Registered Charity Number 1197538

Barts Choir

St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society

UNAUDITED REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

31 December 2025

St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society
Annual Report 2025

Registered Charity Number:	1197538 (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered address:	7 Bell Yard London WC2A 2JR
Trustees:	Susan Shale, Chair Linda Harland, Secretary Graham Rowbotham, Treasurer Penelope Andrews Philip Murphy Frances Reynolds Richard Vaughan Susan Vickers Jenifer Young
Independent Examiner:	Anson Clark FCA
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2Y 7HN
President:	The Master of The Musicians' Company
Conductor/Musical Director:	Ivor Setterfield
Assistant Conductor:	Jordan Theis
Website:	www.bartschoir.com

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St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society
Year ended 31 December 2025

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The Trustees confirm that the reported financial statements of the charity comply with the requirements of the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" effective 1 January 2019 (Charities SORP FRS 102).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and what the charity does to achieve them

The objectives of St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society ("the Choir") are set out in its constitution and are:

- To promote, improve, develop and maintain education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and by such other ways as the Choir through its Committee shall determine from time to time; and

- To advance other charitable purposes by applying all or part of the profits of the said public concerts and other activities by making donations to such other registered charities, especially those of a medical nature, as the Committee may select from time to time.

The Choir's members, who are not auditioned, form what is believed to be the largest regular amateur choir in London. The Choir's main purpose is to prepare for, promote and perform in public concerts. These concerts are usually held once a term. There are three terms in a calendar year.

The Committee is keen to retain Choir members who enjoy singing in the main Choir but also wish to be involved in more challenging works. To this end the Choir runs a Chamber Choir, and, after a successful audition, members are offered the opportunity to join this choir. Participation in Chamber Choir concerts is conditional upon singing with the main Choir in at least one of their performances in the preceding, current or following terms. The Chamber Choir gave its first post-pandemic concert in June 2024. There was no concert in 2025, but plans are in hand for a concert by the Chamber Choir in 2026.

The Choir selects a charity to work with to help fulfil the second charitable aim of our constitution. The objective of the relationship is to enable the chosen charity to extend its profile through the Choir and the Choir's performances, and to raise money at the Choir's events. We also aim to make direct donations to the charity where finances permit. The Choir's current charity is Barts Charity, a relationship which will last until June 2029.

Significant activities/operations during 2025

Having re-established a full programme of rehearsals and concerts in 2022, the Choir was able to continue a regular level of activity in 2023 and again in 2024 and 2025. At the same time, we have sought successfully to rebuild Choir numbers back to the levels we had seen before the pandemic struck. This helps improve the Choir's finances through increased subscription income and the hope has been that in turn this would help drive greater audience turnout at our concerts and reduce the need for the Choir to subsidise events.

St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society
Year ended 31 December 2025

Report of the Trustees

The first concert of the year in April 2025 in the Royal Festival Hall focused around the ever-popular Carmina Burana by Carl Orff, the performance of which brought the audience to its feet. The Choir was supported by the Trafalgar Sinfonia and soloists. This was supplemented in the first half by Vaughan Williams's early choral work *Toward the Unknown Region* and his popular *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* for string orchestra.

The summer concert took us back to Cadogan Hall where for two nights we performed two standards of the choral repertory, Mozart's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*. We were supported by the Trafalgar Sinfonia and soloists who helped us give excellent performances.

The winter concerts in Holy Trinity Sloane Square contained a varied programme of shorter pieces. The Charpentier *Messe de Minuit* was familiar to the Choir, but other pieces by Barber, Rutter, Dove, Forbes L'Estrange (who attended the first evening) and Ešenvalds were new to us. We were particularly pleased that we were joined by Michael Higgins for a performance of his *Christmas Fantasy* for organ and brass quintet. The Choir and audience gave rousing renditions of well-known carols to complete the evening.

2025 was distinguished by a number of very successful smaller-scale performance activities, supplementary to the main termly concerts. In anticipation of later concerts Come and Sing events for the Mozart and Verdi requiems were held and proved to be very popular. For many of us the highlight of the year was a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* in Saint Sulpice in Paris. Despite limited rehearsal time, an unfamiliar venue and a sultry evening, the Choir gave a capable performance to a large and appreciative audience. Near the end of the year the Choir supported the annual Service of Remembrance organised by Barts NHS Trust in St Paul's Cathedral, which is always a rewarding experience.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Subscription income from between 250 and 300 members joining the Choir variously for three terms throughout the year was sufficient to cover rehearsal costs and, together with generous donations received during the year, also more than covered all ongoing annual running costs.

