if required, to augment performance resources for an annual "Bradish Concert" in memory of the benefactor who bequeathed these funds to the Society.

Investment policy remains conservative & under regular review: we are considering changing our banking arrangements with a view to increasing the interest income on our reserves.

No funds are held by the Society as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Risk Management

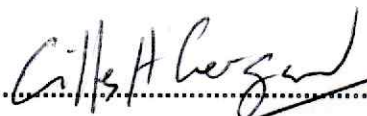
The trustees perform regular reviews of the Society's operations and strategic objectives to ensure adherence to its principal charitable objects and financial controls. They are satisfied that there are sufficient systems and procedures in place to identify and address in a timely manner those risks that the Society may face from time to time. A constant potential risk throughout any season is that of having to cancel one or more concerts at short notice. Implementation of the Reserves Policy above together with subscription to Making Music's insurance scheme is agreed by the trustees as being of an adequate nature to minimize this particular risk.

Public Benefit

In the local area the Society actively promotes participation in choral singing: we offer free tickets to those under 18 to help stimulate interest in choral music among younger age groups.

We participate in local activities where possible and we also run events open to non-members, such as our singing workshops.

It is our opinion that the trustees of the Society have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.


..... G. H GERGAUD (CHAIR)


..... A. BURTON [SECRETARY]



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name: **The Godalming Choral Society** No (if any): **254800**

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from **01-Aug-24** To **31-Jul-25**

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					
Annual member's subscriptions	13,135	-	-	13,135	10,921
Children's Choir workshop ticket sales	740	-	-	740	199
Concert programme advertising	1,495	-	-	1,495	945
Concert programme sales	1,250	-	-	1,250	2,318
Concert refreshments sales	1,536	-	-	1,536	602
Concert ticket sales	7,868	-	-	7,868	15,026
Come and Sing Day	-	-	-	-	-
Loan & Sale of Music	971	-	-	971	1,380
Friends & Donations	2,109	-	-	2,109	148
Interest Income	556	-	-	556	572
Sundry Income	76	-	-	76	-
Adult Choir fund raising activities	857	-	-	857	1,042
Children's Choir fund raising activities	-	-	-	-	960
Sale of merchandise	-	-	-	-	-
GiftAid received	3,212	-	-	3,212	5,833
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	33,805	-	-	33,805	39,946
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	33,805	-	-	33,805	39,946
A3 Payments					
Accompanists' Rehearsal Fee	4,857	-	-	4,857	3,968
Audit & Accountancy fees	193	-	-	193	245
Booster singers fee	1,326	-	-	1,326	995
CC accompanist costs	680	-	-	680	460
CC conductor fees	1,463	-	-	1,463	852
CC Publicity	254	-	-	254	427
CC Sundry expenses	733	-	-	733	-
CC Workshop venue hire	120	-	-	120	126
Charitable and Political Donations	-	-	-	-	650
Concert orchestra and accompanist fee	5,785	-	-	5,785	14,106
Concert Posters & Advertisement	582	-	-	582	644
Concert Programme Printing	607	-	-	607	1,270
Concert Refreshments Cost	664	-	-	664	755
Concert Soloists Fee	2,883	-	-	2,883	3,931
Concert staging, sound, lights	-	-	-	-	7,994
Concert Sundry Expenses	541	-	-	541	2,177
Concert venue hire	1,914	-	-	1,914	3,610
Come and Sing day costs	-	-	-	-	-
Conductor's Concert Fee	1,745	-	-	1,745	2,340
Conductor's rehearsal fee	5,920	-	-	5,920	6,510
Hire & Purchase of Music	1,175	-	-	1,175	1,524
Hire of Orchestra Scores	150	-	-	150	285
Hire of rehearsal venues	1,612	-	-	1,612	1,515
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	289	-	-	289	283
IT software & consumables	48	-	-	48	-
Posters & advertising - choir	276	-	-	276	87
Subscriptions	411	-	-	411	392
Sundry Choir Expenses	381	-	-	381	707
DBS checks & training	-	-	-	-	53
Sub total	34,609	-	-	34,609	55,906
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	34,609	-	-	34,609	55,906
Net of receipts/(payments)	-804	-	-	-804	15,980
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	41,649	-	-	41,649	57,609
Cash funds this year end	40,845	-	-	40,845	41,649

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	Lloyds Bank Adult Choir current 87213760	5,697	-	-
	Lloyds Bank Children's Choir current 87992768	3,272	-	-
	Lloyds Bank Instant Access deposit 87214160	0	-	-
	Scottish Widows 90 day deposit	11,876	-	-
	Scottish Widows 90 day deposit (Bradish Bequest)	20,000	-	-
	Total cash funds	40,845	-	-

(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		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Invoices received/settled after year-end			
	Audit & Accountancy fees	Unrestricted	360	
	Concert Posters & Advertisement	Unrestricted	130	
	Concert Refreshment Cost	Unrestricted	69	
	Concert soloists fee	Unrestricted	300	
	Concert Sundry Expenses	Unrestricted	190	
	Hire of rehearsal venues	Unrestricted	486	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

A. R. Burton

Alyson Burton

06 November 2025

Gilles Gergaud

06 November 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Godalming Choral Society

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 July 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

254800

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 **31/07/2025**.

**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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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:

11 February 2026

Name:

A J Bennewith

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

FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA

Address:

Upper Ground Floor, 18, Farnham Road

Guildford

Surrey GU1 4XA

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.

There are no matters to disclose