



LEVENS CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 3 SEPT 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1010595

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: 3 Kilmidyke Mansion
Kilmidyke Drive
Grange over Sands
Cumbria LA11 7AH

TRUSTEES:	S Harris	Chair
	S Wright	Treasurer
	V Dunne	Secretary
	J Burgess	
	A Lockley	
	B Lovell	
	H Pollock	
	A Rogers	
	D Sammons	
	V Walshe	
	T Wareham	

MUSIC DIRECTOR:	G Glenton
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	D Henderson

LEVENS CHOIR OBJECTIVES

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts, primarily of choral music and with an emphasis on encouraging young singers and audiences.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Levens Choir serves the public in the area of south Cumbria and north Lancashire in terms of providing opportunities for people to participate in choral singing to a high standard by belonging to the choir and by attending concerts put on by the choir in many locations throughout Cumbria and north Lancashire.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Report of the Chair on behalf of the Committee

In the 2024/5 season, our 50th Anniversary year, we performed seven concerts. First was *My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land* in October, at St John's Church in Silverdale. In December was *Now May We Singen* which we performed at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton-le-Sands and Carver Church, Windermere, which our reviewers described as "an ambitiously selected and beautifully polished programme" and "delivering excellent ensemble and much expressive detail throughout". In March we performed Duruflé's Requiem, with expert organ accompaniment by Ian Pattinson, at St George's Church, Kendal and Lancaster Priory, the latter being a very last-minute venue change due to an organ malfunction at Ripley School. One reviewer described the concert as "At times thrilling, often moving and always engaging... a feast of varied delights... performed with great conviction by a choir on top form." Lastly, in July, was our 50th Anniversary concert at St Oswald's Church, Warton and, sadly for the last time, at Carver Church, Windermere. The pre-concert celebration, to which friends and former members were invited, was enjoyed by all. In the concert we sang pieces with local connections, and Ian Jones directed us in a moving rendition of Vaughan Williams' *Valiant for Truth*. It was described by one reviewer as "a glorious event."

In addition to our regular concerts, at the end of November a group from the choir sang carols at a wedding (for which we received a generous donation to choir funds), and in February we had our usual intensive Study Day in Arnside. It was led by Joyce Tindsley, who had us at various points lying on the floor practising breathing exercises, and blowing through straws – a very engaging and useful day.

Sadly this year several much loved former members have passed away: Margaret Jones, David Jones and Ray Booth. A group from the choir sang at Margaret's funeral in January.

Just over a week ago we had our first post-pandemic Choir Tour, to Dorset. We stayed in King's House, part of Sherborne School, and performed in Wimborne Minster, Christchurch Priory and Sherborne Abbey. It was much enjoyed by those who went and we hope the tradition of biennial tours is now well and truly re-established. As well as the opportunity to sing in some very special places, the tours also give us time to get to know each other and have fun together.

We were delighted to have our first two post-pandemic Choral Scholars for the year, though both have now left due to other pressures. We continue to receive regular enquiries about joining the choir but there also regularly members leaving; membership of the choir now stands at 46. We introduced stricter attendance requirements at the beginning of 2025, and also began the process of regular re-auditions with the soprano audition evening in July. For the first time this year we performed all our major three concerts twice and we are currently reviewing how successful this has been and how members feel about it.

Once again I must thank everyone (too many to name) for the various jobs (again, too many to name) which they have undertaken to enable the choir to function. We all need to contribute so that the burden is shared. As ever we have a busy 2025/6 season already in progress, with our special performances of the Bach St Matthew Passion in March 2027 rapidly approaching. Gawain is still saying after concerts that it was our best performance so far with him – long may that continue!

Sarah Harris, November 2025

CONSTITUTION

Governing Documents

Levens Choir registered as a charity on 16 April 1992. Choir members pay a membership subscription and are eligible to vote at General Meetings. Choral Scholars do not pay a subscription, but are permitted to vote.

