Church Music Society

Registered Charity No 1200306

2026 Report of the Trustees

Registered Charity No

1200306

Address

Church Music Society
c/o The Oratory House
Brompton Road
London
SW7 2RP

President

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

Vice-Presidents

Judith Bingham OBE	Carl Jackson MVO	Dr Michael Nicholas
Geraint Bowen	Richard Lyne	Professor James O'Donnell LVO KCSG
Dr Harry Bramma	Dr Cecilia McDowall	Dr Alan Thurlow
Ian Curror	Dr Philip Moore	

Patrons

The Right Reverend Guli Francis-Dehqani *Bishop of Chelmsford*
The Lord Glenarthur
Sir James MacMillan CBE

Honorary Life Members

Shirley Dex	Anne Langley	John Roch
Anne Fleming	Jeanne Roberts	

Executive Committee and Trustees

Chairman
Professor Patrick Russill KSG

David Condry	Trevor Ford	Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns
Julian Elloway	Michael Harris MBE	The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson
Séan Farrell	Dr Peter Horton (Resigned 4 October 2025)	

Officers

Administrator	*General Editor*
Kim Gilbert	Dr Geoffrey Webber

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 3 October 2026 at 4.00 pm
in St Wilfrid's Hall, The London Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7 2RP

Welcome

Apologies for absence and messages of goodwill

1. In Memoriam

2. Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting held 4 October 2025

3. Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 March 2026

4. Publications Report

5. Elections
   Under the Society's Constitution, the following Trustees stand down at this AGM, but are eligible to stand for a further term and have indicated their willingness to do so: David Condry, Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns.

   The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson is resigning from the Trustee Board.

   The appointments of Chairman and non-executive honorary positions are made by the Trustees but are offered to the membership for approbation.

6. Subscriptions for the coming year:

   Corporate and **Individual Membership** remain at £30 per annum**;**
   Free **Associate Membership** without voting rights is available to those under 30, or 75 and over.

7. Any Other Business

   The meeting will be followed by a presentation on the church music of Charles Wood by Dr Geoffrey Webber.

Minutes of the 119th Annual General Meeting of the Church Music Society

held on Saturday 4 October 2025 at 4.00 pm
in St Wilfrid's Hall, The London Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7 2RP

Present

Ian Curror, Vice-President
Richard Lyne, Vice-President
Dr Alan Thurlow, Vice-President

Anne Langley, Hon Life Member

Professor Patrick Russill KSG, Chairman
David Condry, Trustee
Julian Elloway, Trustee
Séan Farrell, Trustee
Trevor Ford, Trustee
Michael Harris MBE, Trustee
Dr Peter Horton, Trustee
Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns, Trustee

Ann Burgess, Member
Victoria Highet, Member
Dr Gladys Hosken, Member
Anne Rickwood, Member
John Rippin, Member

Richard Pinnock, Guest
Sue Scattergood, Guest
Tina Thurlow, Guest
Ruth Woolfson (née Lindley) and Michael Woolfson, Guests

Dr Geoffrey Webber, General Editor
Kim Gilbert, Administrator

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

Apologies for absence and messages of goodwill

Apologies and goodwill messages had been received from:

Patrons: The Lord Glenarthur

The Right Reverend Guli Francis Dehquani, Bishop of Chelmsford

Vice-Presidents: Geraint Bowen, Carl Jackson MVO, Dr Philip Moore

Honorary Life Member: John Roch

Trustees: The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson

Members: Eric Beven, Norman Harper, Robert Jones, Henry Macey, Andrew McCrea, Hugh Morris (Director, Royal School of Church Music), David Patrick, Professor Lionel Pike.

1. In Memoriam

The Administrator advised that the deaths of Vice-Presidents Dr Simon Lindley and Dr Martin Neary and Member Garry Humphreys had been reported since the last AGM. A silence was kept in their memory.

2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Held in London on 19 October 2024.

On the proposal of Victoria Highet, seconded by Dr Alan Thurlow, the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 March 2025

The Chairman advised the meeting that Dr Peter Horton was standing down as a Trustee. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Membership to Dr Horton for his 20 years, 2005-2025, as a Trustee, as Treasurer, 2010-2016, and for his distinguished contribution to the Society's publications as an editor.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Administrator gave a brief review of the Accounts.

