

## Epworth Choir – annual report 2022 - 2023

It's been a wonderful year of music for Epworth, being able to undertake full in person rehearsals with no Covid restrictions and really get back to enjoying singing.

At the start of the 2022/23 season (September 2022) we welcomed Makato (Max) James to Epworth as our new accompanist. We look forward to working with him over the coming years to see how Epworth can grow and develop.

In April 2023 we received the resignation of Michael Waldron our Music Director. Under his leadership the Choir has developed and grown. Michael took Epworth through nearly all genres, ages and styles of music from early Baroque, through to Opera, more modern music from Broadway and even commissioned a new work for Epworth. In July, our Summer Concert was a celebration of the end of the 2022/23 season, along with an opportunity for us to say goodbye to Michael.

Following Michael's resignation, the Committee started the recruitment process for a new Musical Director and following a day of interviews on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and an audition with the Choir on 12<sup>th</sup> July, the Choir was delighted to appoint Charlie Perry as the new Music Director of Epworth which was ratified at an EGM on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

This year we have been able to support three local charities - Home Start Runnymede & Woking in November 2022, Jigsaw Woking at our Christmas Concert in December 2022 and Citizens Advice Woking at our concert in March 2023.

### **CONCERTS**

In September 2022 we started rehearsing HMS Pinafore (Gilbert & Sullivan) in preparation for our concert later in the year.

Following the very sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September a small selection of choir members joined with other local choirs to sing during the National Moment of Reflection.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November on an unseasonably warm day we welcomed audience members on board the HMS Pinafore for a journey of love, mischief and bad behaviour on the open seas. We had 7 fantastic soloists who really helped bring our performance to life.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary's Church, Horsell we celebrated the Christmas season with two beautiful performances, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, of choral classics and carols for choir and audience, along with music from our special guests, the Jazz Group from Woking High School. It was wonderful to welcome back our previous Epworth accompanist Laurence Williams to play the organ.

After a short Christmas break January 2023 saw us start rehearsing for The Crucifixion by Stainer.

In preparation for a joint concert due to take place in September 2023, on 28<sup>th</sup> January we welcomed over 100 people to Trinity Methodist Church to take part in a Come & Sing Workshop of Verdi's Requiem, full of many memorable choral sections, including the dramatic 'Dies Irae' and the joyful 'Sanctus'. After the afternoon break, where we shared numerous cakes made by choir members, we performed an informal concert for friends and family.

25<sup>th</sup> March saw us perform an evening of Stainer music, starting with some anthems written by Stainer and some wonderful organ playing by Max. After the interval we went on to perform The Crucifixion, telling the story of Christ's crucifixion through a sequence of choruses and hymns for choir with arias for bass and tenor soloists (who both went on to sing at the King's Coronation in May). It was a very moving performance and we received some lovely audience feedback.

Our thoughts then turned to our final concert of the year, which would also be our farewell to Michael. On the 28<sup>th</sup> June, to an audience full of friends, family and previous Epworth members, we performed our 'Twilight' summer concert, music selected by Michael to reflect on the end of the day and the end of his time with the Choir. At the end of the concert the Choir surprised Michael by performing 'Thanks Michael for the Music', a specially written song based on the famous Abba song.

During the summer break Michael came back to Epworth and ran two Summer Singer sessions, one on 19<sup>th</sup> July where we welcomed members from Godalming, Horsley and Oxshott Choral Societies for a session dedicated to Verdi's Requiem, and a second session on 16<sup>th</sup> August with a selection of light music for a summer night.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Total number of members on Membership list: 88 (of these, 15 members are not currently singing due to family, illness or other reasons, but have not formally resigned, or are Hon Life members).

Total Number of Active Members: 73 (this figure includes the 6 new members listed below)

Total leavers this year: 10

### **Detail of Active members:**

Soprano: 36	Alto: 24
Tenor: 6	Bass: 7

### **Independent examination**

This year's independent examination of the accounts has been performed by Alison Conway, a member of the choir known to many of you as our previous treasurer.

## Appendix 1: Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 28 August 2023

Income & Expenditure	2023 Unrestricted £	2022 Unrestricted £
<b>Resources arising</b>		
Subscriptions and donations	12,967	11,852
Income from concerts	4,814	2,510
Sundry income (2)	8,445	1,077
Gross resources for the year	26,226	15,439
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>		
Concert costs	(10,697)	(7,074)
Conductor and accompanist	(9,835)	(8,070)
Sundry expenses (3)	(4,545)	(3,510)
Resources used in the year	(25,078)	(18,654)
Net movement in funds	1,148	(3,215)
Unrestricted funds at start of year	95,030	98,245
	96,178	95,030
 <b>Balance sheet</b>		
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank account balances	36,036	34,940
Charities deposit funds	94,143	94,090
	130,178	129,030
 <b>Funds</b>		
General fund (unrestricted)	96,178	95,030
Endowment (restricted) (4)	34,000	34,000
	130,178	129,030

## Epworth Choir

### Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 28 August 2023

#### 1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2015). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention on a cash basis.

#### 2. Sundry Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid	5,661	0
Charity Fund and Bank Interest	368	368
Come & Sing	2,173	551
Other (e.g. advertising)	243	158
	<u>8,445</u>	<u>1,077</u>

#### 3. Sundry Expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Hall Hire	1,636	1,413
Come & Sing	1,413	-
Music	481	320
Subscriptions and Insurance	390	322
General Advertising	57	356
Other	569	1,099
	<u>4,545</u>	<u>3,510</u>

#### 4. Endowment

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dorothy Curtis Endowment Fund (restricted)	34,000	34,000

The Dorothy Curtis Endowment Fund must be used for special events and other one-off items "for the good of the Choir"; it may not be used to cover the Choir's routine running costs.