

# Hackney Festival Chorus

England & Wales · Charity number 1175007

## Details

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Other names	ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM FESTIVAL CHORUS, THE FESTIVAL CHORUS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2017-10-06
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Website	<a href="http://www.festivalchorushackney.org.uk">www.festivalchorushackney.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE:1. TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THEART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDINGTHROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS;

**Activities:** to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Hackney

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£26,448	£22,678	-	-
2024-08-31	£21,736	£21,752	-	-
2023-08-31	£20,434	£20,143	-	-
2022-08-31	£16,686	£17,802	-	-
2021-08-31	£4,635	£7,789	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANNE DAVIES		2017-07-20
Dr PAUL JULIAN MRCP FRCGP		2017-07-17
Elizabeth Taylor		2020-10-18

**Hackney Festival Chorus**

England & Wales - Charity number 1175007

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# Accounts

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## **Annual report 2025 to the Charity Commission from St. John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus**

### **Report of the trustees for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

The Trustees of St John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus present the annual report and accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2025, which have been independently scrutinised, and the report is attached.

### **Charity's Structure**

The choir adopted Making Music's Model Constitution for use by unincorporated associations in 2015. Originally established in 1997 and run by the local vicar and his musical family, it was free to join, and no charges were made for the performances. In 2008, the vicar retired and moved away. The members were keen to carry on but realised they had to pay a professional to conduct. Subscriptions were introduced for choir membership, with three levels: standard, reduced (50%) rate and concessions (25%), but no one should be excluded on financial grounds, and these bands remain in place.

Supported by Making Music, we became a registered charity in 2017. Gift Aid has allowed us to flourish and keep our concerts free to all.

We are run by a committee of nine choir members with a chair, a secretary and a treasurer. Each member has a designated role in the management of the choir.

We meet twice a term and have an AGM in October/November.

**Our purpose** is to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

### **Our Activities**

To achieve our purpose as widely as possible, all our concerts are free. We request a donation for those who can afford it as they leave the concert.

Our choir is open to all without audition. Our membership fees are matched by similar choirs in our area, but no one is excluded on financial grounds.

We perform at least two concerts a year, one in the autumn and one in the spring, with a full orchestra, professional soloists and a professional conductor. In the summer, we hold workshops for the choir to improve their technique, which are similarly open to all and conducted by professional musicians.

We run social activities, such as Ceilidhs, Burns Nights and Quizzes, that raise funds for the choir to advance its purposes.

We have also established a link with two choirs in Hackney's twin town of Suresnes, near Paris and over the years, since 2005, we have performed joint concerts with them. As well as the social and cultural benefits of this link, we have also been able in recent years to meet up roughly every two years and perform larger works now that we are twinned with a bigger choir in Suresnes. which runs on similar lines to our own'.

We have moved our rehearsal venue from St John of Jerusalem Church, which was cold and ill-lit, to Hampden Chapel nearby, which is warm and well-lit. The move has been welcomed by all. Our conductor is pleased he can now easily see and hear everyone. Our concerts continue to be staged at St John of Jerusalem church.

We generate income by selling advertising space in our programmes, and raise money by selling programmes, refreshments, snacks, at our concerts and through exit collections.

## Annual report 2025 to the Charity Commission from St. John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus

Our choir has a rolling but steady membership of about 65 to 70. We were keen to attract a younger and more diverse membership. A questionnaire to members in September 2024 showed very positive results. However, newer members mentioned difficulties in finding us when they moved into the area: web searches had not revealed us. As a result of the questionnaire, we took a vote on a new working name for the choir at our AGM<sup>1</sup>, which overwhelmingly voted to change our 'working name' to *Hackney Festival Chorus*, hoping that 'Hackney' as the initial word in our title would score more hits when people searched on the web. This produced an immediate effect, with a younger, more ethnically diverse group joining, who engaged in the choir and quickly became committee members.

### Financial Performance

We made a profit of £3,000 this year, due mostly to our social activities.

Our working capital was above £7,000.

### Financial Position

We aim to enter the autumn and winter terms with reserves to cover the cost of rehearsals and the concert for that term of at least £7,000.

This year, we carried forward £10,811, more than we have done since the lockdown years, when our expenses were low as we were unable to perform publicly, while members still paid subs.

Extract from The AGM October 2024 with relevant text highlighted.

It explains the decisions to change our rehearsal venue and to change our name.

Report on questionnaire to choir- Rosemary Sales

5.1 Main findings were positive

- We love singing
- We sing to a high standard
- We have a great musical team
- We enjoy the social aspect of the choir.

5.2 We have taken on the issue of finding an alternative for rehearsals.

5.3 Discussion about new name. -Suggestions provided in report

5.4 St. John of Jerusalem implies we are part of the church.

5.5 Because hackney is at end of our name it doesn't come up in searches.

5.6 Discussion points raised

- Keep Hackney in the title
- Festival is part of our name, keeps it simple on website
- Choral Society might sound off putting
- New member thought we were called Hackney Festival Chorus
- Would we lose connection with the church?

