

EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 1043617

Details

Other names EXETER PHILARMONIC CHOIR

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1995-01-25

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 39 Bishops Way
Exeter
EX2 7PF

Phone 07766656773

Email treasurer@exeterphilharmonic.org.uk

Website exeterphilharmonic.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC OF CHORAL OR ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS AND RECITALS AND BY SUCH OTHER MEANS AS THE CHOIR MAY DECIDE UPON FROM TIME TO TIME. 2) THE CHOIR SHALL ALSO OPERATE AS AFORESAID IN SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF SUCH CHARITABLE BODIES OR OF SUCH OTHER ACITVITIES OF AN EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE NATURE AS ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

Activities: Presenting to the public choral concerts and recitals

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£148,346	£117,817	-	-
2024-06-30	£154,846	£144,708	-	-
2023-06-30	£93,634	£80,639	-	-
2022-06-30	£61,287	£63,581	-	-
2021-06-30	£17,267	£6,864	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adrienne Margaret Long		2021-10-18
Andrew Peter Henderson		2023-09-25
Ann Elizabeth Weiler Female		2024-10-21
Charlotte Ann Hodgson Female		2024-10-21
Dame Julia Slingo		2025-09-29
Dr EMMA RUTH JENNIFER GREEN		2025-09-29
Martin Stubbings		2023-09-25
Roland Spencer Chant		2021-10-18
Shaun Philip Sellings Male		2024-10-21
Victoria Henderson		2017-10-16

EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1043617

Accounts



Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Charity registration number: 1043617

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*Not part of the formal financial statements – this is enclosed for members' information only

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number	1043617
Principal Office	39 Bishops Way Exeter Devon EX2 7PF
Trustees	Mrs Janet Ainley Mr Roland Chant Mr Andrew Henderson (<i>Co-opted</i>) Mrs Victoria Henderson Mrs Charlotte Hodgson Ms Adrienne Long Mr Geoff Poad (<i>resigned 15 March 2025</i>) Mr Shaun Sellings Mr Martin Stubbings Mrs Ann Weiler
Bankers	The Cooperative Bank plc PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Insurers	Making Music Commercial Combined Policy (provided by Covea Insurers) 4 London Wall Place London EC2Y 5AU
Independent Examiner	Rowan House Accountants 5 Earl Richards Road North Exeter EX2 6AQ
Choir Website	www.exeterphilharmonic.org.uk

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Exeter Philharmonic Choir ('the Choir') for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 13 and comply with the regulations of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the Choir's Constitution.

Our Objective

The objective of the Choir is to maintain, develop, and promote public education in, and appreciation of the art and science of music, in all its aspects.

To support our objective, the Choir holds a strong ethos of pursuing the highest possible standard of performance, achieved through our rehearsals, our choral direction and training, our members' commitment, and the engagement of professional soloists and instrumental ensembles for all our concerts.

Our Governance and Administration

Founded in 1846, the Choir is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission (registration number: 1043617) and is governed by the Making Music Model Constitution (developed with the Charity Commission and updated in October 2021). The Choir adopted this Constitution on 25th September 2023.

Under the terms of the Making Music Model Constitution (October 2021), the Choir is managed by a committee whose members also constitute the trustees. The committee comprises trustees elected from and by the members (Elected Trustees) and trustees co-opted by existing trustees (Co-opted Trustees). The committee must include 3 Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and a minimum of 3 other trustees.

The Choir at a general meeting elects the trustees for a 3-year fixed term of office. All trustees are eligible for re-election for a fixed number of 3-year terms as determined by the Choir in its rules and regulations.

During 2024/2025 the committee has comprised 10 trustees (9 elected and 1 coopted) and has held bi-monthly meetings. Meetings of the Officers (Co-chairs, Secretary and Treasurer) and its three sub-committees (Programme, Publicity and Choral Pilgrimage) have been held regularly, as required.

Over the reporting year, the committee reviewed the overall organisational structure of the Choir, including the many roles that choir members carry out. A new team structure has been put in place with each team led by a trustee. The structure is designed to ensure that all choir roles are supported and there is more effective two-way communication between team members and the committee and its sub-committees.

The committee also implemented a refresh of the Choir's visual identity to provide a more modern look for the Choir and allow more effective use on digital media, and developed a new Friends Scheme to offer supporters more enhanced benefits and greater involvement in the Choir's activities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Our Membership

The Choir ended the season with a membership of 98, having welcomed 9 new members during the year. We also sadly bid farewell to several very long-standing members.

In line with the Choir's policy to conduct vocal assessments every four years, our Director of Music undertook assessments of all members of the Choir (except those who had recently auditioned) during the first 6 months of the season. The purpose of the exercise was to confirm whether members were still comfortable singing in their relevant sections and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss any issues with their singing. The assessments particularly highlighted what members value most about the Choir and the desire for more vocal coaching. The committee has duly responded to this request and has arranged for a professional vocal coach to run a rehearsal session during our next season.

Fundraising

As well as finalising the concert plans for the 2025/26 season, the Choir's programme sub-committee has been working hard on developing the arrangements for the performance of *Carmina Burana* in November 2026 (in the Great Hall, University of Exeter). As this concert will involve groups of young singers and instrumentalists and represents a major outreach project for the choir, the committee has set up a fundraising group to work on raising funds from grant making organisations, sponsorship and general fundraising, to support this element of the performance.

Public Benefit

Mindful of the guidance of the Charity Commission on providing public benefit, the Choir performs concerts which are open to the public and which offer a range of ticket prices, including discounts for specific groups.

Our annual Choral Workshop enables members of the public to sing with choir members in a full day workshop on a major choral work with the Choir's Director of Music.

As outlined above, in our programme plans for 2026/2027, we have already put in place a major outreach opportunity for local young singers and instrumentalists to join with us in one of our 180th season concerts.

The Choir values diversity and membership is open to all, but as with many similar organisations, this is subject to an audition to ensure that an applicant's vocal ability meets the standard set by the Director of Music.

The Choir also supports local charities through retiring collections at our Carol Concerts and Lord Mayor's Concert in March. (Further details of the charities supported and amounts raised will be found under the Financial Review in this report).

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Our 2024/2025 Season

The Choir has again had a very full and busy 2024/25 season.

Tour to Spain: 24 – 30 September 2024

At the end of September 2024 a group of 47 Choir members, together with 9 friends and family, travelled to Salamanca in Northern Spain for a five-day singing tour.

The Choir launched the tour with a concert on 21 September in St Margaret's Church, Topsham. In Spain, we performed concerts in the Old Cathedral of Salamanca and in the Cathedral of Valladolid, and finished by singing in a service at The Basilica of St Teresa in Avila.

Our programme was carefully chosen to showcase a selection of English sacred music across the ages, from the Renaissance period through to contemporary composers, and was very well received by large and appreciative audiences in all venues. One of the highlights of the programme was '*Un Salmo Espanol*', a work specially commissioned for the tour from our Associate Director of Music, Stephen Tanner, which references Spanish rhythms and harmonies in its setting of Psalm 21.

The group also had plenty of time for sight-seeing, particularly in the stunning city of Salamanca. Sadly, during the week several members succumbed to Covid, which meant they were unable to participate fully in our visits and concerts, but this did not seem to lessen the overall enjoyment and high levels of satisfaction with the tour.

09 November 2024: Handel's *Messiah* in Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth

We then began the full choir year with a performance of Handel's *Messiah* with Joanne Greene and 'The Handel Sinfony', an ensemble of fellow professionals; Sam Cobb soprano; Luthien Brackett alto; Oscar Golden-Lee tenor; and James Geidt bass. This concert was particularly notable as it was the Choir's first performance in a 'semi-scrambled' formation (small groups of all 4 sections), and was supported by small instrumental forces which allowed for more subtle effects. We were, as always, made very welcome by those at Holy Trinity Church.

17 and 18 December 2024: Carol Concerts in Exeter Cathedral

A selection of well-known festive choral works interspersed with traditional carols for all to sing, in the atmospheric setting of Exeter Cathedral. The Choir was joined by trumpeters Cameron Todd and Ross Brown. As well as their very moving rendition of *Den yndigste rose* by Frederik Magle, they also displayed their virtuosic playing in Handel's *Let the bright seraphim* with soprano Milly Forrest, and especially in Cecilia McDowall's *A winter's night*. The programme was interspersed with interludes about Devon Christmases, past and present, by local historian, Dr Todd Gray MBE.

15 February 2025: Public Choral Workshop

We hosted a very well attended workshop on Mozart's *Great Mass in C minor*. Nearly 200 singers gathered in The Mint Methodist Church Centre for a glorious day of singing. The experience was greatly enhanced by members of the Lyric Ensemble joining us for an informal performance in the afternoon.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

15 March 2025: Lord Mayor's Concert in Exeter Cathedral

This all-Mozart programme gave us a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the composer's most sublime choral music: *Great Mass in C minor*; 'Laudate Dominum' from *Solemn Vespers*; and *Regina Coeli*. We were pleased to welcome back the London Mozart Players, with soloists Lucinda Cox, soprano; Daisy Walford, soprano; Ruairi Bowen, tenor; and Tim Mirfin, bass. We were also delighted to feature rising star violinist Joel Munday, performing the *Violin Concerto No. 1*.