On the proposal of Richard Lyne, seconded by John Rippin, the Trustees' Report was received.

4. Publications Report

The General Editor gave a brief summary of all the new CMS publications and online material listed in the Annual Report. He also informed the meeting of the intention to make all the past lectures and papers available online and gave an update on publishing plans now in progress.

5. Elections

Trevor Ford took over as Chairman for the first part of this item.

Under the Society's Constitution, one-third of the Trustees stand down each year. This year those Trustees are Séan Farrell, Michael Harris and Professor Patrick Russill. All are eligible to stand for a further three years and have indicated their willingness to do so. On the proposal of Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns, seconded by Ian Curror, all were unanimously re-elected.

Professor Patrick Russill resumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

The appointments of Chairman and non-executive honorary positions are made by the Trustees but were offered to the membership for approbation which was duly indicated.

6. Subscriptions for the coming year

Corporate and **Individual Membership** will increase to £30 per annum from 1 January 2026, as notified at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Free **Associate Membership** without voting rights is available to those under 30, or 75 and over.

7. Other Business

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Trustees had approved the change of the Society's publisher from Oxford University Press to the Royal School of Church Music. Final details were still to be worked through, but the Chairman thanked those who had made a valuable contribution to the transition thus far. Particular thanks were due to Julian Elloway in this regard. The transition was expected to be completed in the early months of 2026.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Trustees and Officers of the Society for their work during the year.

The Meeting closed at 4.34 pm.

Talk: 'Simon Lindley – Remembered and Celebrated' given by Ian Curror, Vice-President and former Chairman of the CMS.

The Chairman welcomed Simon Lindley's sister, Ruth, a former colleague in the Oratory choir loft, before inviting Ian Curror to give his talk.

In paying tribute to Dr Simon Lindley (1948–2025), the Society's long-serving and beloved Secretary from 1991 to 2023, who died in February this year, Ian Curror drew on their long friendship, which started as fellow students at the Royal College of Music in the 1960s, and continued with their collaborations when Ian was Director of Music at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Simon was Director of Music at Leeds Parish Church, and their work together for the Church Music Society. Simon's generosity, energy and lovable idiosyncrasies were vividly and affectionately recalled, while his musical brilliance was illustrated by audio examples of both his organ-playing and his compositions.

Ian's talk was received with prolonged appreciative applause, and the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks which was unanimously endorsed.

The text of the talk will be made available permanently on the Society's website on the 'Lectures and Papers' page.

Tea, masterminded by Victoria Highet, supported by Sue Scattergood, to whom the Chairman offered grateful thanks, followed.

At 6.00 pm, Mass was sung in the Oratory Church by the Schola Cantorum of the London Oratory School, under their director, Charles Cole, with the organ played by the Oratory's Pettman Organ Scholar, Evan Lawrence. The music included movements from Victoria's *Missa Ave maris stella* and Parson's *Ave Maria.* The concluding voluntary was the first movement of Mendelssohn's Sonata No. 3.

2026 Report of the Trustees

Introduction

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their 2026 report.

The Society was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 8 September 2022. The accounts presented at the 2026 AGM are the third set of annual accounts of the new reconstituted charity.

Following a thorough review of the Society's publishing arrangements and relationships undertaken in 2024-5, this year the Society has moved its publishing agreements from Oxford University Press to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) with effect from 2 March 2026. The discount arrangement for members, previously available through Banks Music Publications, is now available online through the RSCM Shop.

The Society's logo was redesigned to coincide with the new publishing partnership with the RSCM.

Structure and Governance

The Society is administered by its Executive Committee, whose members are elected annually by the Annual General Meeting and serve as its Trustees. One third retire by rotation each year and are eligible for re-election in accordance with the Constitution.

There were no changes to the personnel of the Officers during the year. However, The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson has indicated her intention to stand down as a trustee from the 2026 AGM.

The Executive Committee has met three times online and once in person. The Officers attend the meetings of the Trustees.

The Publications Sub-Committee has met online and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding publications both in hard-copy and online. The Sub-Committee continues to comprise: Helen Smee of Southwark Cathedral; trustee Dr Christopher Ouvry-Johns of Leicester Cathedral; Dr Henry Parkes of the University of Nottingham; the General Editor and the Chairman.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in St Wilfrid's Hall, The London Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7 2RP on Saturday 3 October 2026 at 4.00 pm.

