



Minutes of
Committee meeting
Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 10 a.m.
at 56 Kellaway Avenue

Present: Guy (chair), Bill, Gill, Kelvyn, Marella, Margie, Sarah, Barbara (in attendance from 10.30).

1. Apologies: Carol, Pete, Richard
2. Minutes of last meeting: these were approved.
3. Matters arising: None which had not been dealt with.

4. Officers' reports:

Reports of Chairman, Secretary, Publicity officer and Bookings clerk attached.

Treasurer: The Christmas concert made a surplus of £150, which was donated to the Charity the Kigezi project to add to the bucket collection held at the concert.

There are currently two more subscriptions to collect for this term, and the balance in the Westbury Singers' current account is £2352.72, and £2150.28 in the savings account. Margie expressed her thanks to Andrew Wood who audits the accounts. The committee agreed to sent Andrew a thankyou card and will send him a free ticket for the summer concert.

Voice representatives:

Sopranos – no issues

Altos – Rounds at the start of the rehearsal very popular. A suggestion that choir members could be asked to bring their own favourites along to teach to the choir.

Tenors – still a bit difficult to hear Barbara from the back row. Importance of not talking emphasised. Possibility of buying a body-worn microphoned was discussed but this was rejected.

Basses – no issues.

Bookings clerk: a discussion was held about the suggestion that the summer concert be held in the Baptist church. Although holding the concert at the Village hall involves more organisation, it was decided to continue with the Village hall due to it's being such a pleasant venue for a summer concert, and the importance of maintaining the links between the hall and Westbury Singers.

5. Vacancy for Social Secretary

Guy will ask the choir for a volunteer to organise the Christmas/new year meal.

6. Any Other Business: there was none.

7. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th May at 2 pm at 56 Kellaway Avenue.

Chairman's Report 10th February 2026

The autumn term was dotted with colds and coughs for many of us but we negotiated our way through with Barbara's expert guidance and the end result was a lovely Christmas concert.

It was a familiar format with congregational carols, readings, soloists and a range of choral pieces new and old. It is always hard, learning so many new and different pieces but we brought them all to a successful conclusion on the night.

The resulting concert was greatly appreciated by our faithful audience and I received many positive comments. Our chosen charity, Children of Kigeze, benefitted to the tune of £400 which included our donation, after expenses, of £150 and their retiring collection of £250.

There are many people to thank... our accompanist, Chloe Martindale, Anthony with his delightful flute playing and David Ball and David Brown who stepped in to help where tenors and basses were missing through ill health.

The choir as a whole pulled their weight jointly and severally. You are all appreciated!

One other person to whom special thanks are due is Pete Life who, stepping into the Publicity role, has single handedly dragged us into the 21st century over the past 6 months with local advertising, card payments, a Facebook page and liaising with our friendly artist, Nik Pollard, to create beautiful posters and programmes among many other things.

Very much looking forward to the rest of this term tackling another tricky new piece ready for Passion Sunday. It keeps us all young!

Secretary's report to Committee 10th February 2006

The arrangements for the Christmas concert worked well. We were very grateful to the two visitors from the Kigezi project who very efficiently served the drinks in the interval. Our audience was a bit bigger than expected, hence we ran out of orange juice and elderflower, although we had plenty of mulled fruit punch.

The number of members of Westbury Singers is similar to last term – a total of 31, with one new tenor (female), and two new altos. Two people are taking a term out, so if they rejoin in the summer our numbers would be up to 33. 8 sopranos, 11 altos, 6 tenors and 6 basses. We could still do with more sopranos.

I have sent “welcome” letters to our new members explaining choir procedures and updated the list of emergency contacts and list of members.

Publicity Officer

- Posted Xmas details in local publications
- Created Facebook page for WS
- Set up sales outlet via Headfirst
- Collected card payments on night of the Xmas gig
- Updated website with Xmas and subsequently Easter concert details
- Loaded and edited Xmas concert recordings managing those available to the public
- Loaded The Saviour files into members area of website
- Liaised with Nicola Hardin of Children of Kigezi
- Met with Nic Pollard re posters and learned how to edit website

REPORT FROM BOOKINGS CLERK

28/1/26

Christmas concert 2025 WOT Baptist Church

We managed to keep the cost of room hire down by not booking the Tyndale Hall and kitchen saving £165.

Booking costs for this concert

Sanctuary £288

Carey Room £192

Total (£480 less 50%)

Actual cost £240

The refreshments of warm mulled non alcoholic wine, fruit juice and Christmas biscuits were well received. This was easier for choir members as no mince pies needed warming in the oven and there appeared to be less mess afterwards. Additionally it took less time to set up and clear the foyer area. However during the interval it was a bit crowded.

Future Summer Concerts WOT Village Hall/WOT Baptist Church

I would like the committee to consider using the WOT Baptist Church for future summer concerts from 2027.

Booking costs for the summer concert 2026

Committee Room and Hall **£171** (after discount of 50%)

Bond (after concert if we meet their conditions) £120

(First introduced in 2025)

Although this venue is less expensive, it is more complicated to book.

- 1 We are restricted to booking on a Friday and they are booked up quickly. I need to book in September every year.
- 2 In order to have a refund of the Bond we have to meet their conditions. The easiest way to do this is by taking photos of all the rooms before and after use. After the 2024 Christmas concert they complained about tape on the floor and said we had damaged a door entrance when moving the piano.
- 3 Parking is not as easy and there is a hill to climb up.

- 4 In 2025 we were not charged corkage for drinks. Normally this is equivalent to the full cost we charge for each drink sold.
- 5 Takes choir members more time to set up and clear ie moving tables, chairs, etc.

Marella Fison