

Trinity Singers AGM
Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 8.45pm

Attendees

Margaret Avery	Clare Turner
Kat and Massimo Morelli	Nick and Sal Varley
Heidi Hollis	Joanna Williams
Anne Kershaw	Rebecca Wimshurst
Margaret Leimdorfer	Georgina Yule
Valerie Pain	Jo Alvis
Sarah Pearson	Roger Ellery
Susannah Read	Di Low
Anya Sitaram	Simon Medd
Jane Stidard	Phil Willis
Judy Taylor	Denis Burn
Lizzie Slocombe	Steve Hutchinson
Elizabeth Spiller	Martin West

1. Apologies

Sarah Gunn; Suzie Leech ; Ann Seabright; Bob Shapland; Jo Tristram; Sue Watson

The Chair, Bob Shapland, tendered his apologies owing to a family illness and, in his place, Nick Varley chaired the meeting.

The Secretary, Suzie Leech, tendered her apologies as she was overseas on business and, in her place, Denis Burn took the minutes

2. Approval of 2025 AGM minutes

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Claire Turner and seconded by Elizabeth Spiller. The motion was approved.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair's report had been previously circulated but was also read out to the meeting:

Although this report is on the year to 31st December 2025, I am going to extend that through to the present because Trinity Singers, over the last 16 months, has seen significant changes. 2025 saw us begin rehearsals for our March concert at St. Mary's Yatton entitled Kirchenmusik which included lovely music by Schubert and Rheinberger, and we moved on to St. Andrew's Congresbury for our Faure based afternoon concert in June. Both concerts were well supported and enjoyed by singers and audiences alike.

At the end of June we had our first visit to Hawthorns in Clevedon where we were greeted enthusiastically by a new audience, and followed it with a lovely 'end of term supper' at the Salthouse.

Our last full concert was 'Give us this Day', at All Saints, Wrigton which contained a broad range of music by Rutter, Ethel Smyth, Vaughan Williams and our own Nick Varley, including pieces for upper voices and lower voices only.

The year ended with our Supper Concert, Burrington Carol Service and 'Street Carolling', both of which are very much appreciated.

By the end of the year we knew that Andrew Tyrrell was to step down after 10 years as our MD, and that the concert in March 2026 (long in the planning, without knowing the significance) would be his last.

Your committee set to planning recruitment, starting with a survey of members views on the future shape of TS. Thank you to those who contributed to this very useful review, the results of which are on the website.

On the back of that we put together a recruitment pack outlining what we were looking for in a new MD, and advertised the post with a closing date of 31st January. Meanwhile we planned the selection process involving filtering of applicants, auditions, interviews, score sheets etc.

You may recall that a week or so before the closing date we had no applicants, and I admit that I was very concerned. However, in the last 5 days we received three good applications which enabled us to put our plans into action!

So rehearsals under Andrew continued during the early part of 2026 culminating in a wonderful (in every way) concert 'My Soul there is a Country' at All Saints, Weston, on 14th March. This was a very emotional occasion for all concerned and Andrew really put his heart into producing a fitting tribute to his time with the choir. It was wonderful to be joined by the Lochrian Ensemble, Claire Alsop, and other musicians to give Andrew the send-off he deserved.

Of course we immediately followed this with a Farewell Supper at which we presented Andrew with some tokens of our thanks for all he did for the choir.

We then moved immediately to auditions and interviews and were absolutely delighted at the high quality of all three of our candidates. May I also thank all of you for the serious way in which you approached the scoring and comments on our candidates I said at the time that re-entering the room was like stepping into an Exam Hall, and the serious consideration you all gave to your task helped the committee enormously in making our final decision.

And so, we were delighted to be able to appoint Simon Lovell-Jones as our new MD, and are already working closely with him to plan our programme over the next couple of years. Meanwhile we are so pleased to be working towards our Summer concerts with Guest Conductor, Alison Blundell, who has been such a great part of our team for many years. Of course, the concerts are the visible outcome of a huge amount of work undertaken, not only by your committee, but by members of the choir.

At the risk of leaving someone out, I would like to thank Valerie for setting up and clearing the urn for refreshments, Sarah Gunn (and Rebecca Wimshurst) for managing the supplies, Anne Kershaw for alternating between the piano and the soprano line and also designing our posters, Sara P for lugging the Kawai piano to and from rehearsal (as well as storing it and lots of music), Georgina for her work in acquiring and managing music, Martin and Phil for collecting and returning staging (borrowed from Congresbury Singers), and to everyone who has picked up specific tasks for individual concerts.

