

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

**CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1197192**

**DAINS AUDIT LTD
Chartered Accountants
St John's Court
Wiltell Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9DS**

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS

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**LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

Reference and Administrative information

Honorary President: Mr David Cliffe

The Trustees who served during the year are:-

Mrs Charlotte Groves	Chairman
Mr Mike Tighe	Secretary
Dr Paul Ecclestone-Brown	Treasurer & Ticket Officer
Mrs Robina Bettson	Choir Representative
Mrs Minna Andrews	Minutes Secretary
Mr John Skurr	Music Officer
Mr Nigel Lindsell	Choir Representative & Vice Chairman
Mr Stephen Bushill	Membership Secretary
Mrs Phillipa Allen-Simpson	Publicity Officer to 27 Oct 2023

Principal Address: Lichfield Cathedral Chorus
c/o Paul Ecclestone-Brown
153 Leomansley View
Lichfield
WS13 8AU

Registered Charity Number: 1197192

Independent Examiner: M Gurney FCCA, DChA
of Dains Audit Ltd
St John's Court
Wiltell Road
Lichfield
WS14 9DS

Principal Bankers: Cooperative Bank plc
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

**LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2024

The members of the Managing Committee present their report along with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 10 and comply with the Charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 effective 1 January 2019.

Structure, Governance and Management

Charity Number 1197192 is governed by its constitution and was registered with the Charity Commission on 17 December 2021 as a CIO.

Under the constitution there must be at least three trustees and not more than twenty. Trustees are appointed at the AGM. The first Trustees of the CIO retired from office at the first AGM on 16th November 2022. Those willing to continue were reappointed unopposed. In subsequent AGMs one-third of the trustees shall retire from office as set out in the Constitution. The Trustees normally meet six times per year to consider the Charity's affairs.

New Trustees are appointed from amongst the membership of the chorus.

Objects, Organisation and Activities

The Charity is established to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and foster 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 in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield and elsewhere and to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the charity trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, but in particular by the making of grants and donations.

Members of the chorus comprise:

- a) Performing members, who take part in the performance of choral works; and
- b) Patrons.

All members pay the annual subscription. The rates for 2023/2024 were set as follows:

Full subscription	£156
Students	£25
Patrons	£25 minimum

Ben Lamb, the Director of Music at the Cathedral, is our Musical Director. Liam Condon, formerly Honorary Assistant Organist at the Cathedral and Organist at St Alphege Church, Solihull, is our Accompanist.

In the event of winding up of the Chorus any surplus assets shall be given or transferred to an organisation having similar objects to those of the Chorus.

**LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**

Achievements and Performances

Our first concert in November was an ambitious combination of Leonard Bernstein's exciting *Chichester Psalms* and Bob Chilcott's 2019 composition, *Christmas Oratorio*. A disappointing size of audience and high music costs of performing less well-known music still in copyright meant that the performance ran at a loss of £2,747.

Our Christmas period was marked by three appearances of members of the choir. Two were financially risk free – singing carols at Shugborough Hall and at the Cathedral's Illuminations. As a departure from the norm, at the Cathedral's insistence, the Christmas Carols were put on as an event promoted by just the Chorus, rather than as a partnership between the Salvation Army, the Chorus and the Cathedral. The Cathedral charged the Chorus its charity rate for hire of the building. After long consideration, the Trustees decided not to charge for admission for the majority of the audience to preserve some of the community nature of a much-loved evening for many people in the area, however we were forced to charge for some reserved seating. The event ran at a loss of £2,037.

The spring term was dominated by a period of repertoire in which members rehearsed Bach's enormous St Matthew's Passion under the expert guidance of Ben and Liam.

Our Summer concert was truly a game of two halves in which the chorus performed Dvorak's rowdy football chants in his *Te Deum* in a new performing edition with reduced orchestra prepared for the Chorus by Paul Ecclestone-Brown. The spirit of the concert was rapidly transformed by a beautiful performance of Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, *Pavane* and *Requiem* ethereally accompanied by The Lichfield Camerata. The large orchestral forces required for the performance and a disappointingly small audience meant that a loss of £3,035 was made at this concert.

Financial Review

Costs have continued to increase significantly due to global inflationary pressures. The trustees have explored several ways of reducing cost and increasing revenue. We are looking for local corporate sponsorship, to ensure that we keep the price of concert tickets as affordable as possible, whilst being able to work with talented soloists and instrumental performers.

With the societal trend of Thursday night being the "new Friday night", the cathedral is now increasingly finding it hard to make the space available for use by the Chorus for rehearsals as its own commercial needs mean that it has had to increase the marketing of its space as a commercial venue. This means that the trustees have created a relationship with Lichfield Methodist Church for more regular use of its church as a rehearsal venue. This has increased venue hire costs for the Chorus.

