



# The Friends of St Alphege Music

## Annual Report

### 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Prepared for our AGM – 24 November 2024



The Friends of St Alphege Music is a charity registered in England and Wales, number 511237.

## Report from the Chairman – Nick Cahm

The time has come around again for our AGM and therefore time for me to reflect on the achievements that have been accomplished by FoSAM as well as looking forward to exciting activities over the next twelve months.

We have had the usual round of musical and non-musical activities. From a perspective of use of FoSAM funds, we had a hugely accomplished tour to Rochester in the summer. We were blessed with warm weather and everyone who attended achieved great things as well as having a very enjoyable time. The hotel that was found by the organising team was especially good, providing a great base for activities as well as plentiful and tasty food – essential for a good tour!

In terms of fund-raising, we have had our usual major events – the Gin and Jazz Festival as well as the Beer Festival. Gin & Jazz was once again blessed with good weather and decent attendance. Whilst running the Gin & Jazz doesn't have the same physical demands as the Beer Festival, it is ultimately a rewarding event and raises a substantial amount of funds for FoSAM. This year's festival didn't raise quite as much as previous years, so we will be learning lessons about what worked well and what could be improved. Persuading people to help out in this and other events will ultimately increase the chances of us raising more. The musical offering at Gin and Jazz was once again excellent, with many great performances well received by the attendees.

Nearly a month ago, we had our Beer Festival. I think this was our best yet. The contribution from James Mawson in ensuring that we had the correct range of drinks and managing to rope in/cajole/bribe his knowledgeable friends to help out ensured that we had a great festival. We had an excellent group of volunteers helping behind the bar, setting up and putting away, in the kitchens and on the door. We had better numbers than previously, but still could do with more choir parents being involved.

Recitals have continued and numbers have been anywhere between 40 and 80+. There has been some great music, well-received by the audiences. Not least, thanks to those that turn out every week to help out with refreshments, bake cakes, welcoming on the door and compering for the performers. These are such important community events that raise good funds for FoSAM and maintain the musical tradition of our church.

This year we have had some sad losses from FoSAM supporters – I should make special mention of John Goodman, an extremely generous and committed supporter of the choirs, sponsoring musical events at the Gatehouse in the past, and being a FoSAM member for decades. Additionally, Laurence Lane passed away recently. Laurence was a choir parent, a member of the Men's Choir, and served on the FoSAM committee for a couple of years. His funeral is in early December. They will be missed by the FoSAM family to which they gave so much.

Looking ahead, the remainder of 2024 and into 2025 looks interesting. Coming up soon, we have the usual round of Christmas events showcasing the talent that we have amongst our St Alphege musicians. Then in July 2025, we have our first big foreign tour since 2016 to Malta. Facilitated by Pam and her family, it promises to be a truly memorable event. Currently there are around 30 singers registered to attend with a 6am start to look forward to on a Tuesday morning in July. FoSAM will help to ensure that the trip is accessible to all musicians within our choirs. I know that the trip will be hugely beneficial to all who attend.

In terms of people involved with FoSAM, our committee has remained stable, Isabel and Pam as always juggling multiple commitments whilst giving their all both to FoSAM and to the life of St

Alphege. Their passion and energy is truly to be appreciated and we should all be grateful for their enormous contribution.

Chris continues to be an inspirational choir leader – managing the musical activities seen and unseen. The diversity of music that he selects alongside ensuring that the works are within the capability of the ever-changing top line is exceptional. Having Liam as his right hand man this year has increased the quality of our music considerably and they both deserve our thanks.

Carol continues to be an effective secretary, keeping us in line and helping out many times at our weekly recitals.

I've already mentioned James' enormous contribution to our Beer Festival but he also contributes significantly to the bass line of the choir. Thanks James.

I should also mention our rector, Nick. It is so great to have someone supporting the work of our choirs and FoSAM to such a great extent. Having him around improves our mood, and enables us to achieve great results. He is another person juggling many responsibilities, but he manages admirably with good cheer and a great positive attitude.