5.7 Vote took place on new name. Hackney Festival Chorus had the overwhelming majority of votes.

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<sup>1</sup> See attached, the minutes of our AGM; paras 5.1 to 5.7 are included at the bottom of the main text above.

# Treasurer's report for 2025 AGM

<i>Saint John of Jerusalem</i> <b>Festival Chorus</b>		Annual accounts		Comments on variation in between years of more than 10%
		Statement of Financial Activity [SoFA]		
		Year to 31 Aug 2025	Year to 31 Aug 2024	
<b>Incoming resources</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Subs	10,606	10,136		
Collections	2,024	2,572		Exit card donations working less well, in the crush to get out
Programme Sales	448	258		Better sales system
Bar takings	1,887	1,237		Louisa's internet booster working well in the interval
Adverts in programmes	1,450	1,350		
Fund raising				
1. Workshop	409	535		
2. Ceilidh/Burns Night/Quiz	3,782	2,115		More income from Burns Night than Ceilidh
3. Donations	826	629		More choir member donations
3. Table Top Sale	383	0		
4. Carol Singing	484	411		Nearly all by card payments now, encourages donations
Gift Aid + GASDS	2,476	2,467		
Purchases from FC	95	0		Sold off wine stocks & SJJ table top sale
Scores	0	26		
Refunds	0	75		
French meal in April 2025	1,580	0		No French meal last year
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>26,448</b>	<b>21,811</b>		
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Rehearsals	5,090	4,500		Cost of 2 extra rehearsals
Performers at concerts	8,805	8,315		
Workshops	460	683		Fewer workshops this year
Church Venue costs	1,790	3,530		Two years paid in 2023/24
Hire of loos & chairs	1,163	1,128		
Music hire	606	476		Increased costs
Print Flyers/Posters/Prog	296	490		Fewer copies printed
Fundraising expenses	2,558	934		Increase, matched by increased income
Website	123	53		Increased costs
Wine for the bar	333	558		Previous year's cellar carried over
Organ tuning	0	245		
Sundries	253	181		
Insurance	718	323		Increased due to turnover going up and breaching £21,000
Donations [Carol singing] SCF	483	411		
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>22,678</b>	<b>21,827</b>		
<b>Net change in funds</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>-16</b>		
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>7,042</b>	<b>7,057</b>		
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>10,811</b>	<b>7,042</b>		

Signed 

Liz Taylor  
Chair

Signed 

Paul Julian  
Treasurer

Dated 16/11/2025

Date 16/11/2025



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees</b>	St John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31/8/25	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1175007
	<b>Set out on pages</b> 3 to 4		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 08 / 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**Signed:**  **Date:**

**Name:**

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

**Address:**

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period  
from

01/09/2024

To

31/08/2025

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Subscriptions	10,606	-	-	10,606	10,136
Collections	2,024	-	-	2,024	2,572
Programme sales	448	-	-	448	258
Bar takings	1,887	-	-	1,887	1,237
Adverts in programmes	1,450	-	-	1,450	1,350
Fundraising: Workshop	408	-	-	408	-
Fundraising: Ceilidh/Burns Night/Quiz	3,782	-	-	3,782	535
Fundraising: Donations	826	-	-	826	2,115
Fundraising: Table Top Sale	383	-	-	383	629
Fundraising: Carol Singing	483	-	-	483	-
Gift Aid + GASDS	2,476	-	-	2,476	411
Purchases from FC	95	-	-	95	2,467
Scores	-	-	-	-	-
Refunds	-	-	-	-	26
French meal in April 2025	1,580	-	-	1,580	75
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>26,448</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,448</b>	<b>21,811</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>26,448</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,448</b>	<b>21,811</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Rehearsals	5,090	-	-	5,090	4,500
Performers at concerts	8,805	-	-	8,805	8,315
Workshops	460	-	-	460	683
Church Venue costs	1,790	-	-	1,790	3,530
Hire of loos & chairs	1,163	-	-	1,163	1,128
Music hire	606	-	-	606	476
Print Flyers/Posters/Prog	296	-	-	296	490
Fundraising expenses	2,558	-	-	2,558	934
Website	123	-	-	123	53
Wine for the bar	333	-	-	333	558
Organ tuning	-	-	-	-	245
Sundries	253	-	-	253	181
Insurance	718	-	-	718	323
Donations [Carol singing] SCF	483	-	-	483	411
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>22,678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,678</b>	<b>21,827</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>22,678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,678</b>	<b>21,827</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>16</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,041	-	-	7,041	7,057
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>10,811</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,811</b>	<b>7,041</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	10,811	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>10,811</b>	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval