



Registered Charity  
Number 275986

**Harpenden Choral Society**

**Annual Report**

**Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## **Harpenden Choral Society**

### **Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

This Annual Report is presented to the Charity Commission by the Trustees of Harpenden Choral Society in accordance with their obligations under charity law and regulation.

#### **Reference and Administrative Information**

**Charity name:** Harpenden Choral Society

**Registered charity number:** 275986

**Principal office:** 52 Derwent Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 3NX

#### **Charity's trustees:**

Amanda Evans, Chair

David Nye, Secretary

Michael Walker, Treasurer

Melanie Gaches, Membership Secretary

Rosemary White, Concert Manager

Sheila Mitchell, Publicity Manager

Judith Mayall, Librarian

Rosemary Russell, Box Office Manager

**Honorary President:** David Ireson

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Governing document**

Harpenden Choral Society is an unincorporated association, registered with the Charity Commissioners. It is governed by a constitution dated September 2014 (amended March 2020) which was accepted by the Charity Commission on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

##### **Organisational structure**

The Society's trustees are responsible for the management of the Society. They receive no remuneration or other financial benefit. Expenses reimbursed to the trustees are shown in the accounts, which are appended. The trustees confirm that they have made reference to the guidance of the Charities Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing their aims, objectives, and future activities of the society.

The trustees meet regularly and are responsible for all decisions made in relation to the Society's activities. A sub-committee assists with the selection of the music to be performed by the choir. The sub-committee, some of whose members are not trustees, report back with their recommendations to a full committee meeting of the trustees.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

New trustees are recruited from the Society's members by the existing trustees.

Consideration is given to personal competence, relevant specialist knowledge and skills, in selecting new trustees, who are elected at the Society's AGM to serve for a period of three years. Trustees are eligible to stand for re-election at the end of each three-year period.

The Society expects its trustees to work effectively together as members of the committee, devote the necessary time and effort, safeguard the good name and values of the Society, and understand the legal duties, liabilities and responsibilities of trusteeship.

## **Harpenden Choral Society**

### **Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

New trustees are given a copy of the relevant job description, a 'Trustee Guide' which outlines their duties as a trustee, and a copy of the Society's constitution.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

##### **Objects and aims**

The objects of the Society are the education of the public in the art and science of choral music by the study, practice and concert performance of choral works and by other activities. The Society intends its activities to contribute to the social and cultural welfare of the community of Harpenden.

The Society achieves its aims through the regular performance of choral music. This is of benefit to the local community by providing opportunities for people of all persuasions to perform, or listen to, choral music in the context of a social gathering. Additionally, it is recognised that significant benefits accrue to people who have the opportunity to sing in a choir through social interaction and the health benefits of singing as a physical activity.

The Society aims to perform an increasing range of choral music in order for the choir to progress and develop musically. The Society performs choral music of all periods, both sacred and secular, often with the help of professional soloists and instrumentalists.

##### **Achievements and Performance**

The Society's concerts promote singing as a social activity. The trustees and members work to attract new choir members and increase audiences at concerts. Retiring collections are regularly made at the Christmas concert and the proceeds are donated to local charities.

Open Rehearsals are organised in order to aid recruitment; anyone interested in finding out about the choir can come and sing at these events. Members are encouraged to develop their abilities in the choir rehearsals, conducted by the musical director and accompanied by a professional rehearsal pianist.

Workshops, directed by a professional conductor, are held as a further aid to recruitment. These events are open to non-members in order to encourage wider community participation and attract new members. A *Come and Sing* event was held during the season at the Harpenden United Reformed Church, which was open to anyone who would like to come along and join choir members for a thoroughly enjoyable, fun and informative journey through Mozart's *Requiem*.

The Society gave four concerts during the 2024-25 season, which demonstrated the wide variety of music that the choir enjoys singing for the enjoyment of our local audience.