Finally, I need to mention Lynne. Some of you may be aware that she has chosen to step down from FoSAM at this AGM. She will be a great loss to our team. She helps in so many ways, sometimes unseen, like the biennial untangling of the bunting for our festivals, being on the door or just making sure everyone is happy and being looked after. She is also increasing in confidence as a singer, so contributes to the life of our church and musicians in so many ways. I hope that in future, when the time is right, she will rejoin our committee, and fingers crossed she will still be available for bunting untangling when required!

As always, if anyone feels able to volunteer to be on our committee you would be most welcome.

This concludes my 2024 report. I would like to thank each and every one of you attending tonight as well as those that support FoSAM but are unable to attend for your continued support. Our work is life-changing for many of our youngsters and every contribution whether financial, through attending our events or helping out with our activities is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Nick Cahm 24/11/24



Some of last year's recitalists – all 'home-grown' talent – i.e. members and former members of our choirs.



## Choir Activities through the year





## Report from the Treasurer – Pam Price

<b>THE FRIENDS OF ST ALPHEGE MUSIC</b>					
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2023/24</b>		<b>2022/23</b>		
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Subscriptions	1,291.00		1,381.00		
Donations	2,415.40		595.00		
Income from Functions	10,406.82		12,304.15		
Income from Recitals	9,438.27		8,297.03		
Sundries	359.68		181.16		
Income from 100 Club	314.00		346.00		
Major Trips	255.00		460.00		
Bank Deposit Interest	210.97		73.63		
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>24,691.14</b>		<b>23,637.97</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Functions	9,418.99		7,672.18		
Recitals	4,178.14		3,884.37		
Sundries	1,277.23		1,527.00		
Marketing & Promotions	0.00		0.00		
Choir Maintenance	1,381.54		1,541.81		
Choir / Organ Scholars	2,004.00		895.00		
Bursaries	0.00		918.00		
Photocopying	79.20		86.40		
Stationery & Postage	72.05		0.00		
100 Club prizes	126.00		134.00		
Major trips	888.71		3,460.00		
Courses	425.00				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>19,850.86</b>		<b>20,190.81</b>	
<b>Surplus /(Loss) for the year</b>		<b>4,840.28</b>		<b>3,447.16</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

CURRENT ASSETS	As at		As at	
	31 August 2024		31 August 2023	
	£	£	£	£
Bank Accounts				
Current Account	4,293.31		500.00	
Deposit Account	15,709.82		14,598.85	
Cash in Hand	0.00		0.00	
		20,003.13		15,098.85
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors		126.00		62.00
		19,877.13		15,036.85
Payments in advance				
		19,877.13		15,036.85
Represented by:-				
Balance Brought Forward	from 31/08/23	15,036.85	from 31/08/22	11,517.73
Surplus/Loss for Year		4,840.28		3,519.12
Balance carried forward		19,877.13		15,036.85

Signed

Pamela Price  
(Treasurer)

*P.A. Price*

Date:

*23.09.2024*

**STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

The above Balance sheet and the attached Payments and Receipts Account have been prepared in accordance with the Books Information and Explanations provided by the Friends of St Alphege Music, and I certify that they are in accordance herewith.

Signed

Date:

## Report from the Membership Secretary – Isabel Baumber

This brief report will give an update about membership numbers for the last year.

Membership numbers are steady, with last year's number being 59, of which three were honorary (where I am counting as one member either an individual or a family membership). The previous year's equivalent numbers were also 56 (with five honorary members).

Numbers remain lower than some years ago as we continue to rebuild the choirs and FoSAM following the pandemic. I would like to look for more opportunities for encouraging membership during the year ahead, such as trips and exam successes and the corresponding purchase of medals, which we use as a springboard to encourage membership renewal or membership for the first time.

Renewals are due at the end of October each year, and many members have already renewed their membership by paying 2024-25 subscriptions, particularly those who have direct bank payments in place. A huge thank you to those who have been able to do this. We would of course be very pleased if others of last year's members would renew their subscription at their earliest convenience. I would like to encourage our supporters to use faster payments via the bank wherever possible as this facilitates administration on both sides.

Before I finish, I would like to take a moment to remember some of the long-standing members who are no longer with us – we have lost some key supporters over the last couple of years, who will be greatly missed. May they rest in peace.

I hope that the reports in this booklet and delivered at this AGM give a full picture of the range of events we have put on and the strength of the choirs, which is what your membership supports.

Thank you to all members for your ongoing support.



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