14 June 2025: 'A Feast of English Choral Music' in Exeter Cathedral

Our singing year ended with an evening featuring some of the greatest English choral and organ music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries including works by the musical giants of their time: Ralph Vaughan Williams, Hubert Parry, Arthur Sullivan and Herbert Howells. We welcomed celebrated baritone Thomas Humphreys who joined us in singing Vaughan Williams' evocative work, *Five Mystical Songs* as well as performing Arthur Sullivan's *The Lost Chord*. Stephen Tanner, the Choir's Associate Director of Music and a renowned keyboard player, performed pieces by Edward Bairstow and Herbert Howells that showcased both the organist and the organ.

Thanks

At our final concert, Exeter Philharmonic Choir thanked Councillor Kevin Mitchell for his enthusiastic support of the Choir during the two years of his role as The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Exeter. In recognition of this, we were delighted that he has accepted our invitation to become an Honorary Vice President of the Choir.

Social Activities

A group of members enjoyed a day trip to Wells on Wednesday 30 April 2025.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Financial Review

Having reported a very successful 2023/24 series of concerts at last year's AGM (a £2,800 surplus) the season just past has concluded with a deficit of just over £2,000 recorded across all concerts. The loss mainly arises from lower than expected ticket sales for the final concert of the season 'A Feast of English Choral Music'.

Subscription income at £17,520 continues to be the Choir's main source of non-concert revenue. Internal fund raising across Singing Mornings amounted to just over £1,000. An increase in the number of members contributing through the Gift Aid scheme generated an additional £800 of valuable income, resulting in a total claim of £3,242.

However, day-to-day running costs also recorded an overall deficit of just over £1,600 primarily due to increases across rehearsal and promotional costs. This deficit position was reduced by two significant donations, totalling just over £1,800.

The Choir continues to facilitate fundraising by other charities through retiring collections, and a grand total of £4,227 was raised during the season. (£3339.09 for Community, Equality, Disability Action in December and £888.86 for Force Cancer Charity in March).

During March 2025 just over half of the Choir's investment within the COIF Charities Investment Fund was cashed in due to falling share prices and market volatility arising from events in Europe, America and the Middle East. Although markets have since stabilised to some degree, this action provided certainty that the Choir had the reserves to fund financial commitments that have been made across next season and 2026/27, the Choir's 180th anniversary season.

Reserves

At the start of the season the Choir held more in reserve than would normally be required to cover losses arising from having to cancel or abandon concerts, or from lower than expected ticket sales. As this position is contrary to Charity Commission guidelines, the committee duly considered ways in which the Choir could reduce its reserves to an appropriate level. The committee agreed to set up a Development Fund into which a portion of the Choir's overall reserves will be ringfenced (an initial amount of £35,000). This fund will be used towards a programme of activities that support the Choir's charitable objective and provide additional benefits to members.

For the 2025/26 season the Development Fund will be used to fund a major commission, a rehearsal 'Away Day' at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre to work on the newly commissioned piece with the composer, and a singing weekend with professional vocal coaching.

At the end of the 2024/25 season the choir holds just over £90,000 in reserves split across the Emergency and Development funds. This is adequate to mitigate the risk of financial loss during the 2025/26 season and provide the additional benefits to members outlined above. To mitigate this risk further, the Choir holds insurance with Making Music that covers cancellation or abandonment up to £10,000.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Risk Management and Financial Controls

The treasurer and trustees ensure that the major risks to which the Choir is exposed are analysed regularly and that systems and controls are in place to manage those risks.

The Choir's financial controls include:

- preparation of an annual budget and approval by the full committee
- measurement of performance against the budget after each concert and workshop, and a quarterly review of day to day running costs
- circulation of a financial report to all committee members every three months and discussion of the report at committee meetings
- an annual external examination of the Choir's accounts
- two online signatures before any payment leaves the Choir's bank accounts
- reimbursement of expenses only when incurred on Choir business and on production of valid receipts.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable it to ensure that financial statements comply with the applicable law. 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.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Looking forward

The trustees hope that all members have enjoyed the singing of the past season, both at regular rehearsals and concerts.

Maintaining a large and busy choir and keeping everything going so that we are fully prepared for our public performances takes time and effort. Many members volunteer to carry out essential tasks and together they create efficient and effective EPC teams which are appreciated by all choir members, by those with whom we work and liaise, and by our audiences.

Maintaining the Choir is just one important element; developing it is another. Trustees are enormously grateful to Howard Ionascu, our Director of Music and to Stephen Tanner, our Associate Director of Music, for encouraging, gently nudging and teaching us to be better singers and performers. Under their leadership we are constantly growing in confidence to perform a wide range of repertoire with high quality soloists and ensembles.

There are many exciting events happening in the upcoming season and we feel that we have a particularly special concert in the making in November, when we give the world première of our commissioned work by Cecilia McDowall, *The Weather Book*. A pre-concert talk is also planned involving Cecilia McDowall, Professor Penny Endersby, CEO of The Met Office, Roger Huckle, Music Director of the Bristol Ensemble and Howard Ionascu.

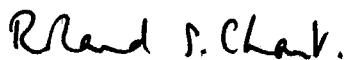
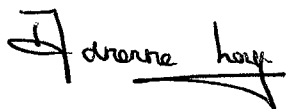
Trustees have also committed resources to an 'Away Day' rehearsal at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre in October to support the Choir and it will be a privilege to have Cecilia McDowall with us for that day.

In February 2026, there is a weekend rehearsal for our Spring Concert (Handel's 'Solomon') which includes a half-day session on breathing and vocal techniques delivered by an external tutor.

Together with our Carol Concerts and Jazz for a Summer Evening concert, there is much to look forward to in our next season!

Approval of Report

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 10 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Roland Chant and Adrienne Long
Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Belinda Roome BSc ACA
Rowan House Accountants
5 Earl Richards Road North
Exeter
EX2 6AQ

Date: 29 August 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	2,206	-	2,206	10
Subscriptions	18,535	-	18,535	17,516
Gift aid claimed	3,422	-	3,422	2,546
Concert income	51,652	-	51,652	60,372
Fundraising, sales of goods, programmes and advertising	7,947	-	7,947	7,666
Dividend and interest income	1,969	-	1,969	1,890
Tour income	-	27,615	27,615	64,846
	<u>85,731</u>	<u>27,615</u>	<u>113,346</u>	<u>154,634</u>
Asset and investment sales	35,000	-	35,000	-
Total receipts	120,731	27,615	148,346	154,634
Payments				
Music director, orchestra and choir fees	49,386	-	49,386	45,781
On-line sales commission and bank charges	3,783	-	3,783	4,396
Venue and other concert expenses	21,943	-	21,943	23,007
Publicity and advertising	8,003	-	8,003	4,298
Fundraising and cost of goods sold	6,015	-	6,015	4,230
Finance Officer	2,750	-	2,750	2,550
Administration and insurance costs	2,138	-	2,138	1,703
Gifts	809	-	809	402
Tour expenditure	-	22,115	22,115	57,651
Governance costs	875	-	875	875
	<u>95,702</u>	<u>22,115</u>	<u>117,817</u>	<u>144,708</u>
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
Total payments	95,702	22,115	117,817	144,708
Net receipts/(payments)	25,029	5,500	30,529	10,138
Cash funds last year end	40,785	14,277	55,062	44,924
Cash funds this year end	65,814	19,777	85,591	55,062

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash floats	215	-	215	215
Current accounts	13,249	19,777	33,026	49,797
Deposit accounts	52,350	-	52,350	5,050
Total cash funds	65,844	19,777	85,591	55,062
Other monetary assets				
No other monetary assets held	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Market Value	Market Value Last year
COIF Charities Investment Fund - Income Units (Current value is the bid market value at the period end)	Unrestricted	£19,179	£25,541	£62,790
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Market Value	
Musical equipment – new podium	Unrestricted	£3,450	£3,450	
Liabilities	Fund to which asset belongs	Amount due	When due	
Venue costs outstanding relating to June 2025 event	Unrestricted	£3,650	On receipt of invoice	

Notes to the accounts

1) Restricted funds represent amounts raised by the Choir members for future tours and social events.

2) The financial statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

The financial statements on pages 12 to 13 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 10 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Roland P. Chant
Roland Chant

Trustee

Andrew P. Henderson
Andrew Henderson

Trustee

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income		
Donations and sponsorship	4,706	2,510
Gift Aid Tax reclaimed	3,422	2,546
Membership (incl. friends subscriptions)	18,535	17,515
Fundraising events and appeals	2,347	1,520
Tickets sales (before bank and on-line charges)	51,652	60,372
Programme sales and miscellaneous income	862	1,216
Advertising	725	475
Sale of miscellaneous Choir products	60	705
Music hire and sales	1,453	1,250
Friends and family event income (inc. tour income)	27,615	64,847
Interest and dividends on investments	1,969	1,890
Total income	113,346	154,846
Expenditure		
Conductors, other musicians, music and venues		
Director of Music (inc. travel costs)	15,485	11,871
Assistant Director of Music	720	1,070
Accompanist	2,707	3,248
Soloists	10,781	8,856
Orchestras and organists	19,069	20,735
Music hire and orchestral scores	7,197	1,962
Music purchase	145	223
Rehearsal rooms	4,088	4,668
Concert venues	9,630	17,052
Concert refreshments	1,175	1,095
Ticket sales and on-line payment commissions	3,783	4,396
Performing Rights Society	230	53
Other concert costs	1,029	140
	76,039	75,369
Programmes, tickets and other concert costs		
Ticket and programme production costs	1,430	1,964
Publicity and advertising	8,003	4,114
Purchase of miscellaneous Choir products (inc. new podium)	3,658	79
	13,091	6,157
Administrations costs		
Insurance and subscriptions	1,430	1,375
Finance officer	2,750	2,550
Website costs	149	185
Printing, postage and stationery	230	143
Independent examiner's fee	875	875
	5,763	5,128
Other costs		
Tours and social events	22,115	57,651
Gifts	809	402
	22,924	58,053

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2025

Total expenditure	<u>117,817</u>	<u>144,708</u>
Net (expenditure)/income (excl. investment sales)	<u>(4,471)</u>	<u>10,138</u>

Pages 14 and 15 do not form part of the formal financial statements and is for information only.

EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1043617

Accounts

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Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

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Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number	1043617
Principal Office	5 Little Johns Cross Hill Exeter EX2 9PJ
Trustees	Mrs Janet Ainley Mrs Hazel Channon (<i>resigned 24 May 2024</i>) Mr Roland Chant (co-Chair) Mr Andrew Henderson (<i>co-opted 25 September 2023</i>) Mrs Victoria Henderson (Secretary) Mrs Charlotte Hodgson (<i>co-opted 5 June 2024</i>) Ms Adrienne Long (co-Chair) Mr Geoff Poad (Treasurer) Mr Shaun Sellings (<i>co-opted 5 June 2024</i>) Mr Martin Stubbings Mrs Ann Weiler (<i>co-opted 5 June 2024</i>)
Bankers	The Cooperative Bank plc PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner	Rowan House Accountants 5 Earl Richards Road North Exeter EX2 6AQ
Choir Website	www.exeterphilharmonic.org.uk

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The Choir also supports local charities through retiring collections at our Carol Concerts and Lord Mayor's Concert in March. (Further details of the charities supported and amounts raised will be found under the Financial Review on page 6).

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Founded in 1846, the Choir is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission (registration number: 1043617) and is governed by the Making Music Model Constitution (developed with the Charity Commission and updated in October 2021). The Choir adopted this Constitution on 25 September 2023.

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The Choir at a general meeting elects the trustees for a 3-year fixed term of office. All trustees are eligible for re-election for a fixed number of 3-year terms as determined by the Choir in its rules and regulations.

During the year the committee has met monthly with meetings of its two sub-committees (Programme and Publicity) held as required.

In line with the Charity Commission's guidance to charitable bodies on the policies which should form part of their organisational management, the committee has commenced a review of all the Choir's existing policies and put in place some additional recommended policies. All policies will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and are available on the Choir's public website.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Our 2023/2024 Season

As always, the 2023/24 season has been a busy and productive time for the Choir.

04 November 2023: Music of the Baroque in Exeter Cathedral

We began the year with an evening of Baroque music: Handel *Zadok the Priest*; Marcello *Oboe Concerto in D minor*; Vivaldi *Gloria*; and Handel *Dixit Dominus*. The Choir was joined by Isca Ensemble, an orchestra of experienced amateur and some former professional players drawn from the South-West of England; Fergus McCready (oboe soloist); sopranos Lucy Cronin and Ellie Sperling; mezzo-soprano Martha McLorinan; and Stephen Tanner (continuo).

12 and 13 December 2023: Carol Concerts in Exeter Cathedral

Our Carol Concerts featured a selection of well-known festive choral works interspersed with traditional carols for all to sing, in the wonderful setting of Exeter Cathedral. The Choir was joined by Julian Poore (trumpet), whose energetic rendition of an arrangement of *God rest you merry, gentlemen* left everyone breathless. Julian also featured in Stephen Tanner's wonderful new composition for the Choir, *Nova! Nova!* The programme was introduced by Elizabeth-Jane Baldry.

27 January 2024: Public Choral Workshop

We hosted a very well attended workshop on the Verdi *Requiem* with nearly 200 singers gathered in The Mint Methodist Church Centre for a glorious day of singing.

16 March 2024: Lord Mayor's Concert in Exeter Cathedral

For our performance of the Verdi *Requiem*, we were joined by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Judith Howarth soprano; Marta Fontanals-Simmons mezzo-soprano; Oliver Johnston tenor; and Ossian Huskinson bass. This concert was a resounding success and our reviewer stated: "*the EPC singers were in fine voice, with director Howard Ionascu bringing out the best of them*".

18 May 2024: An Evening at the Opera in St David's Church, Exeter

Our singing year ended with operatic choruses and arias sung by the Choir, with Camilla Harris soprano; Rhys Batt tenor; and Stephen Tanner and Andrew Downton piano. Audience members enjoyed wine/soft drinks and canapés during the interval.

Lord Mayor's Commendation Award

This summer the Choir was honoured to receive the Lord Mayor's Commendation Award from the Lord Mayor, Councillor Kevin Mitchell. Awarded annually by the Lord Mayor to individuals or organisations that have gone above and beyond for the City of Exeter, the Choir received this award for our service to vocal music and cultural life in the city.

Social Activities

This year members have taken part in a variety of social events organised by our Social Events Co-ordinator, including a day trip to Winchester; a 'bring and share' lunch after the December singing morning; and a very competitive quiz and buffet evening in June.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial Review

The Choir has enjoyed a very successful season.

For the financial year ending 30 June 2024, the Choir recorded a small cash surplus of £2,943 for concerts and general activities, which is after the deduction of running costs. The key factor was that audiences were substantially larger than anticipated, with all tickets except for the Opera Choruses concert being sold out.

We have continued to work hard at internal fundraising, much of which comes from members' generosity at our Saturday singing mornings. Over the year a grand total of £1,520 was raised.

Our other regular sources of income remain very important, including subscriptions from choir members, patrons and friends; and Gift Aid claims (£2,546).

In addition, we have also contributed to fundraising for other charities through retiring collections. Refugee Support Devon raised £3,634 from the Carol Concerts and Force Cancer Charity £889 from the Lord Mayor's concert in March.

Risk Management and Reserves

Annual budgets are prepared by the Choir's financial team and approved by the trustees. These provide the means to compare actual costs against budgeted costs and pinpoint any overspend.

The most significant risk facing the Choir is having to cancel one or more concerts at short notice. Risk analysis into potential causes and the required level of reserves necessary to mitigate any such risk, is currently work in progress. For the 2024/25 season, the Choir has more than enough reserves to cover the day-to-day running costs of the Choir and a whole season of concerts. To mitigate this risk further, the Choir holds insurance with Making Music that covers cancellation/abandonment up to £10,000.

Financial Controls

The financial team and trustees regularly review financial controls to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines. The Choir's financial controls include:

- preparation of an annual budget and approval by the full committee
- measurement of performance against the budget after each concert and workshop, and a quarterly review of day to day running costs
- circulation of a financial report to all committee members every three months and discussion of the report at committee meetings
- an annual external examination of the Choir's accounts
- two signatures from an approved list of signatories before any payment leaves the Choir's bank accounts
- reimbursement of expenses only when incurred on Choir business and on production of valid receipts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement Of Recommended Practice
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

Looking Forward

The Choir is a busy organisation, and it takes a good deal of time and effort to ensure not only the high standard of music making but also the smooth running of the Choir in all its aspects.

The trustees would like to thank everyone who has helped us on our journey over the past year: to all the volunteers who give their time and expertise to make EPC a happy and successful choir; to Stephen Tanner for his tireless accompanying; and especially to Howard Ionascu for leading and enabling us to make wonderful music together. It has been a very successful season.

During the year, the committee has reviewed the way it works and has implemented a new team structure for the coming season which we hope will better support the continued development of the Choir.

Our future seasons promise further exciting concerts and challenges for the Choir, as we welcome back London Mozart Players in March 2025 and look forward to working on a commission from Cecilia McDowall, to be performed in the autumn of 2025.

We will be undertaking a Tour to Spain in September 2024, giving concerts in Salamanca and Zamora, both magnificent cities with rich histories and beautiful architecture.

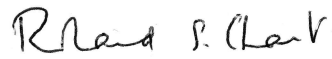
A Choral Pilgrimage in Hampshire in August 2025 is in the early stages of planning.