On 16th November 2024 the choir gave a performance of J.S. Bach's monumental *Mass In B Minor* in the Harpenden High Street Methodist Church. The concert featured orchestral accompaniment by The King's Sinfonietta, along with five professional soloists. We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of The Williams Church Music Trust for this concert.

The choir's ever-popular Christmas Carol Concert was held in the High Street Methodist Church on 17 December. Many well-known carols gave our audience the chance to sing, and the choir performed carols both old and new.

A retiring collection for local charity *Herts Young Homeless* raised £865.

Our concert on 22nd March 2025 in St. John's Church, Harpenden, featured Michael Haydn's St. Francis Mass – *Missa Sancti Francisci Seraphici in C*, Marianna Martines' *Dixit Dominus*, and Mozart's

## **Harpenden Choral Society**

### **Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Solemn Vespers K339*, with four professional soloists, accompaniment by the King's Sinfonietta and chamber organ.

The final concert of the season was held on 21st June 2025 in St. Nicholas' Church Harpenden. This concert featured a new work by local composer Joanna Forbes L'Estrange entitled *A Season to Sing*, together with works by Vaughan Williams, Ireland, Bruckner, Bach, Tallis and Taverner. The choir was accompanied on the organ by Ben Collyer.

*A Season to Sing* was co-sponsored by Harpenden Choral Society. It is a re-imagining of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* for voices, using texts from poems, hymns and bible passages. As a new fresh work, it proved very good fun to learn, and was greatly enjoyed by our audience.

### **Financial Review**

#### **Policy on reserves**

Reserves are needed to bridge the intervals between expenditure and income and to cover risks such as unplanned expenditure and fall in income. The Society's main source of income is members' subscriptions; other sources of revenue are variable.

The choir strives to maximise concert attendance and receipts by appropriate publicity and advertising. The Society is fortunate to have several patrons and a sponsor, the Williams Church Music Trust, which generally makes an annual grant to the choir. Concerts are the main item of expenditure, and vary according to the size and complexity of the repertoire. The financial risks to the Society are considered in its reserves policy document, which is reviewed annually. The target range for reserves at the end of the 2024/25 financial year was £12,000 to £15,000.

#### **Subscription policy**

The Society's subscription policy reflects the aim of enabling all within the community, whatever their means, to become members of the Society. A reduced subscription, of no more than one third of the full subscription, is offered to under 30's, full-time students and those in receipt of income-related benefits. The trustees take account of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when formulating and reviewing subscription policy.

#### **Pricing policy**

The price of admission to the Society's concerts is kept under review, with the aim of balancing the need to keep prices low, whilst ensuring that concert costs are adequately funded. A discount is given for children and students. The trustees take account of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when formulating and reviewing pricing policy.

#### **Details of any fund materially in deficit**

The Society has no funds which are materially in deficit.

#### **Statement of financial activities**

The accounts are appended together with the independent examiner's report. They comprise the Receipts & Payments Account, and the Statement of Assets & Liabilities. The accounts show that the Society ended the financial year with a surplus of £1,151.57. Cash and bank balances totalled £14,434.72 held in unrestricted funds.

The Society ended the financial year with total assets of £14,829.72 which compares with £13,429.08 at the end of the previous season. Reserves are within the target range set out above in 'Policy on

**Harpenden Choral Society**  
**Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

reserves'. The budget for the following season, revised in December 2025, indicates that this level of reserves is expected to be preserved during the remainder of the season.

No property is owned by the Society.

**Declaration of Approval**

This Annual Report was approved by the Trustees on 19 January 2026.