After much deliberation, the trustees decided to set subscriptions at £175 per year for the 2024/25 season. Members are now able to pay these as a one-off sum or by continued use of the increasingly popular direct debit arrangement. As always, members who feel that they are unable to pay the full fees are welcome to confidentially request a lower rate to the treasurer or the chairman.

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances of the CIO organisation, which the Trustees consider to be sound. Free reserves at 31 July 2024 were £25,620 (£27,402 at 31 July 2023).

**LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**

This falls within the range agreed by the Trustees and is held to finance working capital requirements and cover any future shortfall in income.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and have complied with their duties under the Charities Act 2011.

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 applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 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 operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



.....
Charlotte Groves
Date: 27 June 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Mark Gurney FCCA, DChA
of Dains Audit Ltd
St. John's Court
Wiltell Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9DS

Date: 27 June 2025

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Income from:			
Subscriptions and donations	2	18,233	15,017
Concert income	3	8,888	16,061
Income from social events		141	191
Library income		1,246	1,120
Bank interest and investment income		695	626
Total Income		29,203	33,015
Expenditure on:			
General running expenditure	4	9,879	9,830
Concert expenditure	5	16,452	14,734
Expenditure on social events		125	157
Library expenditure		249	916
Scholarship expense		(300)	450
Grants to Lichfield Cathedral		4,762	6,762
Total Expenditure		31,167	32,849
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(1,964)	166
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on investment revaluation	8	1,393	(332)
Net movement in funds		(571)	(166)
Fund Balance brought forward		29,402	29,568
Fund Balance carried forward		28,831	29,402

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
BALANCE SHEET
31 JULY 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Music	7		3,211		2,000
Listed Investment	8		19,929		18,536
			<u>23,140</u>		<u>20,536</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
CBF Deposit Account		3,512		2,815	
Cooperative Bank		405		8,360	
Cash at hand		202		212	
Debtors	9	3,731		2,226	
		<u>7,850</u>		<u>13,613</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	10	(2,159)		(4,747)	
			5,691		8,866
NET ASSETS			<u>28,831</u>		<u>29,402</u>
FUNDS					
Income Fund			<u>28,831</u>		<u>29,402</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

These Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Paul Ecclestone-Brown
Date: 27 June 2025



Charlotte Groves
Date: 27 June 2025

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General

The accounts 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 effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value, with the exception of the music, which is included at valuation 31 July 1994 and increased with a purchase of music in August 2023 and investments which are shown at market value.

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions	15,217	10,335
Tax repayable on Gift Aid income	2,002	1,714
Patrons & Donations	1,014	2,968
	<u>18,233</u>	<u>15,017</u>

3. CONCERT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Concert income:		
Winter	3,310	5,424
Carol Concert	1,240	548
Spring	-	4,694
Summer	4,338	5,395
	<u>8,888</u>	<u>16,061</u>

4. GENERAL RUNNING EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
	£	£
Conductors and Accompanist	7,722	7,873
Rent of Room	593	314
Sundry Administration Expenditure	79	302
Adverts, Brochures and Website	540	247
Making Music Membership	675	544
Independent Examiner's Fee	270	550
	<u>9,879</u>	<u>9,830</u>

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)

5. CONCERT EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
	£	£
Concert income:		
Preceding years	(255)	(200)
Winter	6,057	8,147
Carol Concert	3,277	240
Spring	-	4,227
Summer	7,373	2,320
	<u>16,452</u>	<u>14,734</u>

6. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No Trustee or any person connected with them has received or is due to receive any remuneration or expenses for the year directly or indirectly from the Charity's funds.

No expenditure was made in relation to related parties.

7. MUSIC

	2024	2023
	£	£
Previously valued 31 st July 1994		
(Valued for insurance purposes £6,000 at 31 Jul 2024)		
Value at 1 August – year commencement	2,000	2,000
Additions to library	<u>1,211</u>	<u>-</u>
Value at 31 July – year end of holding	<u>3,211</u>	<u>2,000</u>

8. LISTED INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
857.46 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares		
Market Value at 1 August – year commencement	18,536	18,868
Increase/(Decrease) in Value of holding	<u>1,393</u>	<u>(332)</u>
Market Value at 31 July – year end of holding	<u>19,929</u>	<u>18,536</u>
Historic Cost	<u>9,573</u>	<u>9,573</u>

9. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	3,716	1,713
Direct Debit - subs	15	-
Prepayment – 2023 Carols Deposit	<u>-</u>	<u>513</u>
	<u>3,731</u>	<u>2,226</u>

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)

10. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Concert expenditure - performing rights levy payable	32	1,016
Concert expenditure	807	-
Grant to Lichfield Cathedral	-	2,381
Independent examiner	1,320	1,050
Scholarship payment	-	300
	<u>2,159</u>	<u>4,747</u>

11 CHARITY MERGER

The unincorporated charity Lichfield Cathedral Chorus, registered charity number 509833, transferred its assets to Lichfield Cathedral Chorus, a charitable incorporated organisation, registered charity number 1197192 on 5 May 2022.