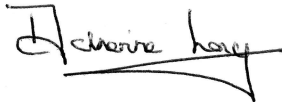
Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Approval of Report

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 11 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:





Roland Chant and Adrienne Long
Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EXETER
PHILHARMONIC CHOIR**

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Belinda Roome BSc ACA
Rowan House Accountants
5 Earl Richards Road North
Exeter
EX2 6AQ

Date: 11 September 2024

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	10	-	10	2,962
Subscriptions (including gift element)	17,516	-	17,516	15,388
Gift aid claimed	2,546	-	2,546	3,831
Concert income	60,372	-	60,372	42,760
Fundraising, sales of goods, programmes and advertising	7,666	-	7,666	6,261
Dividend and interest income	1,890	-	1,890	1,778
Tour income	-	64,846	64,846	20,654
	90,000	64,846	154,846	93,634
Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	90,000	64,846	154,846	93,634
Payments				
Music director, orchestra and choir fees	45,781	-	45,781	33,973
On-line sales commission and bank charges	4,396	-	4,396	1,902
Venue and other concert expenses	23,007	-	23,007	14,033
Publicity and advertising	4,298	-	4,298	6,510
Fundraising and cost of goods sold	4,230	-	4,230	3,007
Administration and insurance costs	4,068	-	4,068	3,217
Gifts	402	-	402	154
Tour expenditure	-	57,651	57,651	17,018
Governance costs	875	-	875	825
	87,057	57,651	144,708	80,639
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
Total payments	87,057	57,651	144,708	80,639
Net receipts/(payments)	2,943	7,195	10,138	12,995
Cash funds last year end	37,842	7,082	44,924	31,929
Cash funds this year end	40,785	14,277	55,062	44,924

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash floats	215	-	215	215
Current accounts	35,520	14,277	49,797	41,073
Deposit accounts	5,050	-	5,050	3,636
Total cash funds	40,785	14,277	55,062	44,924
Other monetary assets				
No other monetary assets held	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Market Value	Market Value Last year
COIF Charities Investment Fund - Income Units (Current value is the bid market value at the period end)	Unrestricted	£45,000	£62,790	£57,985
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Market Value	
No other assets held	-	-	-	
Liabilities	Fund to which asset belongs	Amount due	When due	
No significant expenses are outstanding at the year end.	-	-	-	

Notes to the accounts

1) Restricted funds represent amounts raised by the Choir members for future tours and social events.

2) The financial statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

The financial statements on pages 10 to 11 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Roland Chant & Adrienne Long

Trustees

Geoff Poad

Trustee

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Donations and sponsorship	2,510	2,962
Gift Aid Tax reclaimed	2,546	3,831
Membership	17,515	15,388
Fundraising events and appeals	1,520	2,260
Tickets sales (before bank and on-line charges)	60,372	42,760
Programme sales and miscellaneous income	1,216	718
Advertising	475	1,250
Sale of miscellaneous Choir products	705	478
Music hire and sales	1,250	1,555
Friends and family event income (inc. tour income)	64,847	20,654
Interest and dividends on investments	1,890	1,778
Total income	154,846	93,634
Expenditure		
Conductors, other musicians, music and venues		
Director of Music (inc.travel costs)	11,871	9,958
Assistant Director of Music	1,070	1,192
Accompanist	3,248	2,071
Soloists	8,856	5,400
Orchestras and organists	20,735	15,353
Music hire and orchestral scores	1,962	2,119
Music purchase	223	70
Rehearsal rooms	4,668	2,001
Concert venues	17,052	8,908
Concert refreshments	1,095	-
Ticket sales and on-line payment commissions	4,396	1,902
Performing Rights Society	53	619
Other concert costs	140	385
	75,369	49,978
Programmes, tickets and other concert costs		
Ticket and programme production costs	1,964	1,595
Publicity and advertising	4,114	6,510
Purchase of miscellaneous Choir products	79	838
	6,157	8,943
Administrations costs		
Insurance and subscriptions	1,375	1,409
Finance officer	2,550	1,500
Website costs	185	164
Printing, postage and stationery	143	144
Independent examiner's fee	875	825
	5,128	4,042
Other costs		
Tours and social events	57,651	17,522
Gifts	402	154
	58,053	17,676
Total expenditure	144,708	80,639
Net income	10,138	12,995

This page does not form part of the formal financial statements and is for information only.

EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1043617

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1043617

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

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Exeter Philharmonic Choir
Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mrs Janet Ainley Mr Roland Chant Mrs Victoria Henderson Mr Stephen Jupp Ms Adrienne Long Mr Geoff Poad Ms Jade Passfield Mrs Ann Weiler
President	Ms Jenny Lloyd
Principal Office	5 Little Johns Cross Hill Exeter EX2 9PJ
Charity Registration Number	1043617
Bankers	The Cooperative Bank plc PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner	Rowan House Accountants 5 Earl Richards Road North Exeter EX2 6AQ

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Exeter Philharmonic Choir ('the Choir') for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Governance

The Choir was founded in 1846 and is currently governed by a revised constitution adopted on 16 October 2017. The Choir is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission (registration number: 1043617).

Under the terms of the revised Constitution, the Officers of the Choir (Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting for a maximum term of three years and are eligible for re-election for one further 3-year term. The affairs of the Choir are managed by an Executive Committee (whose members also constitute the Trustees) which includes the Officers plus up to five other members who are elected from members of the Choir for a period of three years, eligible for re-election for one further 3-year term. The President is an ex-officio non-voting member of the committee, elected from the members of the Choir at the Annual General Meeting for a term of three years, and is eligible for re-election for one further 3-year term.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Choir is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation to the public of choral or orchestral concerts and recitals and by such other means as the Choir may decide upon from time to time; the Choir shall also operate as aforesaid in support of the general purposes of such charitable bodies or of such other activities of an exclusively charitable nature as its Executive Committee may from time to time decide.

Policies

In response to the Charity Commissioners' guidance to charitable bodies concerning the policies which should form part of their organisational constitutions, the Committee has reviewed and updated the Choir's policies in the course of 2018-19. Exeter Philharmonic Choir has established policies covering the following areas: Regulated Activity in Relation to Children and Adults; Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Loyalties; Complaints Handling; Anti-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities; and Safeguarding. These have been placed on the Choir's website and are available should the Commissioners wish to see them.

Chairman's Report

The Choir has enjoyed another very successful year. We started the year singing completely free at last from the constraints of the pandemic which had caused so much uncertainty and anxiety over the previous two seasons.

Concerts

This Annual Report describes elsewhere our concerts - past and future - so I will leave that to our Secretary, Director of Music and Associate Director of Music. However, I want to mention a relatively new innovation, our summer tours. The Pilgrims' Chorus undertook its third pilgrimage in early summer 2023. This was led again by Stephen Tanner who coached us through a varied programme which was entirely unaccompanied. The pilgrimage followed the way of St Ethelbert from Leominster to Hereford Cathedral. We gave four concerts, ending in Hereford where we sang on

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

the last afternoon. An undertaking of this size requires considerable planning and work and we are hugely grateful to Ann Weiler, Stuart Mole, Adrienne Long, Steve Vercoe and Jenny Lloyd for working together so beautifully to make the event so successful. We know that this aspect of the Choir's life is also a valuable recruitment tool.

Finance

We are fortunate to enjoy continuing a healthy income as well as good financial reserves. Combined, these give us confidence to plan ambitious programmes with internationally renowned orchestras, ensembles and soloists. This is the first year in which we commissioned external financial accounting support. This has worked very well with our Treasurer taking the strategic role and day-to-day accounting being reported to him.

Membership

I mentioned last year that we had established a group to work on recruitment of new members. This work has developed to include publicity and the project has already borne fruit in that several new members have joined us. We are now close to maximum capacity in some sections. We also commissioned a video of the Choir rehearsing and singing in one of its Christmas concerts. This featured several members of the Choir telling of their experience and we are delighted that this is now featured on our website.

Appreciation

Our Director of Music, Howard Ionascu, has continued to develop the Choir's ability by leading us into choral works which have been both challenging and new to many of us. He brings warmth and encouragement but also clarity as to the demands of the piece we are singing. We are also grateful to Stephen Tanner, our Associate Director of Music who is also experienced, wise and supportive in so many ways.

Behind all our activity is a number of dedicated Choir members who give their time and energy to make it all possible. Among many others, we are grateful to Geoff Poad, who manages concerts with Roland Chant ; David Griffith who manages ticketing; Andy Henderson who helps with our finances; Monika Mackenzie, Valerie Shepard and Pete Francis who do great work publicising our concerts; Charlotte Hodgson, our Librarian; Chris Burns, who helps to raise extra funds through our Singing Mornings, Felicity Gibling who organised our Workshop and all the many others who work tirelessly to enable us to enjoy our singing and provide Exeter and the West Country with high quality choral music.

The Future

The future success of the Choir will depend, as ever, on the goodwill and willingness of a significant proportion of our members to fill the roles needed to run the Choir. We are a voluntary charitable organisation and have the aim of fulfilling as much of that administrative and leadership function from within the Choir. It is, of course, necessary for us to pay our Music Directors but this year was the first in which we have been required to go outside the Choir for paid administrative support. It can be argued that this has a positive side and our experience has been good but members need to be aware that this increases our administrative costs and has a consequent effect on subscription rates.

We also need to continue to develop our engagement with the public direct by email and via social media as well as seek opportunities to work with schools and young people.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

There is an immediate need to review our governance arrangements to ensure gradual succession of trustees over a number of years as well as ensuring that the constitution meets the needs of the Choir in 2024.

I am certain that the Committee will continue to lead the Choir with energy and skill.

This is my final report as Chair and I would like to end by thanking all my colleagues on the Committee who work so hard to make Exeter Philharmonic Choir so successful. I especially want to mark the end of periods of office of Jenny Lloyd, our President, Vicki Henderson, Secretary and Ann Weiler, who has helped in so many ways, not least the Pilgrims' Chorus. They have all worked tirelessly and with great wisdom and humour over the last few years.

Steve Jupp

Chairman/Trustee

Secretary's Report

Achievements and Performance

The 2022/23 season has been a busy and productive time for the Exeter Philharmonic Choir.

