

# CHESTER FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales · Charity number 1197852

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2022-02-09

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

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE THROUGH THE REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE OF HIGH QUALITY CHORAL MUSIC TO THE PUBLIC.

**Activities:** The choir provides an outlet for those who wish to sing at a high standard in a choir, and also improves their skills. It also provides the benefit of performances of music outside the usual choral repertoire for members of the public to enjoy. It also aims to make this music more accessible by gaining greater insight into the music e.g. via interviews with composers.

## Classification

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

## Geography

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- Cheshire West & Chester

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,037	£5,096	-	-
2024-03-31	£4,499	£4,351	-	-
2023-03-31	£7,688	£6,294	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Andy Ashton</b>	Chair	2021-09-09
CHRISTOPHER GREEN		2023-06-08
Caroline Thorne		2021-11-22
Elaine Jewkes		2026-02-18
MARGARET NEWMAN		2023-06-08
Rhiannon Jones		2023-06-08

**CHESTER FESTIVAL CHORUS**

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# Accounts

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# Chester Festival Chorus

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> June at 2145 in Hamilton Street Methodist Church

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### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Constitution changes (none)
5. Election of Office Bearers
6. New Musical Director
7. A.O.B
8. Closure

**CHESTER FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
9 June 2024 at Hamilton St Church  
16.35 onwards

**1. Apologies for absence:**

Andy Ashton, Chris Green, Ann McCarthy and Vicky Simons

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting:** nothing issuing.

**3. Chairman's report:** previously circulated. Noted that Andy's message is one of optimism and hope for the future, but that the choir's financial situation must be secured and, principally, that means selling tickets. Margaret Newman added that it's also pertinent to remember that CFC's raison d'être is to produce uplifting musical experiences and for the choir to continue to play an important role in Chester's choral tradition.

In summary, Andy expressed gratitude to all for their continued support of CFC, including Ellie for outstanding music directorship and sticking with us, Graham for excellent accompaniment, choir for happily and enthusiastically coming back each year and committee members for hard work behind the scenes.

**4. Treasurer's report:** also previously circulated. In addition to his report, Jon added that despite extra outlay for auditions, CFC's finances are on an even keel. However, as things stand, we cannot continue to hire Storyhouse because of overall cost constraints (NCO actually incurred a loss last year). So, if we are to put on ambitious programmes each summer, we have to ensure as full a house as possible and we can only do this through selling tickets. Jon said if each member of the choir sold just 3 tickets, we would reach an audience of 200 and derive an income of £3,600.

**5. Election of a committee (present incumbents standing for re-election)**

**Chairman:** Andy Ashton

**Treasurer:** Jon Saunby

**Publicity/programmes/minutes/deputy chair:** Chris Green

**Administration:** Margaret Newman

**Venue bookings and stage management:** Caroline Thorne

**Librarian/printing:** Rhiannon Jones

**Odd jobs/deputy minutes-taker:** Diane Rooney

Proposed: Helen Crich

Seconded: Linda Curran

**6. Any other business:** nothing raised and the meeting closed at 16.45.

## Chairman's Statement for AGM 2025 Chester Festival Chorus 16/6/25

Barack Obama once said "I know how to save the planet, but I don't know how to save the planet and get re-elected"

Similarly, it is difficult in a small choir to perform the music you like and still remain solvent.

Early last year we made the conscious decision to run in two years cycles of a non-Orchestra and then an Orchestra concert. Last year's concert, requiring only Piano and two pianists, made a surplus as we could perform in the low-cost venue of Wesley. What a concert that was! The stripped back 4 hand accompaniment of the Brahms Requiem on the piano allowed the beauty of the music to shine through, and the audience was stunned by Rory's Glimpse of the Light. Perfect Festival Chorus. High-quality music both within the mainstream of the repertoire and exploring new avenues as well.

The year before that we performed at Storyhouse with Northern Chamber Orchestra. For that we paid some of the fixed costs and NCO and Storyhouse shared the risk on ticket sales. It made a loss, but we did not have to bear any of it.

The year before that we sang "Music all around me" in St Werburghs, a stunning acapella concert of music through the ages; in production terms very low risk: no orchestra, low cost venue.

Pre covid, our two concerts in Storyhouse were part of the Chester Music Festival and underwritten by Storyhouse. Our concert with ETO was underwritten by ETO, and we were guests at the Verdi Requiem.

This year, as we all know, we are performing the Mozart Requiem with an Orchestra and also a fully orchestrated version of the glimpse of the light. It is thus, financially, our most ambitious concert since we sang the Sea Symphony in Chester Cathedral in 2017. The coffers are charged, we have a sound plan but as with all ambitious projects, there is a slight accompanying jangle of nerves.

It's not easy putting on the music you want, but it's a team effort and I am grateful as ever for my highly effective committee.

Jon Saunby, keeping us financially straight, submitting the forms to the charities commission and HMRC, and for an endless supply of weak jokes

Rhiannon for organising the music

Margaret for communication with the choir

Chris running the website and ticket sales site

Caroline finding venues and staging (and the dreaded Gift Aid) and looking after Insta and Facebook

Diane doing the minutes and making the programme

And all of them for putting up with my inability to remember the date or time of the next meeting.

They do a phenomenal amount of work in the background, and I would like to thank them all.

I'd also like to thank Graham Eccles for accompanying us so beautifully: I really enjoy his playing. I'm also amazed that he always knows exactly where we are!

This year is also significant for being the last year that we will have Ellie Storch as our musical director. Ellie was highly recommended and has more than fulfilled that recommendation. Right from the start she made the role her own. I think we were all impressed by the clarity of her concept of what sound she wanted us to make for the audience and her ability to describe that to us. Her actual conducting is also such a delight: So crisp and so expressive. "Look at me, I will give you everything you need". Back of house, too, Ellie is fantastic to work with, negotiating through the intrigues of the local music scene finding us amazing soloists and orchestras. But all good things must come to an end. We always knew that Ellie's meteoric career would one day find her

too busy to fit us in, and that has come to pass. And so we will, after this concert, say farewell and be proud to have known her.

This has, of course, given us some additional work to do to appoint a new musical director. An advert was devised and placed in the Association of British choral directors website. We had 12 applicants who were shortlisted by the committee against a person specification on the basis of their CV. On the basis of the shortlisting, three candidates were called to audition with the choir on the 9th of June. At the time of writing, we do not know which of these has been appointed, but by the time of the AGM, we should be able to announce this. I can tell you that any one of the three would make a fine musical director.

So at the AGM we will have one week ago, the publicity machine is in full swing and we must all redouble our efforts to make sure as many people as possible come to hear us, as well as making sure that on the night we produce the best quality concert we possibly can.

I would to end by thanking you all. As Pete Postlethwaite's Danny says in the film *Brassed Off* "I thought that music mattered, but does it bo\*\*\*\*ks, not compared to how people matter"

No people no choir. Other choirs struggle for membership, we have a waiting list. I think that says a lot. Thank you for being the great bunch of people you are.

Andy

Andy Ashton  
Chair  
Chester Festival Chorus

## **Chester Festival Chorus - Treasurer's Report, year ending 31 March 2025**

Aside from the musical success of last year's concert I am very happy to report that it was also a financial success. It was our stated aim last year to build our capital levels in order to support a more adventurous program in future years, and we achieved that, finishing the season with a surplus of around £1900.

The key drivers behind this surplus were:

- Carefully controlled costs and budget with subs set according to our expected costs and revenue;
- Healthy ticket sales, with an audience of approximately 113;
- Some very generous sponsorship from our fellow Chorus members – to whom we are extremely grateful - covering costs such as venue, soloists, royalties, music hire & printing.

The surplus from Summer 2024 enabled us to plan a more ambitious and expensive orchestral concert for Summer 2025, and we have set our budget for 2025 with an aim to breaking even over the 2 years.

In order to do this, we need to sell more tickets than last year – we are hopeful that the appeal of being accompanied by a professional orchestra will attract larger numbers – but, as always and at the risk of over-repetition, we are reliant on all of our members to sell tickets and help publicise the concert.

Whilst singing Rory's piece has offered us all a glimpse of the light, I hope the above has given a glimpse of the ledger!

Jonathan Saunby – Treasurer

21 May 2025

**Chester Festival Chorus**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March**

	Note	31/03/25 £	31/03/24 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock		-	-
Debtors & Prepayments	5	764	263
Cash at bank and in hand		8,651	8,150
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>9,415</b>	<b>8,413</b>
Creditors & accruals	5	100	-
Deferred Income	5	1,870	2,908
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,970</b>	<b>2,908</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>7,445</b>	<b>5,505</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>7,445</b>	<b>5,505</b>

**Chester Festival Chorus**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**12 months ended 31 March**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
Donations and legacies	1	1,567	1,299
Charitable activities	2	5,470	3,200
Investment income		-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>7,036</b>	<b>4,499</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
Charitable activities	3	5,096	4,793
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>5,096</b>	<b>4,793</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>1,940</b>	<b>(295)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		5,505	5,800
Net surplus / (deficit) from charitable activities and donations	4	1,940	(295)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7,445</b>	<b>5,505</b>

## Notes to the accounts

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>1 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES</b>		
Gift Aid	555	1,019
Sponsorship from chorus members	906	280
Other	105	
	<u>1,567</u>	<u>1,299</u>
<b>2 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		
Subscriptions	3,536	3,200
Ticket / programme sales	1,934	-
	<u>5,470</u>	<u>3,200</u>
<b>3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payments to Music Director and accompanists (concerts / rehearsals)	2,895	2,386
Payments to Music Director and accompanists (auditions)	-	860
Rehearsal / concert venue costs	681	218
Music Purchase, hire, printing costs & sundries	262	729
Additional artists / royalties	930	327
Support costs (Making Music subscription, Insurance, and website)	328	273
	<u>5,096</u>	<u>4,793</u>
<b>4 Funds carried forward</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2023</b>	5,505	5,800
Surplus / (Deficit) from concerts	1,385	(454)
Gift aid for Summer 2024, and 2022/2023 concerts	555	1,019
Audition costs	-	(860)
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2024</b>	<u><b>7,445</b></u>	<u><b>5,505</b></u>
<b>5 Prepayments and Accruals</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions / sponsorship for Summer concert received in Feb / March (prior financial year)	1,870	2,908
Costs paid in Jan / Feb relating to summer concert (Making music subscription and deposit for rehearsal venue / orchestra)	764	263
Royalties due for 2024 performance	100	0

**CHESTER FESTIVAL CHORUS**

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# Accounts

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## Chester Festival Chorus Chairman's report 2024 for AGM 9/6/24

It seems a long time ago in 2023 that we performed "Songs of Destiny" in Storyhouse with the Northern Chamber Orchestra. This fulfilled so many of the things that make us what we are. We were working with an existing orchestra as their pop-up Choir. We were singing music not necessarily from the mainstream repertoire and including living composers as well as traditional ones and we were singing in Storyhouse, a venue with whom we would like to continue to have links. I think we managed to create a very special moment of live musical performance not only in the individual pieces but in the way that they fitted together and the transitions between them

The structure of this financially was that we did not take any financial risk and this was lucky for us because not quite enough tickets were sold to cover the costs and NCO made a small loss on the concert. They were prepared to do this but this is not obviously something they can continue to do on an ongoing basis.

Earlier this year, for the first time since Ellie began, we have had auditions for the choir. Our dog has never welcomed so many visitors to the house! It was great to meet you all one by one, and I hope the experience for all was not too daunting. Ellie told me that she found it a profitable experience to hear you sing individually and it gives her a better idea of how you might be placed physically in order to best sing together.

I write this as I progress across Europe by bicycle on my retirement project to cycle to Istanbul. However in this modern world my administrative life goes on through the dodgy Wi-Fi of budget hotels and Airbnb's along the Danube. I have left the run up to this year's concert in the capable hands of Chris Green, to whom I am incredibly grateful for stepping into the role of Chair in my absence. Unfortunately Chris has suffered an injury so now we have an acting chair.

This year the four handed piano accompanied Brahms Requiem is also very "us", taking a well known piece and delivering it in a less well known way, stripped back to a four handed piano accompaniment and the voices. It is also very much within our aims that we have paired the Brahms requiem with Rory Wainwright-Jones' "A glimpse of the light" to feature a new composer. Performing in a church and without an orchestra reduces considerably our cost base and so this should enable us to build up a surplus that we can carry over to next year to enable us to embark on a project that does involve an orchestra.

I strongly believe that making live performances of music is such a valuable thing and we need to work hard to make sure that we do not lose this. In a live performance there is no rewind, no repeat, no box set. We hear a lot about mindfulness and "being present in the moment". We know all about this. Having emerged from the shock of Covid when audiences plummeted, we need to make sure that we make our audience and potential audiences aware of our presence and what we are offering so that the fantastic moments we create are available for the maximum number of people to come and experience. This year I hope we can reach out to people who have not yet experienced this type of performance, and have the confidence in ourselves to invite them to come and hear what we have on offer.

Our happiness at having Ellie as our music director knows no bounds. We've known for a long time how fantastic she is and it's great that other people are cottoning onto this too. Her talents have been recognised particularly this year by the BBC who have asked her to conduct the Ten Pieces which will go into key stage three and four across the educational system and also to conduct a concert at the BBC proms. What I would like to highlight is how hard she works for us outside rehearsals, in committee meetings and in negotiations with other music makers to put together potential performances. We are so lucky to be able to work with her, and I hope we remain an interesting and a challenging outlet for her talents for many years to come.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for the immense amount of work they have put in leading up to this concert.

Chris who had so kindly agreed to be acting Chair before his accident, and for his ongoing work with minutes

Margaret who always knows when the next meeting is and who manages the membership so incredibly efficiently

John for his number crunching and his so very patient dealings with HMRC and the charities commission

Rhiannon for her ability to rustle up copies of any music ever written

Caroline for all the venue bookings and Diane for leaping from being a new member to being an essential part of the committee. I am incredibly lucky to work with such a great group of people

And finally I would like to thank you all, for being who you are: organised, committed, talented, kind. What we do is so very special, I hope it can go on for ever.

Did I mention to sell lots of tickets?

Andy Ashton  
Apostag, Hungary

## **Chester Festival Chorus - Treasurer's Report, year ending 31 March 2024**

The fact that the year to March 2024 saw just the single concert, as opposed to the 3 concerts the previous year, has made the accounts and annual report slightly more straight forward this year!

The summer concert, "Songs of Destiny" was essentially 'owned' by the Northern Chamber Orchestra and it was they who took on the financial risk, essentially being the cost of the orchestra and the Storyhouse and the income from the ticket sales.

As such, the vast majority of our costs were known in advance and it was therefore relatively straight forward to budget and set our subs accordingly. When we take into account the subsequent gift aid claim in respect of the concert, we made a small surplus of £96.

At the time of writing the Treasurer's report for 2023 we had just completed our registration for gift aid with HMRC but had not at that point made any claims. I am happy to report that since then, we have claimed and received gift aid of £550 in respect of the summer 2024 concert, and £469 in respect of the Verdi Requiem and Summer 2023 concert. In applying the accounting concept of prudence we had not previously accounted for the 'retrospective' gift aid claim, so this has been reflected as income in the year to March 2024.