The financial performance of the three main concerts in 2025 showed a distinct improvement over 2024. Expenditure exceeded income by £6k (£37k in 2024), so the subsidy required from non-concert income and from reserves was only a very modest one. The financial performance of the smaller scale performance activities was, however, excellent and produced a surplus of £10k.

The year's non-concert income (principally members' subscriptions and associated Gift Aid) exceeded non-concert expenditure by nearly £35k. In last year's report we thought that the programme for 2025 with some of the most popular choral works in the repertoire would give us the opportunity to be in a more favourable position in 12 months' time. This has turned out to be the case with an overall surplus in 2025 of £41k.

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The key components of the results for 2025 are as follows:	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Subscriptions to the main Choir less rehearsal costs	24,043	15,965
Net results of concerts	(5,913)	(37,120)
Donations received	5,084	2,231
Surplus on sale of scores	634	(296)

Net result of other events	10,898	(2,501)
Gift Aid	17,732	12,990
Interest received	1,545	1,869
Administrative and sundry costs	(10,620)	(12,723)
Charitable donation	(2,000)	0
	41,403	(19,585)

The Choir's main sources of income are subscriptions from members and revenue from the sale of tickets for concerts the Choir promotes. Subscriptions are set taking into account the overall financial state of the Choir and not just left at a level to cover rehearsal costs. Until 2020, main Choir subscriptions increased annually in September, but no change was made in either 2020 or 2021. In December 2021, the Committee approved an increase effective 1 January 2022 and in subsequent years membership rates have been reviewed by Trustees, taking into account published CPI inflation rates. The current rate per term is £110 for full members (£100 if paid early). A concessionary rate is paid by members not in receipt of income from employment, new members may pay a much-reduced subscription for their first term to introduce them to the Choir and similarly young people under 25 and full-time students benefit from a reduced rate.

Many members choose to round up their subscription payment to an even total or, indeed, make a larger separate donation. In 2025, members donated a total of £5,084 (2024 £2,231), for which the Trustees are most grateful. The figure for 2025 includes regular monthly contributions made by Choir members under the Patrons' Scheme which was introduced in October. Continued recruitment of new members, particularly younger singers, is vital for the future of the Choir and various initiatives are undertaken to encourage this.

Subscription income is importantly supplemented by Gift Aid. The ability to collect Gift Aid payments online has greatly assisted cash flow and the increased level of Gift Aid received has also improved our position. Members claiming Gift Aid for their subscriptions are now able to claim for the full value of the subscription income. Total Gift Aid for 2025 was £17,732.

Reserves policy

A reserves policy was agreed at the June 2002 Committee meeting, in line with Charity Commission Guidance Notes. It was agreed that we should aim to hold in reserves an amount equivalent to a realistic proportion of the highest concert budget the Choir might consider undertaking, in order to provide working capital for concerts and to cover the risk that a concert was cancelled at a late stage and that insurance failed to cover the cancellation cost. The minimum reserve level is currently set at £50,000, but it will be reviewed annually in the light of increasing costs.

At the end of the year, the Choir had resources (unrestricted funds) of £119,045 (2024: £76,642).

The Choir aims to keep as much as possible of its assets liquid, held either on current account or short-term deposit, to enable it to operate efficiently and meet all liabilities as and when they fall due, since it may need to access funds with limited or no notice.

Charitable donations

In both 2024 and 2025 the Choir's supported charity was Barts Charity, the fundraising entity of Barts NHS Trust. The Choir's support for the charity takes a number of forms. Bake sales throughout 2025 raised £577. Choir members' participation in Hike for Health raised £2,290. In addition, Barts Charity collectors at the

concerts at Cadogan Hall collected donations of £733 from audiences. For the Royal Festival Hall event (where charity collectors are not allowed) a £1 supplement was added to the price of the programme for donation to the Charity; this raised £477. Having reviewed the financial outcome of all of the Choir's performance activities in 2025, the Choir donated a further £2,000 directly to the charity.

