

# ST. HELENS YOUTH BRASS BAND

Registered Charity Number: 1009301

2026 v1.0

## Your Band Handbook



# About P and C Bands

SHYBB provides a pathway for children to grow and learn with other young musicians from the age of 4 to 19. To do this we have four different bands for each step on their musical journey, encouraging and supporting them as they grow.



## pBand 09:30 - 10:00

pBand is where the adventure begins for, absolute beginners, KS1 upward. Members start their musical journey on the pBuzz, a light, accessible brass instrument that provides an ideal introduction to brass playing. In this highly interactive and engaging environment, children aged 4–6 learn the foundations of musicianship through fun, structured activities.



## C-Band 10:00 - 11:00

C-Band (Beginners band) offers a welcoming and supportive environment open to complete beginners, those *who have had some small-group tuition*, and those moving on from pBand. *Aimed at Key Stage 2 children (Year 3) upwards*, this is where individual skills begin to blend into true ensemble playing. Musicians continue developing their technique while learning how their part contributes to the whole band sound. Our C-Band is extensively helped by our parent volunteers, who are often themselves talented musicians, or members of our A-Band.

C-Band perform one concert per term and often take part in massed band events with the other bands in the SHYBB family.

# About B and A Bands

Our training and youth bands offer a more structured banding experience, with players taking increasing responsibility as they progress. Players really start to work as a team for concerts and competitions. Members of both bands will be expected to participate in Christmas busking, our main source of income.



## **B-Band 09:30 - 10:30**

B-Band is our Training Band and an exciting next step in musical development. Here musicians build on their individual skills and develop the ability to perform more adventurous and varied repertoire in a full band setting. Players learn to listen more critically, refine their technique, and contribute confidently within the ensemble, with guidance from experienced older players and volunteers. *B-Band members are expected to be able to follow the conductor, read music well, and play a full octave knowing at least one sharp and flat.*



## **A-Band 10:30 - 12:30**

A-Band represents the pinnacle of our youth band pathway. This is a vibrant and ambitious ensemble where musicians perform a full and varied repertoire across many musical styles. Members are challenged, inspired, and supported to reach their full potential. Alongside weekly rehearsals, A-Band benefits from: Full band rehearsals, sectional sessions with visiting tutors, varied concert performances, competitions (such as the National Youth Championships), joint concerts, busking and residential tours. *A-Band members are expected to be grade 4 (or equivalent), however no grade exams need to have been taken so long as the standard can be reached.*

A-Band is more than just a rehearsal group, it is a musical community that develops leadership, confidence, commitment, team work and pride.

# Musical Directors

## **Musical Director - Jay Hall**

Jay is a dynamic conductor and educator working across the Northwest with orchestras, brass bands, and young people. Originally from Lancashire, he began as a trombonist before studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal Northern College of Music, later developing his conducting through specialist training. He has performed in major UK venues, appeared as a concerto soloist, and received national recognition for his chamber work. A passionate advocate for inclusive music-making and youth development, he currently leads several ensembles and works in a senior role within music education, alongside speaking and consultancy engagements.

## **C-Band Conductor - Peter McDonough**

Peter is an experienced brass and music theory teacher, offering lessons from beginner to advanced level across the North West and North Wales. He teaches students of all ages and abilities, including those with SEND, and has a 100% exam pass rate. Alongside his teaching, he is Principal Euphonium of the KNDS Fairey Band and has performed widely, earning awards including Best Euphonium at the 2022 British Open. A graduate of the RNCM, Peter has been leading our beginners band since 2021 and also conducts several other youth and training bands in the local area.

## **pBuzz Conductor - Darren Humphries**

Darren, a highly experienced peripatetic brass (and ukulele) teacher, studied Popular Music and Recording at the University of Salford. A former member of SHYBB, he now plays Soprano Cornet for Rainford Band. Darren is passionate about inclusivity, and firmly believes that music is for everybody and there should be no barriers to participation. He founded pBand in 2020 to provide music education during lockdown. Darren also inspires young brass players through outreach to local schools.