Signed on behalf of all the Trustees:

Amanda Evans  
Chair  
19 January 2026

**HARPENDEN CHORAL SOCIETY**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

**Registered Charity Number: 275986**

**HARPENDEN CHORAL SOCIETY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	<b>2024/25</b>		<b>2023/24</b>	
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Members' Subscriptions	16802.00		15842.00	
Patrons	350.00		350.00	
Gift Aid	<u>3313.50</u>		<u>2816.50</u>	
		20465.50		19008.50
<u>Concert receipts (Note 1)</u>		9986.97		7882.68
<u>Other receipts</u>				
Interest received	171.10		349.33	
Donations	420.00		310.00	
Sponsorship			950.00	
Christmas Quiz	606.33		497.76	
Rehearsal refreshments	393.00		377.00	
Sundry receipts	579.28		48.00	
Fundraising	538.74			
Easyfundraising	167.40		269.67	
Come & Sing	711.62		0.00	
Williams Trust grant	<u>2000.00</u>		<u>2000.00</u>	
		5587.47		4801.76
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>		<b><u>36039.94</u></b>		<b><u>31692.94</u></b>
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>				
Professional fees	10122.84		9757.10	
Rehearsal accommodation	2496.90		2495.00	
Making Music subscription, insurance and Performing Rights fee	992.05		667.74	
Administrative expenses	0.00		0.00	
Publicity	88.60		228.60	
Sundry payments	1057.73		205.11	
Website	237.43		203.85	
Purchase of music	<u>300.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
		15295.55		13557.40
<u>Concert payments (Note 1)</u>		19592.82		19726.66
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>		<b><u>34888.37</u></b>		<b><u>33284.06</u></b>
<b><u>NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS</u></b>		<b>1151.57</b>		<b>-1591.12</b>
Opening bank balances plus cash		13283.15		14874.27
Closing bank balances plus cash		14434.72		13283.15

**HARPENDEN CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30 JUNE 2025**

	<b>2024/25</b>		<b>2023/24</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Non-cash assets</u>				
Music purchased at cost		300.00		-
Other assets		95.00		145.93
Lloyds Bank current account	163.68		1,098.21	
Lloyds Bank savings accounts	14,051.89		11,945.79	
Cash in hand	219.15		239.15	
		<u>14,434.72</u>		<u>13,283.15</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b><u>14,829.72</u></b>		<b><u>13,429.08</u></b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>		-		-
 <b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		<b>14,829.72</b>		<b>13,429.08</b>
 Note				
Increase/decrease in bank & cash		1,151.57	-	1,591.12
Change in non-cash assets		<u>249.07</u>		<u>-</u>
Change in total assets		<b>1,400.64</b>	-	<b>1,591.12</b>

M J Walker  
Treasurer  
July 2025



**HARPENDEN CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**NOTES FORMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

1      Concerts              Details of concerts given during the year are as follows:

Concert I	Harpenden, 17 November 2024	Bach Mass in B minor
Concert II	Harpenden, 17 December 2024	Carol Concert
Concert III	Harpenden, 22 March 2025	M Haydn St Francis Mass Mozart Solemn Vespers Martines Dixit Dominus
Concert IV	Harpenden, 21 June 2025	Joanna L'Estrange A Season to Sing Works by Bach Bruckner Taverner Vaughan Williams

	Concert I	Concert II	Concert III	Concert IV	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	2024-25	2023-24
Receipts	2,831.00	2,652.27	2,279.68	2,224.02	9,986.97	7,882.68
Payments	8,275.43	1,687.38	7,693.90	1,936.11	19,592.82	19,726.66
Surplus / Deficit	- 5,444.43	964.89	- 5,414.22	287.91	- 9,605.85	- 11,843.98



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
HARPENDEN CHURCH SOCIETY

On accounts for the year  
ended

30 JUNE 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

275 986

Set out on pages

remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above  
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 JUNE 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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

04/08/2025

Name:

JAMES WARREN GREAVES

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

Address:

20 EAST COMMON

HARPENDEN

AL5 1BJ





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	HARPINGTON CHARITY SOCIETY		
On accounts for the year ended	30 JUNE 2025	Charity no (if any)	275986
Set out on pages			
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 JUNE 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or</li><li>• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records</li></ul> 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. * Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.		
Signed:			Date: 04/08/2025
Name:	JAMES WARREN GREAVES		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:	20 EAST COMMON HARPINGTON AL5 1BJ		