

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

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31st August 2025

The Trustees of St John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus present the annual report and accounts for the year ending 31st 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.

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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 AGM¹, 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.

¹ 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

<div>Saint John of Jerusalem</div> <div>Festival Chorus</div>		Annual accounts		
		Statement of Financial Activity [SoFA]		
		Year to 31 Aug 2025	Year to 31 Aug 2024	
Incoming resources		£	£	
	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 April2025	1,580	0	No French meal last year
Total incoming resources		26,448	21,811	
Resources expended				
	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	
Total resources expended		22,678	21,827	
Net change in funds		3,770	-16	
Gross transfers between funds		0	0	
Total funds brought forward		7,042	7,057	
Total funds carried forward		10,811	7,042	


Signed



Liz Taylor
Chair

Dated 16/11/2025

Signed



Paul Julian
Treasurer

Date 16/11/2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	St John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus		
On accounts for the year ended	31/8/25	Charity no (if any)	1175007
Set out on pages	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: 14/1/26

Name: David Gareth Richards

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): None

Address: 19 Constance Street, London E16 2DQ

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 £
A1 Receipts					
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
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	26,448	-	-	26,448	21,811
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	26,448	-	-	26,448	21,811
A3 Payments					
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
Sub total	22,678	-	-	22,678	21,827
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	22,678	-	-	22,678	21,827
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,770	-	-	3,770	16
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,041	-	-	7,041	7,057
Cash funds this year end	10,811	-	-	10,811	7,041

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	10,811	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,811	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	