Howard and Stephen have continued to encourage the Choir in aspiring to and maintaining a high standard of performance, with a varied selection of repertoire which has provided many challenges, such as the wonderful Vespers by Monteverdi, as well as some favourites such as Parry's I Was Glad and Vaughan Williams' O, Clap Your Hands. Choir members have also relished the opportunity of singing with a variety of soloists and orchestras, who have contributed greatly to the success of our performances.

We have continued to work hard at internal fundraising, much of which comes from members' generosity at our Saturday singing mornings. Many thanks to those who operate the stalls and to everyone who helps with the numerous practical activities that make for a successful event, both financially and musically. Over the year a grand total of £1,126 was raised.

The workshop in May was very well attended and sales of Choir cakes were again much appreciated. Howard's relaxed approach to the day was very much enjoyed by all attendees, both in terms of music-making and the opportunity to explore techniques to improve singing. In addition, we have also contributed to fundraising for other charities: Dream-A-Way at the carol concerts (£2913.63); and Exeter Dementia Action Alliance at the Lord Mayor's concert in March.

Autumn Concert in Exeter Cathedral

We began the year with an evening of music to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's long life and reign: Bliss Fanfare for Heroes; Parry I Was Glad; Schütz Psalm 100; Vaughan Williams O, Clap Your Hands; and Stanford For Lo, I raise Up. The second half of the programme was a rendition of Rutter Gloria. The Choir was joined by an augmented Onyx Brass (including percussion), who opened each half of the concert with the glittering sounds of fanfares by Arthur Bliss, one-time Master of the Queen's Music and Stephen Tanner on the organ.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

Carol Concerts in Exeter

A selection of well-known festive choral works interspersed with traditional carols for all to sing, in the wonderful setting of Exeter Cathedral. The Choir was joined by soprano Amy Carson, whose beautiful rendition of Adam's Cantique de Noel moved many listeners to tears. Amy also featured in Stephen Tanner's wonderful new choral arrangement of Stille Nacht. For the first time, the programme was introduced by Chris Smith who has had a varied career including working with BBC Devon as a freelance producer/presenter.

Spring Concert in Exeter Cathedral

Monteverdi Vespers of 1610 with His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts; Devon County Junior Choir, directed by Andrew Downton; Stephen Tanner on chamber organ; soprano Kirsty Hopkins and Amy Carson; tenor Mark Dobell and Peter Davoren; and bass Ben Davie and Benjamin McKee. This concert was very warmly received, as our reviewer stated: "The opportunity to hear Monteverdi's rarely performed, towering choral work was clearly a big draw and it was wonderful to see a full Cathedral. The audience was fully rewarded, with an evening of music-making that had moments of both intimacy and vocal fireworks".

Choral Workshop in the Mint Methodist Church

Our singing year ended on 13 May 2023 with a very successful workshop on Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man. Nearly 200 singers gathered in The Mint Methodist Church Centre for a glorious day of singing.

Howard Ionascu led with his usual enthusiasm and skill and Stephen Tanner worked magic with both keyboard and computer, producing some amazingly authentic instrumental sounds. Guest musicians, trumpeter Paul Thomas, cellist Amye Farrell and percussionists Michelle Hiley, Andy Turner and Tom Clemo, were outstanding, while the solo contributions of Choir members Helen Goode, Pip Gascoigne-Pees, Jacqui Barnes, Tony Smale and Anthony Butler added many poignant touches.

The day ended with a spirited performance of the work to an audience of family and friends, who gave all the performers a standing ovation.

Victoria Henderson

Secretary/Trustee

Treasurer's Report

Financial Review

This year has been both demanding and exciting musically and we have been well supported by great audiences. We are indebted to Howard Ionascu and Stephen Tanner for their leadership. The Choir will, I am sure, feel encouraged by the financial situation set out in the following paragraphs.

Revenue

Financially it has been a successful year. This was especially noticeable for the Carol Concerts with superb audiences on two nights which enabled us to record a surplus of nearly £13,000. This helps us to produce more expensive concerts through the year. Contrary to expectations, the income from the Monteverdi Vespers was higher than anticipated and the expenditure lower, so although that concert recorded a small loss, it was very much less than the Committee anticipated.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

The Armed Man workshop drew great support from the public and the Gloria concert was basically on budget. Day to day running expenses have been carefully monitored and the overall result is that we have ended the year with a small surplus. The overall position shows how well Choir members have sold tickets and publicised our concerts. Ticket sales have also benefitted from the support of IF Media whom we engaged during the year for their professional PR expertise.

Policy on Reserves

It is the Trustees' policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover one year of planned concerts and rehearsals. Our invested reserves are over £61,000, plus a current account balance of almost £34,000, most of which will be needed to cover our day-to-day expenses. 2023/24 is likely to need us to call on some of those invested reserves. Around 64% of reserves are held in investments on which a reasonable income is paid against current bank interest rates. These investments are currently showing a small increase in comparison with June 2022, and remain above their original value. We can hope for their value to continue to increase with inflation.

Financial statements

In accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the financial statements, as set out on pages 14 and 15 of this annual report, have been prepared under a Receipts and Payments basis, which is a less complex basis of preparation and which we believe provides a more understandable summary of the results for the year. Previously the financial statements had been prepared using a Full Accruals Basis.

Public Benefit

In planning our activities, the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on public benefit including the relationship between public benefit and fee charging. We rely primarily on the income from ticket sales and membership subscriptions to cover our operating costs. In setting the levels of ticket prices and subscriptions the Trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Choir and its concerts for those on low incomes.

Hence we encourage singers to join us whatever their means. The full annual subscription was £150 - payable in two instalments in September and January - with a substantially reduced subscription for those in full-time education. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Trustees, also deals on a case-by-case basis and in confidence, to offer a reduced subscription to anyone finding difficulty in paying the full subscription.

For concerts we offer a range of ticket prices to suit different incomes. We also offer 50% reduction to children, students and those on unemployment benefit.

None of our Trustees/Committee Members (with the exception of the Director of Music who is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee) receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Choir, nor do they have any close connections with any artist professionally engaged by the Choir. Mr A Henderson, husband of Victoria Henderson, the Choir Secretary, is contracted to provide bookkeeping and financial advisory services for a period of twelve months ending on 31st August 2023. The total amount payable under this contract is £1,800.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

The Future

The 2023/24 Music Season will hopefully inspire members to maintain their continuing support at rehearsals, for publicity and encouraging sales. The March 2024 concert with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra joining us for Verdi's Requiem is likely to be the highlight of the season. It will also be good to have Isca Ensemble with us in November 2023, as they are a talented local orchestra with their own immense support.

Appreciation

I wish to thank those who have directly helped me as Treasurer and in terms of concerts: Michaela Manning (Gift Aid); Elizabeth Matthews (Friends); Pam Poad and Sue Prouse (Membership); Roland Chant and Ted Guyver. We are well catered for after concerts by Graeme Barnell and Stuart Mole. Ann Miller ensures that the women have the correct uniform and the Section Leaders keep us organised on a Monday evening.

That leaves the final accolade to the Hendersons and Steve Jupp. Vicki with such a vast input and output as Secretary and Andy, our Finance Officer, who has very thoroughly maintained our financial throughput. Both spend many hours working for the Choir and their work is invaluable.

Steve, our Chairman, has led us so well for a number of years through some difficult times. He will be missed for his guidance, his work and his good humour.

Geoff Poad

Treasurer/Trustee

Director of Music Report

Building on the highly successful 2022/23 Choir season, 2023/24 promises to be an equally exciting year.

The season will start with an all-Baroque programme, with Handel's dynamic and often-fiery Dixit Dominus. The soloist for this Christmas repeat concerts in the cathedral is trumpeter Julian Poore, long-time member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

Looking ahead to July 2024, we will try a new format of concert which should lend itself to the style and atmosphere of the summer months - opera choruses and arias in a central Exeter Hotel. We will be joined by two rising stars of the opera world.

In March, we join forces with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for Verdi's Requiem in the Cathedral and this should prove to be a popular audience choice.

Recruitment remains high on the agenda as we continue to expand in all sections, creating waiting lists as appropriate.

Howard Ionascu

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

Associate Director of Music Annual Report

The Exeter Philharmonic 2022/23 season has had a real sense of forward direction and momentum. There has been a hugely encouraging interest in joining the Choir and of subsequent new membership together with a confidence in performance driven by strength of vocal tone, blend and intonation. This confidence was reflected in a really significant increase in audience numbers not least for the carol concerts and the Monteverdi Vespers which attracted a full house in the cathedral.

The autumn concert in the cathedral was entitled Gloria in tribute to the long life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The music was principally of a celebratory nature accompanied by organ, brass and percussion. Works by Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Schutz and the centrepiece work Rutter's Gloria provided a wealth of varied technical challenges, not least rhythmic.

Preparation for the two Carol Concerts in December began slightly earlier this year and so felt less rushed, allowing the Choir to deliver a polished, entertaining programme. The importance of these events in promoting awareness of the Choir and its other concerts throughout the year cannot be underestimated.