# Lead Volunteers

Our band runs on volunteers, with each of the lower bands having dedicated and talented DBS checked volunteers helping out our young musicians. Without these people we would not be able to operate our band in the way we do. Our volunteers help keep costs down and increase our sense of community. To find out more about how our charity works please visit [www.shybb.uk](http://www.shybb.uk)

If you'd like to help out in any small way please let us know.

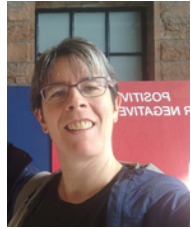


## **Paul Aden - Trustee and Chair of the band**

Paul took up the chair role in March 2026 and is keen to provide experiences for the young people in the band having fond memories of his own time at SHYBB in the 90s. His son Thomas plays cornet in A-Band and B-Band. Paul recently started playing again at Clockface Miners Heritage Brass Band .

## **Rebecca Duke - Trustee and Secretary of the band**

Rebecca was first exposed to brass bands in a Youth band in Gloucestershire, but she made up for never playing in SHYBB by marrying an Alumnus. Rebecca currently plays cornet with Golborne Brass band and her daughter Annabelle plays in B-band at SHYBB.



## **Safe Guarding - Helen Melling**

Helen took the safeguarding lead role last year, however has previously been the deputy safeguarding lead. Helen joined SHYBB as a youth player in 2005 and her daughter now plays percussion in A and B-Band. Helen plays Soprano Cornet for Pemberton B Band and looks forward to passing on her experiences and growing the Youth Bands potential.



## **Gareth Evans - Trustee and Treasurer of the band**

Gareth has been a trustee and Treasurer since 2020. Two of his children are part of the band, which has helped him develop a n appreciation for the opportunities and community the band provides for young people. Gareth runs two accountancy practices – Evans & Co Hospitality Accountants and HospoBase Accounting. He is proud to support the continued success of SHYBB behind the scenes..



# General Information

## **Moving through the bands**

Players moving up through the bands and seating within the bands is at the discretion of the Musical Directors, but please ask if you feel you are in the wrong place!

Every September, A-Band have seating auditions to decide on which players will play the different parts in the band. This is a friendly opportunity for you to play on your own, including pieces, scales and a little bit of sight reading.

If you have any questions about this process or the decisions made afterwards, please ask either the musical director or at the desk.

If you have a question about which band is most suitable, ask at the desk in the first instance.

## **Fees and Contributions**

The Band requests £12 per month for one child, £20 for two children and £25 for more. This includes the loan of a band instrument if required. Additional contributions may be requested for tours, residential weekends or optional workshops. The Charity aims to ensure that financial circumstances do not prevent participation and encourages families to discuss concerns confidentially with the band Secretary.

## **Lessons**

SHYBB does not provide private lessons, however there are tutors using the building at the same time on a Saturday morning. Please speak directly with these tutors if you are interested in private tuition.

## **Changes to this Handbook**

This handbook may be updated by the trustees from time to time, and will be reviewed yearly before the start of a new academic year. Any updated version will be reissued via Spond and on the SHYBB website.

## **Band Property**

Instruments, uniforms, music, and other equipment provided remain the property of the Band at all times. Band property is issued for use solely to progress the Band's activities. Instruments, uniform and any other equipment are to be returned promptly to the band upon leaving the organisation.

