SONG & HYMN WRITERS FOUNDATION CIO

Accounts – 31st December 2025

SONG & HYMN WRITERS FOUNDATION CIO

Charity number: 1170493

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31st December 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Reference and Administration Details
The charity's name is Song & Hymn Writers Foundation CIO ("SHWF").

Charity registration number:	1170493
Registered address and principal working office:	12 Hastings Road Woodhouse Eaves Loughborough LE12 8QU

Trustees
The trustees who served during the year and since the year end to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr Michael Burn (appointed 24th September 2025)
Ms Judy Gresham (appointed 24th September 2025)
Mr Alex Guest
Mr Samuel Hargreaves (appointed 24th September 2025)
Mrs Anne Harrison (resigned November 2025)
Ms Nina Kurlberg
Rev Matthew Swires-Hennessy (Chair of Trustees from March 2026)
Dr Noel Tredinnick (appointed 24th September 2025)
Mr Simon Upcott (Chair of Trustees until March 2026)

Purpose, Objects, Activities and Working Names of SHWF
SHWF's purpose statement, which embraces all its activities, is '**Enriching the Song of the Church'**.
Its overall objectives are:

1. To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit, in particular, but not exclusively by the following means:
   a. by furthering the growth of writing, composing and use of hymns and songs;
   b. by providing resources to assist church musicians in developing the use of other music for Christian worship and thereby to support proclamation of the gospel in churches, Christian organisations and gatherings of a similar nature;
   c. by developing hymns, songs and other music for Christian worship with a view to increasing the effectiveness of such worship.

2. To advance education in the writing of hymns, songs and other words and music for Christian worship and in high standards of professional practice both for new and existing writers, in particular but not exclusively by the following means:
   a. by providing educational events and resources to enhance and improve the composition of words and music for Christian worship.
   b. by making grants to individuals and institutions in order to make educational opportunities more accessible to writers of Christian music.

Values
SHWF has three key values which underscore its work. The values are expressed as follows:

We believe that when the church sings it should:
1. **Glorify God**
2. **Grow Disciples**
3. **Build Community**

In realising these values, SHWF has **seven aims**:

1. Publish Songs & Hymns
Publish songs and hymns that deepen the worship of the church, engaging with themes and styles that broaden its language of worship and reflecting the richness of scripture and diversity of Christian discipleship.

2. Serve the Church
Serve the church by producing and modelling songs and hymns that encourage and enable congregational singing, that are not built around personalities and performing artists, but treat the congregation as the most important voice.

3. Grow the Talent Pool
Grow & diversify the pool of talent by discovering, nurturing and giving a platform to writers outside the few dominant labels, with a particular focus on UK sources.

4. Champion the Grassroots Writer
Champion the role of the grass-roots songwriter as a unique voice in each local church, resourcing them to help grow their skills and provide a healthy balance alongside the globalised song-sources and traditional repertoire.

5. Develop Community
Develop community among songwriters that leads to wider accountability, greater skill, deeper understanding and a mutual, organic sharing of songs across churches that is independent of market systems.

6. Value Writers
Value the writer as a person and member of the wider church they serve, through publishing models that favour creatives over corporations and which are relational, generous & empowering.

7. Work in Partnership
Work in partnership with churches, organisations and other publishers, to pursue greater creativity and to model generous kingdom values throughout the industry.

SHWF carries out most of its work under the working names Jubilate and Resound Worship. Jubilate is primarily focused on writing and publishing new hymns; Resound Worship is primarily focused on writing and publishing new worship songs, and working to develop and encourage grass-roots songwriters in local churches.

SHWF has a wholly-owned subsidiary, Jubilate Hymns Limited ("JHL") which operates as an agency collecting royalties for song and hymn writers. The company Gift Aids its profits to SHWF, providing a key source of funds to SHWF.

Achievements and Performance in 2025
Among the various activities of the charity during 2025, the following are of particular note:

Gathered to Go (Jubilate)
A writing project was launched to produce a collection of new songs and hymns to fit the pattern of normal Sunday worship, focusing on themes like gathering, praise, reading the word, prayer, communion and so on. An open submissions process was followed by shortlisting and revisions by the editorial teams preparing the final set of 13 songs and hymns to be recorded and released in early 2026.

