AGM – Chair's report

Oct 2025 - June 2026 was a generally successful year:

- Numbers climbed to some 75 regular attendees in the main choir.
- The 2 principal concerts resulted in a small, overall profit which added to the choir's healthy bank balance.
- A number of activities took place in addition to the main concerts.

Activities in 2025-26:

- **October: Chamber Choir concert, Frenchay** parish church. There was a friendly and supportive audience and cake all round afterwards. This is the third concert there and Chamber Choir has been invited back to sing in October 2026.

- **December**: a sub-group of the choir sang carols to support the congregation at the **Christmas carol service of St Stephen's Church** in the centre, including two choir-only items. This helped to satisfy those who love to sing carols at Christmas time! We were invited to return in 2026.

- **February: winter concert** with a 'return of the light' theme was held at St Matthew's church in Cotham. The programme ranged through Mozart, Mendelssohn and the Rocky Horror Show and included a commissioned piece from local composer, Esther Bersweden. Thanks to Steve Hull for his excellent arrangement of a St Brigid piece to pair with Huw's related number. Singing in Irish Gaelic was a first for the choir!

- **March:** Members of the choir took part in Dublin Brass's '*Breath upon the Flame'* concert at Bristol cathedral when we reprised both of our St Brigid songs from the February concert. It was great to sing in the cathedral – despite the intense cold!

- **June:** summer concert at St Alban's church**.** Our principal piece was Mozart's Requiem and, for a third time**,** Long Ashton Orchestra joined to accompany us. They also played Haydn's 'Clock' symphony in part 1. We were pleased to be able to present £169 to music charity Gathering Voices - **https://www.gatheringvoices.org.uk/music**

  Everyone appreciated singing the Mozart – it has good tunes for all sections! We were well served by the excellent soloists: *Freya Holliman, Jenna Brown, Mike Gormley and Harrison Robb* and the programme

attracted a bumper audience. Former conductor, Nick Bromelow, on a flying visit from the US, even came to check our progress, too!

Workshops
We held 3 well-attended, half-day workshops in November, March + June. Jenna Brown ran an excellent session in March and her notes can be found on the web-site. Thanks to Huw for working at weekends!

Finances
This year ended in a happy position due to an upsurge in numbers in the choir and a financially pleasing summer concert. This has enabled us to once again maintain main choir subscriptions at the same, low rate despite inflation.

Many thanks to Carew Reynell (bass) for his many years as **Treasurer**. He has ensured the smooth running of the finances throughout and we are most grateful for his professionalism. **Mike Hazell** (bass) has now taken over as Treasurer with help from **Anne Reader** (alto) as Assistant Treasurer. We welcome the new team.

Committee – other changes to roles – Sue Fox has taken on organisation and liaison for Chamber Choir. Kate Gibson, who has helped Anneliese Blair (non-committee) with the music library job, is leaving the committee this month. Thanks to Kate for many years' work.

Thanks to John Atkinson for supporting the transitioning of the IT /website role to Steve Hull. Adjustments to improve the useability and accuracy of the web site are on-going.

- **Socialising –** pub Mondays continued in the Cambridge Arms + we held 2 parties. Huge thanks to Jean + Billy for hosting and catering the Christmas event and a big thank you to Geoff for hosting the summer party.

Tricia Thorpe, October 2026