Publications - April 2025 – March 2026

The Society's printed publications programme was suspended during the lengthy transition of changing publishing partners from Oxford University Press to the Royal School of Church Music. However, the following were prepared as the first tranche of titles due to appear early in the next financial year:

Thomas Lupo, *Salva nos, Domine* (ed. Sally Dunkley)
Philip Moore, *The Soul's Desire*
Charles Wood, *O Lord, rebuke me not* (ed. Geoffrey Webber)
Charles Wood, *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in A flat* (reconstr. & ed. Geoffrey Webber)

Additions to the downloadable material on the website were held over in order to be effected along with the other necessary changes elsewhere on the website consequent to our change of publishing arrangements. However, material in preparation included the following papers:

Ian Curror, 'Simon Lindley - Remembered and Celebrated' (Talk given at the AGM of the Church Music Society on 4 October 2025)

Patrick Russill, 'Renaissance 'classics' for SATB: rediscovered or invented in the 19th-century polyphonic revival?' (together with editions of all the motets covered in the article)

Geoffrey Webber, "David's Mystery and Mary's History": The Alternative Canticles at Evensong (iii) 1750-1837 (together with a substantial musical Appendix)

Music Issue Distributions

The mailing of music to members, in accordance with their membership rights and their expressed preference, ceased to be handled by Banks Music Publications during this year and will be handled by the RSCM in future. Mailings are planned to be biannual, in late Spring and in Autumn.

Membership Communications

During this year the Society has begun to move to electronic communication with members wherever possible and with careful compliance with statutory GDPR requirements. In January 2026 the first email Newsletter was distributed. The Newsletter is planned to appear regularly in January and June/July.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

The Society's Policy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion may be found on the website.

General Data Protection Regulation

Following a full review of the Society's GDPR arrangements in the 2023-2024 year, and continuing exercise of care in the current year, the Trustees believe that these arrangements are fully compliant and secure.

Risk Policy

The Society's Risk Policy is reviewed every year.

The Society does not have a great exposure to direct risk. The main commercial risk is from inadvertent use of images or the reproduction of music for which permission is needed from the copyright holders. The Trustees are careful in review of these matters.

Reserves and Investment Policy

The Trustees have concentrated most of the Society's investments in the Charities Official Investment Fund for Income and the M&G Charifund for Capital Growth. This is considered to be the most appropriate policy to maintain income and protect capital.

The charity does not aim to have an excess of receipts over payments on an annual basis. General cash reserves are kept low, but at a sufficient level to meet six months' worth of normal expenditure.

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees on the Accounts of the Church Music Society- Charity number 1200306 for the year ended 31 March 2026

I report to the trustees on my examination on the accounts of the charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

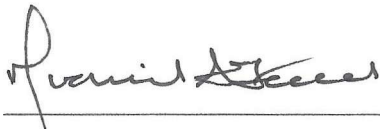
Responsibilities and Basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act, or
- the accounts did 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



18/6/2026

Name: Michael Howell
Address: 2 Malthouse Close, Broad Blunsdon, SN26 7BG

Date:

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Income and endowments from:		
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	**1,395.00**	7,441.00
Charitable activities	**9,440.26**	6,920.72
Investments	**7,700.29**	7,281.00
Other	**31.19**	102.00
Total	**18,566.74**	21,744.72
Resources expended		
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds	**1,557.00**	128.00
Charitable activities	**1,385.00**	7,915.75
Consultancy and professional fees	**4,265.00**	4,240.00
Other	**214.19**	2,269.69
Total	**7,421.19**	14,553.44
NET INCOME BEFORE GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	**11,145.55**	7,191.28