In the spring, the Choir undertook one of its greatest challenges of recent years, the Monteverdi Vespers. As this can only really be performed with period instruments the Choir was joined by His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornets and a fine array of soloists experienced in the very specific vocal techniques this music demands. Having been involved in their foundation within the cathedral's Outreach Project it was a particular personal delight that we were also joined by the Devon County Junior Choir under Andrew Downton's direction. At first, Monteverdi's highly distinctive compositional style and sound world might have seemed somewhat impenetrable but the Choir became increasingly drawn into this work of undoubted genius. The relatively rare opportunity to hear the Vespers performed proved irresistible to the very large audience and delivering this work so successfully will no doubt be considered one of our Choir members' most memorable choral experiences.

There was no summer concert this year but instead the Choir focused on preparing Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man for a very well attended Singing Workshop Day which culminated in a performance at the Mint Methodist Church. The singers were accompanied by a live trumpet, cello and three percussionists whilst I filled in the other instruments with a little help from my computer! Inviting other local singers to join with us for a day increases our visibility within the singing community and the choice of The Armed Man proved particularly apt, given its power, popularity and the importance of its all too relevant message.

During June the Pilgrims' Chorus undertook its third annual tour, walking ancient pilgrimage routes whilst singing concerts enroute. This year's tour to Herefordshire was the most ambitious to date, beginning at Leominster Priory and ending in Hereford Cathedral via Stoke Prior, Marden and Bodenham. The all cappella programme was also performed at Topsham Church following the end of the tour.

Stephen Tanner

Exeter Philharmonic Choir
Trustees' Report – continued

Ticket Officer's Report

We performed four concerts this season all of which were in the Cathedral. Following Covid 19 lock downs and people's spending power under pressure, there was some concern over whether tickets sales would hold up. I am delighted to say that they did, with total sales of 2,133 and income of £39,493 (£42,760 before on-line payment charges and other costs).

It was also the first year of our move away from cash and cheque sales with the vast majority of both public and member sales being made via our website and Ticket Source, reducing considerably the work of not only selling the tickets but also the accounting required.

Events

Gloria: 5 November 2022 - Ticket sales 290 with income £4,997.

Carol Concerts: 13 and 14 December 2022 - Ticket sales and net income for both nights 1,184 and £20,523.

Monteverdi Vespers: 18 March 2023 - Ticket sales 561 and income £12,155.

Annual workshop: 13th May 2023 in the Mint Methodist Church - The Armed Man/ Karl Jenkins - Ticket sales to visitors 98 with income of £1,818.

For the 2023/24 season, most tickets will be available from 1 August and the only discount will be 10% when 10 tickets are bought at the same time. For those under 18, students and those on Universal Credit tickets will be £5 for all Cathedral concerts.

David Griffith

General

The Trustees confirm that the major risks to which the Choir is exposed are reviewed regularly and that systems are in place through regular Treasurer's reports to the Executive Committee to manage those risks. There have been no serious incidents during the year.

The Trustees wish to thank all those members and supporters who undertake a wide variety of designated tasks throughout the year, enabling the Choir to work as an effective team consistently delivering performances of a high standard.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The Trustees 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.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the Charity on 31 August 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Stephen Jupp

Stephen Jupp

Trustee

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Exeter Philharmonic Choir

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Belinda Roome

Belinda Roome BSc ACA
Rowan House Accountants
5 Earl Richards Road North
Exeter
EX2 6AQ

Date: 31 August 2023

Exeter Philharmonic Choir
Receipts and Payments account for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year - restated
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	2,962	-	2,962	156
Subscriptions (including gift element)	15,388	-	15,388	10,862
Gift aid claimed	3,831	-	3,831	-
Concert income	42,760	-	42,760	39,192
Fundraising, sales of goods programmes and advertising	6,261	-	6,261	8,073
Dividend and interest income	1,778	-	1,778	1,665
Tour income	-	20,654	20,654	4,312
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	72,980	20,654	93,634	64,260
Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	72,980	20,654	93,634	64,260
Payments				
Music director, orchestra and choir fees	33,973	-	33,973	36,844
On-line sales commission and bank charges	1,852	50	1,902	2,204
Venue and other concert expenses	14,033	-	14,033	18,639
Publicity and advertising	6,510	-	6,510	2,087
Fundraising and cost of goods sold	3,007	-	3,007	1,538
Administration and insurance costs	3,217	-	3,217	1,394
Gifts	154	-	154	159
Tour expenditure	-	17,018	17,018	2,767
Governance costs	825	-	825	750
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63,571	17,068	80,639	66,382
Asset and investment purchases	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments	63,571	17,068	80,639	66,382
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net receipts/(payments)	9,409	3,586	12,995	(2,122)
Cash funds last year end	28,433	3,496	31,929	34,051
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds this year end	37,842	7,082	44,924	31,929
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Exeter Philharmonic Choir
(Registration number: 1043617)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30 June 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Last year £
Cash funds				
Cash floats	215	-	215	329
Current accounts	33,991	7,082	41,073	28,058
COIF deposit accounts	3,636	-	3,636	3,542
Total cash funds	<u>37,842</u>	<u>7,082</u>	<u>44,924</u>	<u>31,929</u>
Other monetary assets				
No other monetary assets held	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Market Value	Market Value Last year
COIF Charities Investment Fund - Income Units (Current value is the bid market value at the period end)	Unrestricted	£45,000	£57,985	£56,201
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Market Value	
No other assets held	-	-	-	
Liabilities	Fund to which asset belongs	Amount due	When due	
Venue fees due to Exeter Cathedral for the March 2023 Vespers Concert	Unrestricted	£3,650	On receipt of invoice	

Notes to the accounts

- 1) Restricted funds represent amounts raised by the Choir members for future tours and social events.
- 2) The comparative figures for the year ended 30 June 2022 have been restated following a change of accounting preparation basis to a Receipts and Payments basis. Previously the financial statements were prepared on a Full Accruals basis.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 15 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 31 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Stephen Jupp *Stephen Jupp*
Trustee

Geoff Poad *Geoff Poad*
Trustee.

EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1043617

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1043617

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Rowan House Accountants

5 Earl Richards Road North

Exeter, EX2 6AQ

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

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Exeter Philharmonic Choir
Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Mr Roland Chant*

Mrs Victoria Henderson

Mrs Margaret Humbert

Mr Stephen Jupp

Ms Adrienne Long*

Mr Geoff Poad*

Ms Jade Passfield**

Mrs Ann Weiler

President Ms Jenny Lloyd

Principal Office 6 Greenway
Crediton
EX17 3LP

Charity Registration Number 1043617

Bankers The Cooperative Bank plc
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner Rowan House Accountants
5 Earl Richards Road North
Exeter
EX2 6AQ

* Mr Tony Davies and Mrs Claire Whewell resigned on 18 October 2021. Mr Geoff Poad, Ms Adrienne Long and Mr Roland Chant were elected at the AGM on 18 October 2021.

** Ms Jade Ridler changed her name to Passfield in August 2022.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Exeter Philharmonic Choir ('the Choir') for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Governance

The Choir was founded in 1846 and is currently governed by a revised constitution adopted on 16 October 2017. The Choir is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission (registration number: 1043617).

Under the terms of the revised Constitution, the Officers of the Choir (Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting for a maximum term of three years and are eligible for re-election for one further 3-year term. The affairs of the Choir are managed by an Executive Committee (whose members also constitute the Trustees) which includes the Officers plus up to five other members who are elected from members of the Choir for a period of three years, eligible for re-election for one further 3-year term. The President is an ex-officio non-voting member of the committee, elected from the members of the Choir at the Annual General Meeting for a term of three years, and is eligible for re-election for one further 3-year term.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Choir is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation to the public of choral or orchestral concerts and recitals and by such other means as the Choir may decide upon from time to time; the Choir shall also operate as aforesaid in support of the general purposes of such charitable bodies or of such other activities of an exclusively charitable nature as its Executive Committee may from time to time decide.

Policies

In response to the Charity Commissioners' guidance to charitable bodies concerning the policies which should form part of their organisational constitutions, the Committee has reviewed and updated the Choir's policies in the course of 2018-19. Exeter Philharmonic Choir has established policies covering the following areas: Regulated Activity in Relation to Children and Adults; Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Loyalties; Complaints Handling; Anti-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities; and Safeguarding. These have been placed on the Choir's website and are available should the Commissioners wish to see them.

Chairman's Report

We are delighted to end our 175th anniversary year under far more favourable circumstances than we began it. At the start of our singing year, in September 2021, we resumed rehearsals under Covid-19 restrictions, being socially distanced and wearing face masks to minimise the risk of transmission. Our first concert, after the enforced 18-month absence, featured the *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré and aimed to bring beauty and consolation to our Cathedral audience and members. Having sung Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in March 2020, immediately before the first pandemic lockdown, then this concert in November 2021, we were able to maintain the Choir's record of having sung to the people of Exeter in every year since its foundation.

Whilst we enjoyed the easing of restrictions over the summer and into early autumn, the return of a new and more transmissible strain of the Covid-19 virus led to concerns that our two Christmas Carol Concerts in Exeter Cathedral might be in jeopardy. The income from these concerts is crucial for the

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report - continued

Choir's ability to bring internationally renowned orchestras and soloists to the city to perform with us at least once per year. Fortunately, we were able to perform these concerts with superb support from Isca Voices and near capacity audiences.