Trustees

Levens Choir is governed by a committee elected by the membership from amongst their number. The Constitution requires that there be at least three elected officers. The committee meets at least 3 times each year, at the discretion of the members, in order to manage the choir. In accordance with the constitution a Chair is appointed who will chair meetings of the Committee and of the membership and co-ordinate the running of the choir. A Secretary and Treasurer are also appointed to form the Standing Committee with the Chair.

Additional Responsibilities

Over and above the work of the Committee, significant tasks are undertaken by members which helps manage the choir, such as programme notes, poster/banner printing/positioning, concert refreshments and others as required. Friends and family also volunteer to help at concerts with ticketing and staging.

Wider Network

Levens Choir is a member of Making Music, an organisation which "helps leisure-time music to flourish". The committee greatly appreciates guidance from Making Music on constitutional and administrative matters and also the frequent webinars on a range of useful topics.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Levens Choir constantly reviews the major risks to which the charity is exposed and seeks to mitigate them where possible. Policies are being created to cover these areas and insurance cover (via Making Music) was increased to cover the extensive music library and the October 2025 Tour.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sources of income: This year receipts were just over £5,000 higher than the previous year at £28,862, with subscriptions exceeding £10,000 for the first time. Income from Gift Aid was £2,000 vs £4,800 for 2023-24 due to the fact that this is the first time for 3 years that only one allowance was being claimed. However, a grant of £2,000 was obtained from the Victoria Wood Foundation towards the costs of putting on the Brahms and Bruckner 'Romantic Journey' concerts. Ticket sales were up 25% over the previous year and programme advert receipts more than doubled.

Payments: were very similar to the previous year's payments, £13,760 vs £13,675. The cost of 2 choral scholars joining the choir were offset by a reduction in Admin and Governance payments. As this year's concerts did not involve as many instrumentalists as the previous year, expenditure was £4,500 less on musicians and soloists, but this was offset to a lesser degree by higher music hire/purchase payments and increased publicity and printing costs.

Concert: receipts were high at just over £12,000 against payments of just under £10,000, giving an overall surplus of £2,321. The Durufle concerts in April were the only 2 to incur a deficit (-£1,684), mainly due to high venue costs of £860 and the cost of soloists.

Reserves: are in a strong position at the end of the year having added the £8,734 surplus. The Committee are very aware that our planned performance of JS Bach's St Matthew Passion in March 2027 will significantly call on these.

Overall a very successful year with 7 concerts performed and a well attended study day led by Joyce Tinsley. Grateful thanks to all those members of the choir who volunteer to help out with a wide range of necessary activities, without which the choir would not be able to operate. Thanks also to all those members whose fund raising efforts do so much to raise our income.

Statement of Committee's Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Committee and signed on: 7 November 2025

..... Sarah Harris

S Harris
Chair

..... Veronica Dunne

W Dunne
Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEVENS CHOIR (Number 101595)

Accounts for the period ended 3 September 2025

Set out on page 5

Responsibilities and basis of the report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the period ended 2 September 2025.

The Committee of Levens Choir is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the choir's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting accounts records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: D. Henderson Date: 26/10/25

Name: D Henderson

LEVENS CHOIR - ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2024 - 2025

2023/24	RECEIPTS - GENERAL	2024/25
9,358.00	Subscriptions	10,104.17
4,759.77	Gift Aid	2,001.49
0.00	Grants	2,000.00
406.00	Donations	1,417.51
276.59	Interest	403.79
61.10	Easyfundraising	111.97
400.00	Come and Sing/Study Day	679.99
250.00	Miscellaneous	0.00
15,511.46		16,718.92

2023/24	RECEIPTS - CONCERTS	2024/25
7,170.66	Ticket sales	8,976.50
1,010.00	Programme adverts/donations	2,790.00
62.75	Refreshments donations	376.60
8,243.41		12,143.10
23,754.87	TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,862.02

2023/24	PAYMENTS - GENERAL	2024/25
11,245.00	Music Director's Fee	11,028.00
1,017.00	Rehearsals (Endmoor)	1,290.98
616.85	M M Membership Fees	667.04
820.17	Admin & Governance	242.38
0.00	Choral Scholars	300.00
0.00	Miscellaneous/gifts	89.98
61.20	Bank charges	56.20
13,760.22		13,674.58

2023/24	PAYMENTS - CONCERTS	2024/25
5,741.02	Musicians/soloists	1,218.85
474.33	Music Hire/Purchases	1,007.37
1,630.00	Venue Hire	1,341.00
693.41	Publicity	1,391.12
664.89	Programme Printing	1,025.35
148.29	Refreshments	469.66
9,351.94		6,453.35
23,112.16	TOTAL PAYMENTS	20,127.93

642.71	SURPLUS/-DEFICIT	8,734.09
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Fund movements for the Year ended 03 September 2025

	Choir	Tour Fund	Total
At 03 Sept 2024	15,767.84	539.70	16,307.54
Receipts	28,862.02	0.00	28,862.02
Payments	20,127.93	0.00	20,127.93
At 02 Sept 2025	24,501.93	539.70	25,041.63

Balance sheet as at 3rd September 2025

2024		2025
CASH AND RESERVES		
201.37	HSBC current	91.07
16,106.17	HSBC deposit	34,359.96
16,307.54		34,451.03
	Sundry debtors - October 2025 tour	1,436.00
	Sundry creditors - October 2025 tour	(10,845.40)
		25,041.63
	15,664.84 Balances at 3rd September	16,307.54
	642.71 Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	8,734.09
16,307.55		25,041.63

IN	STUDY DAY, Arnsdale El, 8 Feb 2025	OUT	+/-
680	Tickets (37/53)	Venue Hire 120	
		Joyce Tinsley 445	
680		565	115

CONCERTS

IN	Sun 20 Oct 3pm, St Johns Silverdale	OUT	+/-
1,349	Tickets	Venue hire 160	
265	Programme adverts	Publicity 182	
40	Programme sales	Music Hire 181	
		Programme printing 151	
		Donation to P Cooke 50	
		Carpark charge 25	
		MD Fee 604	
1,654		1,352	302

IN	14/15 Dec - Bolton Le Sands, Carver	OUT	+/-
2,016	Tickets	Venue Hire -	
700	Programme adverts	Publicity 179	
159	Programme sales	Music 327	
172	Refreshments	Programmes 227	
		Refreshments 154	
		MD fee 1,206	
3,047		2,093	954

IN	12/13 April - Kendal PC/Lancaster	OUT	+/-
2,475	Tickets	Venue Hire * 860	100
500	Programme adverts	Publicity 211	
41	Programme sales	Music 347	
92	Refreshments	Programmes 260	
		Refreshments 25	
		Soloists 724	
		Bouquet 25	
		MD fee 1,208	
3,108		3,660	

IN	5/8 July - Warton/Carver Curch	OUT	+/-
3,136	Tickets	Venue Hire 276	
1,085	Programme adverts	Music 85	
-	Programme sales	Programmes 388	
112	Refreshments	Refreshments 141	
		50th Anniv Cake 150	
		Publicity, posters etc. 268	
		Banners 84	
		Donation to P Cooke 50	
		MD fee 1,208	
4,333		2,649	1,684

IN	CONCERTS - SUMMARY	OUT	+/-
8,977	Tickets	Venue Hire 1,296	
2,550	Programme adverts	Publicity, posters etc. 924	
240	Programme sales	Music 940	
377	Refreshments	Photocopy paper 68	
		Programmes 1,025	
		Refreshments 320	
		Soloists 724	
		MD fee 4,226	
		Other 300	
12,143	OVERALL	9,822	2,321

Accounts audited and found correct 26 October 2025

Auditor: *D. Henderson* Treasurer: *[Signature]*