# Our Year

Our activities vary from year to year, but in general you can expect

## September - December

Seating auditions for A-Band

Brass Explosion - Christmas concert for all bands

Christmas busking

## Jan - March

A-Band residential weekend

A-Band contest

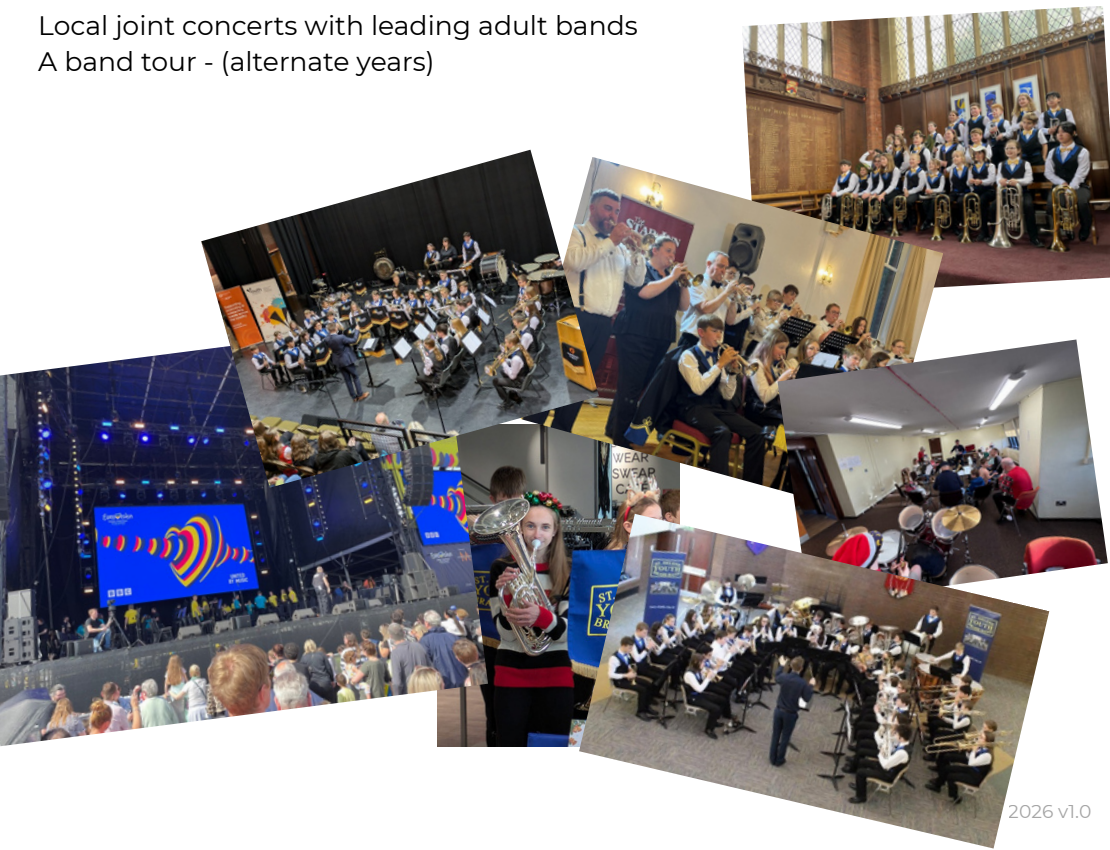
B/C/pBands Friends and Family Spring Concert

## April - July

All band summer bandstand concert

Local joint concerts (concerts with leading adult bands)

A band tour - (alternate years)



# Players Code of Conduct

## **Rehearsals and performances.**

I will:

- turn up to most rehearsals and report any lack of attendance through Spond. I know that if I do not attend enough rehearsals I may be asked to move to a different seat in the band.
- turn up to rehearsals and performances early to help set up and then clear away afterwards.
- ensure I have all the equipment that I need ready for rehearsal: instrument, music, pencil.
- pay attention to the Musical Directors and try my best.
- put my phone away during rehearsal and use it responsibly at other times.
- take care of my instrument and any other equipment loaned by the band.
- follow the instructions of the Musical Directors, and if I disagree I will raise any problems with the volunteers afterwards.

## **General behaviour.**

I will:

- treat all members of, and persons associated with, the band with due dignity and respect.
- treat everyone equally and never discriminate against another person associated with the band on any grounds including that of age, sexual orientation, gender, faith, ethnic origin, or nationality.
- display a high standard of behaviour at all times associated with the band.
- report any problems that I have with the behaviour of others to an appropriate adult.
- recognise and celebrate the success of other members of the band.