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds 2026	Total funds 2025
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Income and endowments from:				
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	1,395.00	-	**1,395.00**	7,441.00
Charitable activities	9,440.26	-	**9,440.26**	6,920.72
Investments	7,700.29		**7,700.29**	7,281.00
Other	31.19		**31.19**	102.00
Total	**18,566.74**	-	**18,566.74**	21,744.72
Resources expended				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	1,557.00	-	**1,557.00**	128.00
Charitable activities	1,385.00	-	**1,385.00**	7,915.75
Consultancy and Professional Fees	4,265.00	-	**4,265.00**	4,240.00
Other	214.19	-	**214.19**	2,269.69
Total	**7,421.19**	-	**7,421.19**	14,553.44
NET INCOME BEFORE GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	**11,145.55**	**-**	**11,145.55**	7,191.28
Net gains on investments	4,829.27	16,710.34	**21,539.61**	5,062.63
Net income	15,974.82	16,710.34	**32,685.16**	12,253.91
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**15,974.82**	**16,710.34**	**32,685.16**	12,253.91
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	39,070.51	100,570.98	**139,641.49**	127,387.58
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**55,045.33**	**117,281.32**	**172,326.65**	139,641.49

Balance Sheet

	General Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Fixed assets					
Investments		31,387.78	117,281.32	148,669.10	127,129.49
Total fixed assets		**31,387.78**	**117,281.32**	**148,669.10**	127,129.49
Current assets					
Cash at bank	4	23,657.55	-	23,657.55	12,512.00
Total current assets		**23,657.55**	**-**	**23,657.55**	12,512.00
Net current assets		**23,657.55**	**-**	23,657.55	12,512.00
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**55,045.33**	**117,281.32**	**172,326.65**	139,641.49
Funds of the Charity	1				
Endowment funds		-	117,281.32	117,281.32	100,570.98
Unrestricted funds	2	55,045.33	-	55,045.33	39,070.51
TOTAL FUNDS		**55,045.33**	**117,281.32**	**172,326.65**	139,641.49

Other Assets

The Society has stocks of music and copyrights which are not included, as valuation has been considered impractical.

Valuation

The investments are stated at the market value as 31 March 2026. Historical costs are shown in note 1.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Permanent Endowment Fund

The Permanent Endowment Fund was set up to maintain the capital of the Charity equating to funds in the Charity on its reconstitution in 1984. The income is available for the general purposes of the charity while the capital is maintained.

		Acquisition date	Cost	Value 31.03.25	Change in value	Value 31.03.26
COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund			£	£	£	£
Income Units	7,424	31.08.93				
			10,000.00	**9,366.70**	**126.21**	**9,492.91**
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund)						
Income Units	2,874	09.08.93	20,000.00			
	1,342	05.03.02	15,000.00			
	888	14.08.01	10,000.00			
	903	07.10.01	10,000.00			
	6,007		**55,000.00**	**91,204.28**	**16,584.13**	**107,788.41**
				100,570.98	**16,710.34**	**117,281.32**

2. General Fund (Unrestricted)

Cash at Bank				12,512.09	11,145.46	**23,657.55**
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund)						
Charifund units	1,383	31.03.02	10,707.00			
	366	03.06.04	4,000.00			
	1,749		**14,707.00**	26,558.51	4,829.27	**31,387.78**
Total General Fund				39,070.60	15,974.73	**55,045.33**

3. Related party transactions

a. The trustees are not remunerated

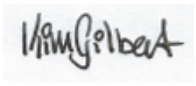
b. Fees have been paid to Officers in accordance with paragraph 4 (4) of the Constitution.

G Webber	General Editor	£1,385.00
K Gilbert	Administrator	£2,880.00

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

4. Cash at Bank

Cash at Bank 31.03.26 is higher than usual and includes an estimated £7,500 due to Oxford University Press in respect of exit charges levied as the Society changed publishers. The Trustees consider that cash accounting for income and expenditure remains the appropriate accounting convention for the Society.



Kim Gilbert
Administrator



Patrick Russill
Chairman

Date: 15th July 2026

Church Music Society

Charitable Objects

The Church Music Society is a national charity, founded in 1906; the current Constitution was adopted in 2022.

The Church Music Society exists to advance the education of the public in the art and science of church music, primarily by publishing music of the highest quality, both in context and presentation, for the diverse needs of the Christian Church and by disseminating information and co-operating with like-minded organisations.

Public Benefit

The Trustees consider that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is met by the production of high-quality music, available to all interested parties of any denomination or those with a general musical interest, and not otherwise generally obtainable through commercial publishers, and by its provision of a platform for research and educational material. The Church Music Society relies on investments and the income from music sales to cover its operating costs.

Membership

Membership is open to all interested in the objects of the Society on payment of an annual subscription.