The total amount raised for Barts Charity in 2025 was £6,077.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Since 17 January 2022 the Choir, St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society, has been a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) entered onto the Charity Commission's Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1197538. Prior to incorporation, the Choir had been, since 1977, an unincorporated association, registered with the Charity Commission, Number 273180. The Choir is also known as "Barts Choir" and, when the Chamber Choir is performing, as "Barts Chamber Choir". It is governed by its Constitution, which dates from 2022 and which lays down that the Choir's policies and management shall be in the hands of a committee elected by and from the Choir's members. The committee has had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Members of the committee are also the Trustees of the charity.

Policies for recruiting, inducting and training new Committee members

When a vacancy arises or exists on the committee, the remaining committee members assess the skills which should be sought in a replacement with the aim of maintaining a balance of talents. New committee members are given an induction pack, which includes a copy of the constitution, the latest accounts, relevant policies and the latest committee minutes. New committee members are referred to information about their responsibilities on the Charity Commission website and sign the required declaration. A handover is arranged with the departing committee member wherever appropriate. Training is given to committee members as and when appropriate.

The Trustees who served during the year to 31 December 2025 and their current roles are:

Susan Shale	Chair
Linda Harland	Secretary
Graham Rowbotham	Treasurer
Penelope Andrews	
Philip Murphy	
Frances Reynolds	elected 8 September 2025
Richard Vaughan	
Susan Vickers	resigned 8 September 2025
Karen Wheeler	elected 8 September 2025
Jenifer Young	

Risk assessment

The main risk the Choir has always faced is the late cancellation of one of our concerts. As members of Making Music, we participate in an insurance scheme which provides some cover against this eventuality. The

Report of the Trustees

Committee regards this cover as adequate, but it is under continuous review.

The other significant operational risk is that the membership dwindles as this would impact the Choir's ability to sell tickets for concerts as well as on levels of subscription income and Gift Aid income. The Committee seeks to ensure that this does not happen by continued efforts to recruit new members and to make the rehearsals and concerts enjoyable events.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 20 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Susan Shale, Chair of Trustees

St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society
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Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society for the year ended 31 December 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 your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in any material respect that:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or

2 the accounts did not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.

Signed: A Clark ..... Date: 8 May 2026

Anson Clark FCA
11 Dean Bank Lane
Edinburgh
EH3 5BS

St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society
Year ended 31st December 2025
Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Income and endowments from					
Donations, grants and legacies	2	93,379	-	93,379	76,992
Investment income	3	1,545	-	1,545	1,869
Charitable activities					
Choral Music	4	184,226	-	184,226	105,814
Total income		**279,150**	**-**	**279,150**	**184,675**
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities					
Choral Music	5	237,747	-	237,747	204,260
Total expenditure		**237,747**	**-**	**237,747**	**204,260**
Net income / (expenditure)		**41,403**	**-**	**41,403**	**(19,585)**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		77,242	506	77,748	97,333
Transfer between funds		400	(400)	-	-
Total funds carried forward	12	**119,045**	**106**	**119,151**	**77,748**

St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society
Year ended 31st December 2025
Balance Sheet

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		800		1,600
Current assets					
Stocks	9	4,709		8,059	
Debtors	10	29,163		27,444	
Cash at bank		95,616		42,400	
		129,488		77,903	
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	11	(11,137)		(1,755)	
Net current assets			118,351		76,148
Net assets			**119,151**		**77,748**
Funds	12				
Unrestricted funds			119,045		77,242
Restricted funds			106		506
Total funds			**119,151**		**77,748**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue

on 20 July 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Susan Shale - Chair of Trustees

.....
Graham Rowbotham - Trustee & Treasurer

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. The principal address of the charity and nature of the charity's operations are given in the Report of the Trustees.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions
The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland': the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

Total income as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is the turnover of the charity. It represents the value of concert ticket sales, members' subscriptions, sales of music and donations receivable in the ordinary course of activities.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts to the charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.

Membership subscriptions become due three times per year, at the beginning of each term. The tax recovered on these subscriptions under the Gift Aid scheme is included in the accounts in the year to which it relates.

Income from the sale of concert tickets and programmes is included in the financial statements in the year in which the event took place. Investment income is included in the financial statements in the year in which it is earned.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Charitable expenditure includes the costs of concerts and other events which took place during the year. Governance costs include the cost of the independent examination of the accounts.

Concerts and other fund-raising events

Each event is separately identified and all relevant income and expenditure allocated thereto.