It goes without saying, but I will, that all members of your committee have worked hard to make all this happen, as well as enjoying the singing. The team has put in very many hours of work preparing, and fine tuning, documents, and discussing the issues we face.

As you know, we are trying to move towards a structure where members of the committee have a specific area of responsibility, but are supported in that by a regular team of choir members.

As this develops please do offer your services in whichever area you feel you can contribute most – physical work, publicity distribution, administration, refreshments, or whatever comes up.

So, my sincere thanks to all members of the committee for their support, and to you all for being part of our wonderful choir, and I look forward to an exciting future of music making under our new MD.

4. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts to 31.12.2025

Sarah had previously circulated the accounts. At the meeting she outlined the key information, including:

- a. The accounts are currently draft and will shortly be independently examined. Members will be notified when this has happened;
- b. The choir made a surplus of £1168 during the year and ended with a balance of £9887
- c. Gift Aid has made a significant positive impact on the accounts and Susannah was thanked for her work in administering this;
- d. Some items appear twice on the accounts (e.g. insurance) as the accounts have been moved to a cash basis (avoiding any accruals) as preferred by the Charity Commission;
- e. Ticket sales for the Wrigton concert were gifted to the church to contribute to their fund-raising for a WC. Together with cash takings for the bar this amounted to around £1200. The church were most grateful and the work has been completed.

Adoption of the draft accounts was proposed by Georgina and seconded by Simon and the accounts were adopted by the meeting.

5. Approval of 2-year rolling budget

The budget had been shared with members ahead of the meeting. Sarah outlined the key points, including:

- a. It contains assumptions that are similar to last year's budget
- b. There is a timing impact because of the move to a cash basis for the accounts

- c. An allowance for a larger autumn concert reduces the balance from £9887 to £8077

Susannah proposed that the budget be adopted and this was seconded by Roger.
The meeting approved the budget and thanked Sarah for her on this and on the accounts.

6. Election of Trustees and Officers

The constitution stipulates that one third of trustees should retire each year and may stand for re-election. The Committee members are also trustees of the charity.

Susannah is standing down as a trustee and committee member and she was warmly thanked for her contribution in these roles.

Lizzie has offered her name for election as a trustee and committee member. Her name was proposed by Sal and seconded by Joanna and approved by the meeting.

Bob, Sarah and Sal retire and have offered their names for re-election. They were all re-elected by the meeting:

- a. Bob was proposed by Georgina and seconded by Heidi
- b. Sarah was proposed by Georgina and seconded by Anya
- c. Sal was proposed by Georgina and seconded by Jane

7. Trustees Report

Issues raised by the trustees were:

- a. Health and Safety: Policies have been updated and can be found on the website. All members were encouraged to read these. H&S issues are important such as risk assessments, fire precautions and nominated first aiders. There was some discussion about first aiders: a request for volunteers will be issued in due course and it may be possible for training costs to be reimbursed. Members were asked to put inside the front cover of their folders their emergency contact number and any critical health information.
- b. Safeguarding: Policies have been updated. It was noted that DBS clearances will not be needed as the choir does not interact with children or vulnerable adults.
- c. Data Protection: Policies have been updated. Members will be asked whether or not they agree to their contact details being shared with others. Currently they are not included on the website;
- d. The Committee asked for anyone skilled in these policy areas to offer their assistance.

8. Any Other Business

- a. There was discussion around the appointment of the new Musical Director and thanks were offered to the committee who undertook the hard work associated with recruitment and delivered an excellent result. The MD has already been frequently in touch with the committee and is enthusiastic about taking up his position in September;
- b. There was a question about what we will sing in the Autumn but this is currently unknown, waiting on the new MD. He was very clear that he wanted first to listen to the ideas of choir members. Everyone was encouraged to respond to the request about this before the end of June;

- c. Bob Shapland had prepared some points that he wanted to raise under AOB and these were outlined to the meeting:
 - i. Requests that everyone does what they can to attract new singers (especially tenors!)
 - ii. Points raised to Bob by a choir member concerning etiquette: to avoid chat that disrupts concentration and wastes time; to desist from not-so-quietly singing one's own part when another section is being rehearsed; to only ask questions if they are essential and can't perhaps wait until the break;
 - iii. A strong reminder to have all the correct music and a pencil
 - iv. And a reminder to prioritise rehearsal nights as it makes a big difference to have strong attendance (and always let Susannah Read know in advance if you have to miss a rehearsal)
- d. Nick outlined the plan to improve the choir's website, making it more secure and functional. Work on this will take place over the summer.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.