2022 arrived with much uncertainty again surrounding our planned Lord Mayor's Concert of the Brahms *Requiem* in the Cathedral in March. Fortune was kind to us and we were able to go ahead with excellent soloists and the London Mozart Players under our Musical Director, Howard Ionascu, who was an inspiration and brought unflagging enthusiasm and optimism during the year.

Our final concert, in Exmouth in May was Sacred Jazz, in which we were led by Stephen Tanner, our Associate Director of Music. We gave the first performances of Stephen's *Jazz Te Deum* and *Jubilate Deo*, composed during lockdown, in an exciting and joyful programme with accompaniment from Andrew Downton and his colleagues. The Choir very much enjoyed singing such varied repertoire.

For some time, the Choir has been seeking ways of diversifying its offering to members and this year saw the inaugural EPC Pilgrimage over a weekend in late September 2021. This involved 28 singers, partners and friends walking the St Michael's Way and singing in three churches in farthest Cornwall. The route ran from Lelant via Ludgvan to St Michael's Mount where, on a sunny early autumn afternoon, the group crossed the causeway and, at the invitation of Lord and Lady St Levan, sang in the beautiful chapel on the Mount. We are indebted to Ann Weiler and Stuart Mole who managed the entire enterprise brilliantly. Everyone involved enjoyed their weekend so much that further pilgrimages are planned.

These activities depend on far more than the Committee members for their success. Among many others, the Choir is grateful to Geoff Poad, who manages concerts and ticketing with support from David Griffith and Andy Henderson and others; Monika Mackenzie and Valerie Shepard, who do great work to publicise our concerts; Chris Burns, who helps to raise extra funds through our Singing Mornings, and all the many other unsung stalwarts who work tirelessly to enable us to enjoy our singing and provide Exeter and the surrounding area with high quality choral music.

The readiness of members to become willing volunteers is absolutely essential for that success to continue. We do, of course, recognise that family and work commitments make such a commitment impossible for some but we encourage all those with time and the capacity to consider how they might be able to make that contribution, no matter how small.

Looking to the future, a working group from the Committee is considering how best to attract new members to the Choir. A survey has been undertaken and a strategy established to ensure that Exeter Philharmonic Choir will continue for many years to provide all the benefits of singing to its members and the enjoyment of our performances to local audiences.

Finally, as chairman of the Trustees, I thank all my hard-working and astute colleagues on the Committee as well as our Director of Music and Associate Director of Music. What could be a heavy duty is made enjoyable by the energy, enthusiasm and ability of my colleagues.

Steve Jupp

Chairman/Trustee

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report - continued

Secretary's Report

Achievements and Performance

EPC have had yet another busy year. It was so good to be 'back in business' following the enforced break caused by the pandemic. Howard and Stephen have both worked very hard to help members move back to their previous high performance standards. The music was carefully selected by Howard and Stephen for the season's celebration of EPC's 175 uninterrupted years of performance since its foundation in 1846 – quite an achievement!

We have continued to work hard at internal fundraising, much of which comes from members' generosity at our Saturday Singing Mornings. Sadly, the public workshop in February was cancelled owing to concerns about the rise in Covid-19 in Exeter at that time. Instead, some open rehearsals were scheduled for April and September, to link in with a planned recruitment drive. In addition, we have also contributed to fundraising for other charities: 'Families for Children' at the Carol Concerts (£3,223.24); and 'Inclusive Exeter' at the Lord Mayor's concert in March (£359.09)

We have again been privileged to have sung with a variety of soloists and orchestras, who have contributed greatly to the success of our performances.

Autumn Concert in Exeter Cathedral

We began the year by performing a selection of music: Palestrina *Sicut cervus*; Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*; Rachmaninov *Bogoroditsye Dyevo*; Brahms *Geistliches Lied*; Hawes *Quanta Qualia*. The Choir relished the challenge of singing in Latin, French, Russian and German. The second half of the programme was a rendition of Fauré *Requiem*. The Choir was ably accompanied by Devon Amici, led by Julie Hill, with organ provided by Stephen Tanner, and excellent soloists: Lucy Cronin (soprano); James Geidt (bass).

Carol Concerts in Exeter Cathedral

A selection of well-known festive choral works interspersed with traditional carols for all to sing, in the wonderful setting of Exeter Cathedral. This year the Choir was joined by special guests Isca Voices, directed by Stephen Tanner.

Spring Concert in Exeter Cathedral

The concert began with a performance of Gerald Finzi's *Lo, the full, final sacrifice*, usually accompanied by the organ but here heard with the rare orchestral version. The performance included short solo contributions from EPC members: tenor Stuart Mole and bass Martin Stubbings.

The main work was Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*: a major milestone in Brahms's career, being 'the longest and most grandly scored piece he would ever write'. This work presented a real challenge, as the Choir sings in all seven movements, a demanding stay of stamina throughout the 70+ minutes of the work. Despite this, Howard Ionascu and EPC members 'managed to keep the energy levels high, with no less vigour in the great fugue of the sixth movement than that which ends the third'.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report - continued

Accompanying EPC were the London Mozart Players, who provided warm, high quality support, Stephen Tanner (organ) and two fine singers who took on the solo roles in the Brahms: Jessica Cale (soprano) and Timothy Nelson (baritone)

Summer Concert in Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth

It was a pleasure to sing again in the excellent acoustics of Holy Trinity, and the Choir thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The concert, conducted by Stephen Tanner, the Choir's Associate Director of Music, focused on the theme of 'Sacred Jazz'.

The evening began with Will Todd's *Songs of Peace*, followed by three traditional spirituals (arr. Stephen Tanner), and an accomplished performance by Stephen and Andrew Downton of Richard Rodney Bennett's *Four Piece Suite: Divertimento for Two Pianos*. The concert ended with the first performances of Stephen Tanner's *Jazz Te Deum and Jubilate Deo*, which fused two familiar sacred texts with music in the jazz idiom; this was composed during the first months of lockdown.

Accompanying the Choir were Andrew Downton (piano); Steve Wiltshire (saxophones); Phil Williams (bass) and Ryan Carter (drums).

Victoria Henderson

Secretary/Trustee

Treasurer's Report

Financial Review

This year has been a long journey for the Choir first in bringing everyone back together again and then in embarking on a new programme of concerts, with little certainty as to what lay ahead. It is probably hard to remember now the restrictions due to Covid-19 we were under last summer, and how difficult it was for me, as Treasurer, to budget for the year. Since it was impossible to predict ticket income or how keen the public would be to return to large gatherings and therefore ticket income, I started the year anticipating large losses to be funded out of reserves. There was also always the risk of further lockdowns and last-minute cancellations, which would have had a severe impact on finances.

Revenue

Despite some uncertain times during the year, particularly around the time of the Christmas Carol Concerts, all concerts went ahead as planned and ticket income has been reasonable, though still below previous years. This meant that a large (and anticipated) loss on the 175th anniversary concert was largely offset by other concerts. As a result we are ending this year with a small trading loss, which is in line with the subscription income we forewent this year in order to recompense members for being offered few activities in the previous (Covid-19) year. However, subscriptions for 2022–23 will need to return again to their previous level. This is so that the Choir can run a balanced budget within a year. It is also due to rising costs associated with inflation, which is currently running at over 10 per cent, and the Choir having to hire someone to do many of my current functions as finance officer (no volunteer having been forthcoming).

As well as subscriptions (Members and Patrons/Friends) and ticket sales, the Choir receives income from HMRC in the form of Gift Aid (we are making this claim at the time of writing), interest on our reserves, and some fundraising activities, which are detailed elsewhere in this report.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

Policy on Reserves

It is the Trustees' policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover one year of planned concerts and rehearsals. At time of writing our unrestricted reserves were £86,000 against projected expenditure of £60,500 in 2022–23 and £68,500 in 2023-24. Around 65 per cent of reserves are held in investments on which a reasonable income is paid against current bank interest rates. Unfortunately, these investments have been on a roller coaster ride this year, climbing steadily up to January, and then falling away steeply as various global economic woes, a stuttering post-Covid recovery, runaway inflation, the Ukraine War and sky-high energy prices, afflicted the country. These investments are currently showing a small (unrealised) loss in comparison with 30 June 2021 but still remained above their original value.

Public Benefit

In planning our activities the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including the relationship between public benefit and fee charging. We rely primarily on the income from ticket sales and membership subscriptions to cover our operating costs. In setting the levels of ticket prices and subscriptions the Trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Choir and its concert for those on low incomes.

Hence we encourage singers to join us whatever their means. The full subscription is £150 a year (payable in two instalments (September and January)), with a substantially reduced subscription for those in full-time education. The Treasurer in conjunction with the Trustees will also deal on a case-by-case basis and in confidence to offer anyone finding difficulty in paying the full subscription a reduced subscription.

For concerts we offer a range of ticket prices to suit different incomes. We also offer 50 per cent reduction to children, students and those on unemployment benefit.

None of our Trustees/Committee Members (with the exception of the Director of Music who is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee) receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Choir, nor do they have any close connections with any artist professionally engaged by the Choir.

The Future

Looking ahead, we have been able to plan with more confidence and already have in place an exciting programme of concerts up to Summer 2025. With this in mind, I urge all members to help in publicising our concerts as widely as possible. The more income the Choir can generate from ticket sales, the tighter the cap we can keep on subscriptions.

Finally I should like to thank Michaela Manning for her work on Gift Aid, Elizabeth Matthews for helping with subscriptions, Charlotte Hodgson for managing our music library and music hiring costs, and all the Committee for their support and hard work this year. This is my final report as I am retiring after three years as Treasurer in the autumn. It has been a great pleasure to serve the Choir in this regard, to see it through some challenging times, and, I hope, to be leaving it in a secure financial position for the future.

Margaret Humbert

Treasurer/Trustee

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

Tour Manager's Report

Choral Pilgrimage along St Michael's Way, 24–26 September 2021

After the Choir's tour of Poland in 2020 fell victim to the pandemic and members were subjected to lockdown and isolation, there was a strong desire to sing together again. The solution was a choral pilgrimage along St Michael's Way in Cornwall – a 12-mile route taken by pilgrims since the Middle Ages, who would pause and sing in several churches on their way to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. This was replicated by the 'Pilgrims' Chorus', 28 Choir members who signed up and attended rehearsals to learn the exciting and varied repertoire under the expert direction of our Assistant Director, Stephen Tanner. The pilgrimage was a great success and proved what a magical combination walking, talking and singing can be to improve one's morale and to strengthen friendships within the Choir. Another pilgrimage is already being planned for August 2022.

Ann Weiler

Tour Manager/Trustee

General

The Trustees confirm that the major risks to which the Choir is exposed are reviewed regularly and that systems are in place through regular Treasurer's reports to the Executive Committee to manage those risks. There have been no serious incidents during the year.

The Trustees wish to thank all those members and supporters who undertake a wide variety of designated tasks throughout the year, enabling the Choir to work as an effective team consistently delivering performances of a high standard.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Trustees' Report – continued

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The Trustees 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.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the Charity on 14 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

S Jupp

Stephen Jupp

Trustee

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Exeter Philharmonic Choir

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2022 which are set out on pages 12 to 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Belinda Roome

Belinda Roome BSc ACA
Rowan House Accountants
5 Earl Richards Road North
Exeter
EX2 6AQ

Date: 14 September 2022

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	12,048	-	12,048
Charitable activities	3	39,772	2,817	42,589
Other trading activities	4	7,802	-	7,802
Investment income	5	1,665	-	1,665
Total Income		<u>61,287</u>	<u>2,817</u>	<u>64,104</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	(1,538)	-	(1,538)
Charitable activities	7	(62,043)	(2,877)	(64,920)
Total Expenditure		<u>(63,581)</u>	<u>(2,877)</u>	<u>(66,458)</u>
Net income		(2,294)	(60)	(2,354)
Net (losses) on investments		(3,113)	-	(3,113)
Net movement on funds		(5,407)	(60)	(5,467)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>91,424</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>91,515</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>86,017</u></u>	<u><u>31</u></u>	<u><u>86,048</u></u>
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	14,928	-	14,928
Charitable activities	3	721	-	721
Other trading activities	4	-	-	-
Investment income	5	1,618	-	1,618
Total Income		<u>17,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,267</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	-	-	-
Charitable activities	7	(6,864)	-	(6,864)
Total Expenditure		<u>(6,864)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,864)</u>
Net Income		10,403	-	2,540
Net gains on investments		7,666	-	1,419
Net movement on funds		18,069	-	18,069
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>73,355</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>73,446</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>91,424</u></u>	<u><u>91</u></u>	<u><u>91,515</u></u>

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir
(Registration number: 1043617)
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	11	56,201	59,314
Current assets			
Debtors	12	3,160	870
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>31,928</u>	<u>34,051</u>
		35,088	34,921
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(5,241)	(2,720)
		<u>29,847</u>	<u>32,201</u>
Net Current assets		<u>86,048</u>	<u>91,515</u>
Restricted income funds		31	91
Unrestricted income funds		<u>86,017</u>	<u>91,424</u>
Total funds	14	<u>86,048</u>	<u>91,515</u>

The financial statements on pages 12 to 20 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 14 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

S Jupp

Stephen Jupp
Trustee

Margaret Humbert

Margaret Humbert
Trustee

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Exeter Philharmonic Choir meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The Charity opted to adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The uncertainties resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic have subsided and the risks of cancellation of rehearsals and concerts; the reduction in subscription income if absent members do not return; and restrictions on audience numbers resulting in reduced ticket sales, have been reduced. With net assets of £86,048 and budgeted outgoings for 2022-23 of £60,500, the Trustees consider that there are currently no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and the settlement date.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the Charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Membership subscriptions

Income from membership subscriptions is largely considered to be of the nature of a gift and is recognised on the same basis as a donation. Any element considered to relate to the right to services is recognised as income from charitable activities.

Trading and other income

Trading and other income is recognised when the Charity has an entitlement to the funds and conditions of the supply of goods or services have been met. Where these conditions have yet to be met or services have yet to be supplied the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. Interest on cash deposits is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity.

Expenditure – including creditors

All expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs, such as governance and other support costs, cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to applicable expenditure headings on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Expenditure outstanding at the year end is measured at the transaction price and included within Creditors.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the Charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and Trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustee's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their original transaction cost and subsequently measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted bid market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Debtors

Debtors, including accrued ticket sales and event sponsorship income, are measured at their recoverable amount at the balance sheet date that is the transaction value less any impairment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Donations and legacies;				
Gift aid reclaimed	1,610	-	1,610	2,020
Donations and legacies received	156	-	156	105
Membership subscriptions – gift element	10,282	-	10,282	12,803
	<u>12,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,048</u>	<u>14,928</u>

3 Income from Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Concerts	39,186	-	39,186	-
Membership subscriptions – non-gift element	579	-	579	721
Social functions (including tour receipts)	7	2,817	2,824	-
	<u>39,772</u>	<u>2,817</u>	<u>42,589</u>	<u>721</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Trading income			
Sales of goods and services	3,178	3,178	-
Local fundraising	1,469	1,469	-
Advertising and sponsorship income	3,155	3,155	-
	<u>7,802</u>	<u>7,802</u>	<u>-</u>

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Dividend income from fixed asset investments	1,665	1,665	1,617
Interest receivable from bank deposits	-	-	1
	1,665	1,665	1,618

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Direct costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs of generating donations and legacies	-	-	-
Costs of trading activities	1,538	1,538	-
	1,538	1,538	-

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Concerts and support costs	61,059	61,059	6,114
Social events and gifts	3,036	3,036	-
Governance	825	825	750
	64,920	64,920	6,864

Of the above expenditure for the year, £2,877 was attributable to restricted funds and £62,043 was attributable to unrestricted funds (2021: All expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds). Support costs of £1,394 (2021: £1,767) comprising: software subscriptions, insurance, website, telephone and postage costs are allocated to the Charity's main activity of concert performance and rehearsals.

8 Analysis of governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Independent Examiner's remuneration	825	825	750
	825	825	750

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

With the exception of the reimbursement of out of pocket expenses, there were no amounts payable in respect of the Trustees during the year to 30 June 2022 (2021 - £nil).

Other volunteers provide concert organisation, administration and fundraising support throughout the year. No amounts are payable to volunteers for these services.

There have been no related party transactions in the period (2021 - none).

10 Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Fixed Asset Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Fair value as at 1 July 2021	59,314	51,648
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	(3,113)	7,666
Market value as at 30 June 2022	<u>56,201</u>	<u>59,314</u>

The investments are held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund, Income units. These holdings are valued at their fair value, being bid price, at the balance sheet date. Investment sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost. The net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year are shown in the Statement of financial activities.

12 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income – including Gift Aid tax recoverable	<u>3,160</u>	<u>870</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	3,465	1,970
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,776</u>	<u>750</u>
	<u>5,241</u>	<u>2,720</u>

Other creditors comprise deposits, amounting to £3,465, held on behalf of members for tours and social events planned to take place during the current year ending on 30 June 2023 (2021: £1,970).

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance at 30 June 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted general funds	91,424	61,287	(66,694)	86,017
Restricted funds				
Choir tour/social functions	91	2,817	(2,877)	31
Total funds	<u>91,515</u>	<u>64,104</u>	<u>(69,571)</u>	<u>86,048</u>

	Balance at 1 July 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 30 June 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted general funds	73,355	24,933	(6,864)	91,424
Restricted funds				
Choir tour/social functions	91	-	-	91
Total funds	<u>73,446</u>	<u>24,933</u>	<u>(6,864)</u>	<u>91,515</u>

The specific purposes for which the restricted funds are to be applied are as follows:

During the financial year to 30 June 2022, member contributions received as deposits in the previous financial year for concert tours and social events have been utilised. At 30 June 2022, all outstanding deposits for tours which were cancelled in 2021 have been refunded to members. Further deposits amounting to £3,465 are being held on behalf of members for social events and tours, which are yet to take place.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	56,201	-	56,201
Current assets	31,592	3,496	35,088
Current liabilities	(1,776)	(3,465)	(5,241)
	86,017	31	86,048
Total net assets	86,017	31	86,048

16 Analysis of movements in net assets

	At 1 July 2021	Movement	At 30 June 2022
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	59,314	(3,113)	56,201
Cash at bank and in hand	34,051	(2,123)	31,928
Accrued income and other debtors	870	2,290	3,160
Current liabilities	(2,720)	(2,521)	(5,241)
	91,515	(5,467)	86,048
Total net assets	91,515	(5,467)	86,048