1 **Accounting policies (continued)**

Donations to charity
The society makes donations to its chosen charity for the year based on an assessment of the overall financial position at the year-end.

Tangible fixed assets
All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment - Straight line over 3 years

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Irrecoverable VAT
The charity is not registered for VAT and as such all VAT is irrecoverable. VAT is included with the costs to which it relates.

Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year
Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

2 Donations, grants and legacies	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Main choir subscriptions	70,563	-	70,563	60,154
Gift Aid	17,732	-	17,732	12,990
Patrons Scheme	3,050	-	3,050	-
Donations	2,034	-	2,034	2,231
Grants - Vaughan Williams Foundation	-	-	-	1,617
Total donations, grants and legacies	**93,379**	**-**	**93,379**	**76,992**

Donations and legacies comprise membership subscriptions and the tax recovered under the Gift Aid scheme, together with donations received during the year which were not made in relation to a particular event.

3 Investment income	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Bank interest	1,545	-	1,545	1,869
	1,545	**-**	**1,545**	**1,869**

4 Income from charitable activities	Activity	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Sales of music and other goods	Choral music	14,992	-	14,992	13,269
Main choir concerts	Choral music	140,143	-	140,143	85,845
Other functions	Choral music	29,091	-	29,091	6,700
		184,226	**-**	**184,226**	**105,814**

Music sales
The choir buys its music scores from appropriate sources and obtains a modest discount to the list price. It is then able to sell music to members at a discounted rate. It is also able to save the postage costs that members would incur with online purchases.

5 Charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost of main choir concerts	146,056	-	146,056	123,965
Rehearsal costs	46,520	-	46,520	44,191
Website and IT	2,522	-	2,522	2,572
Other events	18,192	-	18,192	8,231
Accountancy	780	-	780	683
Subscriptions, Insurance and other costs	6,450	-	6,450	4,305
Bank charges	69	-	69	60
Cost of music and other goods sold	14,358	-	14,358	13,565
Charitable donation	2,000	-	2,000	-
Depreciation	800	-	800	4,467
Marketing & advertising	-	-	-	2,221
	237,747	**-**	**237,747**	**204,260**

6 Trustees' remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31st December 2025, nor for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Trustees' expenses

None of the trustees received payment for any expenses for the year ended 31st December 2025, nor for the year ended 31st December 2024.

7 Net income / (expenditure)	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Fees paid to Independent Examiner	300	275
Depreciation - owned assets	800	4,467

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1st January 2025	13,969
Additions	-
At 31st December 2025	**13,969**
Depreciation	
At 1st January 2025	12,369
Charge for the year	800
At 31st December 2025	**13,169**
Net book value	
At 31st December 2025	**800**
At 31st December 2024	**1,600**

9 Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stocks	4,709	8,059

Stocks represent the cost of stocks of music in hand at the year end date.

10 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	23,337	22,839
Accrued income	5,826	4,605
	29,163	**27,444**

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	-
Accruals	10,787	1,755
Deferred income	350	-
	11,137	1,755

Deferred income comprises prepayments by members for purchase of Verdi scores at the end of December 2025.

12 Movement in funds - Current Year

	01-Jan 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31-Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	77,242	279,150	(237,747)	400	119,045
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Fund	506	-	-	(400)	106
Total funds	77,748	279,150	(237,747)	-	119,151

Restricted Fund

A balance of £506 of a grant of £1,500 awarded by the Walton Trust to enable the choir to offer bursaries to young people to join the choir, train and sing at a major concert was carried forward to 2025. Of this balance bursaries totalling £400 were offered to young singers during the year.

Movement in funds - Prior Year

	01-Jan 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	31-Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	95,833	183,058	(202,249)	600	77,242
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Fund	1,500	1,617	(2,011)	(600)	506
Total funds	**97,333**	**184,675**	**(204,260)**	**-**	**77,748**

13 Contingent liabilities

At the end of the year there were no capital commitments, contingent liabilities or other financial commitments for which full provision has not been made in these financial statements (2024: £nil).

14 Related party disclosures

During the year the charity received donations and subscriptions from trustees and related parties of trustees to the sum of £2,034 (2024: £2,231). These donations and subscriptions were received without conditions attached.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	800	-	**800**	**1,600**
Net current assets	118,245	106	**118,351**	**76,148**
	119,045	**106**	**119,151**	**77,748**