Community Songs (Resound Worship)
The major project of the Resound team in 2025 was to explore the theme of 'community songs', reflecting the third of SHWF's values. The goal was to write songs that *reflect an experience of community, describe a theology of community* and *provide a place for community.* The project began with a gathering of ten writers over four nights at Yarnton Manor in Oxfordshire who, having prepared with a reading list sourced from leading academics in the UK and US, used several days to experiment with song form and structure with the goal of writing specifically for that small community in that gathered moment. Though the focus was on that moment, it led to several songs that naturally began and travelled. Three of them were recorded at the Wydale songwriting retreat and released as an EP in the autumn.

Meanwhile the wider 12 Song Challenge community was encouraged to write on the theme, and it became the focus of the Wydale gathering, leading to more songs that would be recorded in early 2026.

The release of the first EP *Community Songs Vol I: All Our Voices* was accompanied by an article describing the process and the specific goals and learnings along the way.

Downcast Souls Expectant Hearts Concerts March 2025
The run of concerts presenting the material from Resound's 2024 album which began in March 2024 was completed with events in Broadstairs, Woodbridge, Coventry, Poynton, Ash Vale & Petersfield. The concerts were well attended, well received, and led to several churches becoming Partner Churches.

Worship Songwriter Retreats in Yorkshire & Tennessee
Resound's popular annual retreat at Wydale Hall took place again in July over 5 days, with 68 in attendance and a focus on the 'community songs' theme. We welcomed back Geraldine & Carey Luce who moved to the US in 2023 and had a guest performance from US singer-songwriter Caroline Cobb as part of her UK tour. We also recorded the live community songs EP.
A proposed second retreat in Tennessee was postponed to 2026 as it was felt that a longer gap was needed to secure repeat visitors.

12 Song Challenge
Following our largest ever group of participants in 2024 we relaunched in 2025 with 270 taking part. Song themes included community, generosity, songs of the Bible, adoration, the fruits of the Spirit and more. The team of volunteer group leaders was increased from 10 to 20 this time. The challenge was accompanied by a monthly podcast.

Donor Income & Five-year Giving Campaign
The five-year Resound Worship giving campaign, aiming for an increase of £100,000 over five years, began to bear fruit in increased giving, with a second push in late 2025 taking us close to the final target. This led to an increase in regular or one-off donor giving from £27,680 in 2024 to £40,000 in 2025.

Employment of Staff
Five staff were employed by the charity during the year:

- Executive Director (21 hours per week) / Resound Worship Coordinator (14 hours per week)
- Head of Publishing (14 hours per week Jan – Aug; full-time from Sept)
- Jubilate Coordinator (6 hours per week)
- Web Manager and Systems Developer (21 hours per week Jan - July)
- Administrator (17.5 hours per week)

2025 saw two significant events in our staff team:

The first was to consolidate all staff employment contracts under SHWF only, with a service contract in place to fulfil the administrative functions of JHL.

Employment of Staff (continued)

The second was the devastating loss of our beloved colleague Kieran Metcalfe in July 2025 after a two-year battle with bowel cancer. Kieran had worked with JHL and SHWF for nearly two decades as freelance web developer and latterly an employee and his loss has left a huge hole in our family and in our ongoing work.

A new 0.6 role of Web Application Developer was advertised in late 2025 with an appointment made due to start in January 2026.

The trustees record their thanks for the energetic, creative and faithful work of the staff team during the year, especially in such difficult circumstances, and for their willingness to be adaptable in their roles in the face of adversity.

Joint Strategy Meeting

An overnight gathering of staff, trustees and directors of SHWF and JHL took place in June at the home of Joel Payne, Executive Director to take a strategic view of the operations of SHWF and its subsidiary JHL going forward. The ground covered included ongoing plans to restructure and streamline operations, and some blue-sky thinking around increasing funding and profile.

2026 and Beyond

Plans for 2026 include:

- recording and releasing the *Gathered to Go* collection and a second *Community Songs* EP in the first part of the year.
- Developing and promoting a package for a *Community Songs* evening or event to offer to local churches and networks, where leaders from the Resound community will take the songs, the story and some of the theology for a participative presentation encouraging the churches into this style of worship.
- Energising our team of development volunteers to help in a rebuild of the Songclub platform to become a freestanding environment for collaborative songwriting which will host the 12 Song Challenge and other events and projects going forward. The hope is that the platform will contribute to our ongoing work with church songwriters and create sustainable longer term funding sources.

Grant Making

The charity has not made any grants in the period but has offered bursary places on events. To access this bursary the applicant has provided a reference from a church leader stating their suitability and undertaken to raise half the cost from other means.

Reserves Policy

This was reviewed during the year. Trustees agreed the charity should maintain a minimum reserves level of three months of core operating costs plus any non-refundable event deposits. The charity has cash reserves of £65,107.