This code of conduct applies when taking part in band activities: rehearsals, concerts, competitions, and other activities etc. It may be replaced with temporary codes of conduct for particular occasions, for example residential

*Significant failure to adhere to this code of conduct may lead to young people being asked to leave the organisation.*

# Adult Code of Conduct

## **Rehearsals and performances:**

I will:

- respond on Spond if my child is unable to attend rehearsals or performances
- support my child to arrive at rehearsals and events sufficiently in time to help set up and adequately warm up.
- support my child to arrive at rehearsals and events correctly dressed and with the correct equipment.
- support the decisions of the Musical Directors as to which band is most appropriate for my child's level and which position they will play in the bands.
- not leave children unattended with the band unless they are in rehearsal or performance.

## **General behaviour.**

I will:

- fill out a registration form yearly and let the volunteers at the desk know if this information changes.
- set up a standing order to pay subs (preferred) or pay them promptly for ad-hoc payments.
- support the decisions of the Musical Directors and the trustees, and if I have a dispute with the decisions, raise them with the trustees after the event.
- treat all members of, and persons associated with, the band with due dignity and respect.
- treat everyone equally and never discriminate against another person associated with the band on any grounds including that of age, sexual orientation, gender, faith, ethnic origin or nationality.
- display a high standard of behaviour at all times when attending band events.

*Significant failure to adhere to this code of conduct may lead to your young person being asked to leave the organisation.*

# Instruments & Uniform

## Instruments

Instruments should be signed out at the desk when first borrowed. Instruments should not be loaned to any other person other than the band member who has signed the instrument out. Instruments should be treated carefully and any significant damage should be reported to the band as soon as possible.

Members and their families are responsible for keeping instruments in good condition. This involves; bathing the brass instruments every 3 months and getting the instruments serviced every 12 months. If you need support in instrument maintenance, please ask the volunteers at the desk. The instrument loan form completed at the start of each academic year. All instruments remain property of the Charity.



## Uniform

Members should turn up to concerts and other performances in:  
Black formal trousers (not jeans or leggings).

Black socks and black polished shoes.

White, long sleeve shirt with a collar suitable for wearing a bow tie (percussion may wear short sleeves).

Any jewellery worn should be discreet.

Band will provide waistcoat and bow tie for performances.

For our less formal events, band branded polo shirts will be required. These can be purchased from the band.

Hoodies (not compulsory uniform) are also available for purchase, both in new condition and second hand.



## **Policies**

### *Safeguarding and Welfare*

The Charity is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All activities are delivered in line with the Charity's Safeguarding Policy.

### *Participants and parents/carers should:*

report any safeguarding concerns promptly to the designated safeguarding lead and respect safeguarding procedures in place at activities

### *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

The Charity is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion and complies with the Equality Act 2010.

Participation should be accessible and welcoming, regardless of background or personal characteristics. Reasonable adjustments will be made where possible.

### **Policies**

All policies and risk assessments are available in full at [shybb.uk/policies](http://shybb.uk/policies)

## **Health and Safety**

Participants and parents/carers must follow health and safety instructions given during activities and events. Risk assessments for all activities can be found at [shybb.uk/policies](http://shybb.uk/policies).

## **Concerns, Complaints, and Discipline**

Concerns should normally be raised informally in the first instance with the Musical Director or a trustee.

Where necessary, matters may be escalated to the trustees, who will consider them fairly and proportionately.

Serious or persistent issues may result in conditions being placed on participation, or in rare cases, participation being ended.

## **Acceptance**

Participation in the Charity's activities indicates acceptance of this handbook and associated policies.

# Communication and links



All band communication takes place through the Spond App. This App allows us to manage attendance for events and rehearsals. Please ensure you are signed up and linked your account with SHYBB using the code: XNARL Further [instructions here](#).



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)

Please subscribe and share our Social Media accounts to help our band grow.

**Instrument loan form**, which must be completed by anyone loaning a band instrument. [Link here](#).

Each year we will request that the players update their details using this [registration link](#).

# Contact and Bank Details



## Address

Ormskirk Street United Reformed Church,  
St Helens,  
WA10 2JZ

[info@shybb.uk](mailto:info@shybb.uk)



## Bank Details:

Name: SHYBB  
Account No.: 65895548  
Sort Code: 08-92-99