Principal Sources of Funding

As noted, SHWF's subsidiary company JHL Gift Aids its profits to the charity, providing a key source of funds. Sales of scores and recordings, along with fundraising, supplement this income to fund the charity's activities. Fees for events generally covered the direct costs incurred without generating additional income.

Financial Review

Gross income for 2025 was £163,760. Gross expenditure was £155,661 thus resulting in a net income of £8,099.

Structure, Governance and Management

SHWF is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its formal constitution. The charity has a board of trustees who are each appointed by agreement of the existing trustees, after appropriate due diligence of their aptitude, skills and willingness to serve in that capacity.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

The board of trustees continued to meet regularly during the year, and attended to all key governance requirements of SHWF. It reviews key risks at least once a year, more often when necessary to attend to changing governance developments. It cyclically reviews SHWF's policy framework, ensuring its adequacy in the context of the charity's operations.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st May 2026 and signed on its behalf:

by: Matthew Swires-Hennessy (Chair) and Alex Guest (Trustees)

Matthew Swires-Hennessy	Alex Guest
……..	……
Chair of Trustees	Trustee

Loughborough

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Song & Hymn Writers Foundation for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A P Williams FCCA CTA
A J Carter & Co Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

22b High Street
Witney
Oxon
OX28 6RB

22nd June 2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations				
Charity Fundraising & Special Donations	39,576	4,500	44,076	30,887
Jubilate Hymns Ltd	42,495	-	42,495	41,700
Jubilate				
Physical Resource Sales	170	-	170	524
Postage & Packaging	23	-	23	54
Website Sales	2,084	-	2,084	2,329
Events	-	-	-	-
Resound Worship				
Events	39,029	-	39,029	54,104
Postage & Packaging	231	-	231	185
Physical Resource Sales	5,063	-	5,063	9,467
Digital Resellers	1,088	-	1,088	1,370
Website Sales	5,274	-	5,274	5,392
Crowdfunding	-	-	-	-
Partner Churches	2,350	-	2,350	1,900
Other				
Royalties	29	-	29	35
Consultancy	19,401	-	19,401	9,951
Miscellaneous Income	1,372	-	1,372	-
Bank Account Interest	1,075	-	1,075	1,458
Total incoming resources	159,260	4,500	163,760	159,356
Payments				
Bank Charges	60	-	60	60
Accountancy Fees	720	-	720	720
Jubilate Events	-	-	-	-
Jubilate Recording	-	-	-	3,694
Resound Events	28,803	-	28,803	37,994
Office Expenses	4,977	-	4,977	3,544
Postage & Packing	392	-	392	364
Sundry Expenses	922	-	922	255
PayPal, Distrokid, Zettle and Stripe Charges	1,843	-	1,843	1,738
Salaries & On Costs	101,770	4,349	106,119	94,833
Travel Expenses	1,155	-	1,155	1,222
Trustee Expenses	653	-	653	451
Website Expenses	469	151	620	371
Conferences & Training	1,070	-	1,070	1,595
Resound Recording	5,036	-	5,036	1,219
Resound CD/Book Re-printing	955	-	955	1,994
Royalty Payments	2,336	-	2,336	2,404
Total expenditure	151,161	4,500	155,661	152,458

SONG & HYMN WRITERS FOUNDATION CIO

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Excess of Receipts over Payments	8,099	-	8,099	6,898
Reconciliation of funds				
Bank Balances at 1 January 2025	57,008	-	57,008	50,110
Deficit/Surplus for Year	8,099	-	8,099	6,898
Bank Balances at 31 December 2025	£65,107	£-	£65,107	£57,008

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
as at 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Assets		
Cash Funds		
Cash in Hand	-	-
CAFCash Account	423	8,594
CAFGold Account	64,684	48,414
	65,107	57,008
Other Monetary Assets		
Stock (at cost)	15,074	18,229
Debtors		
Sales	62	25
PayPal	6,875	4,410
Gift Aid	4,141	3,073
Other	625	625
Total current assets	91,884	83,370
Liabilities		
Creditors		
Accountancy Fee	780	756
PayPal	307	135
Song Writing Retreat Fees	11,150	10,243
Song Challenge Fees	500	904
Royalties	1,779	2,336
	14,516	14,374
Total net assets	£77,368	£68,996

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on: 21st May 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

M Swires-Hennessy
……..
Chair of Trustees

A Guest
…….
Trustee