The other financial activity in the year were the auditions held in January, where we had the benefit of 2 full days of support from our MD and from our talented accompanist. This was, of course, a 'one-off' expense that we had not taken into account when setting the subs for the previous concert, but more than 50% of this cost was off-set by the retrospective gift aid claim.

Taking all of the above into account, we incurred a small deficit for the financial year of £295 and our overall funds are relatively stable at £5,505.

Whilst this remains a healthy balance, it was the unanimous view of the committee that we do not have sufficient capital to warrant taking the financial risk of the cost of a venue such as the Storyhouse and the cost of an orchestra, especially given the current challenges many music societies are facing with audience numbers. Whilst the subs for the 2024 summer concert have been set largely based on our costs, we are hopeful that – if we sell a large enough number of tickets – we can build a little extra buffer in our funds to support a more adventurous program in future years.

I am speaking both as a musician and an accountant when I say that singing in front of a larger audience is immeasurably more satisfying! I am sure we will all do our part in selling tickets and marketing the forthcoming concert.

Jonathan Saunby – Treasurer

20 May 2024

**Chester Festival Chorus  
Balance Sheet as at 31 March**

		31/03/24	31/03/23
	Note	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock		-	-
Debtors & Prepayments	5	263	-
Cash at bank and in hand		8,150	6,950
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>8,413</b>	<b>6,950</b>
Creditors & accruals	5	-	-
Deferred Income	5	2,908	1,150
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>2,908</b>	<b>1,150</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>5,505</b>	<b>5,800</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>5,505</b>	<b>5,800</b>

**Chester Festival Chorus  
Statement of Financial Activities  
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)  
12 months ended 31 March**

		2024	2023
	Note	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
Donations and legacies	1	1,299	-
Charitable activities	2	3,200	4,351
Investment income		-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>4,499</b>	<b>4,351</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
Charitable activities	3	4,793	4,531
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>4,793</b>	<b>4,531</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(295)</b>	<b>(179)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		5,800	5,979
Net surplus / (deficit) from charitable activities and donations	4	(295)	(179)
Total funds carried forward	4	5,505	5,800

## Notes to the accounts

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>1 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES</b>		
Gift Aid	1,019	-
Sponsorship from chorus members	280	
	<u>1,299</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>2 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		
Subscriptions	3,200	3,420
Music hire / purchase	-	66
Ticket / programme sales	-	865
	<u>3,200</u>	<u>4,351</u>
<b>3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payments to Music Director and accompanists (concerts / rehearsals)	2,386	2,664
Payments to Music Director and accompanists (auditions)	860	-
Rehearsal venue costs	218	590
Music Purchase, hire and printing costs	729	236
Additional artists / royalties	327	360
Charitable donation (CATH)	-	433
Net cost of coach to Lichfield	-	155
Support costs (Making Music subscription, Insurance, and website)	273	94
	<u>4,793</u>	<u>4,531</u>
<b>4 Funds carried forward</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2023</b>	5,800	5,979
Surplus / (Deficit) from concerts	(454)	(179)
Gift aid for Summer 2023 concert	550	-
Gift aid for 2022 concerts	469	-
Audition costs	(860)	-
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2024</b>	<u><b>5,505</b></u>	<u><b>5,800</b></u>
<b>5 Prepayments and Accruals</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions / sponsorship for Summer concert received in Feb / March (prior financial year)	2,908	1,150
Costs paid in Jan / Feb relating to 2024 summer concert (Making music subscription and deposit for rehearsal venue)	263	-

**CHESTER FESTIVAL CHORUS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1197852

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# Accounts

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## Chester Festival Chorus Chairman's Report 2023

After the hurly burly of three concerts last year, and all the overlying complication of Covid, in 2023 we have reverted to being that choir that pops up in the summer, delivers one concert and then merges back into all the other choirs for a year.

It was a bit touch and go but huge thanks to Ellie for putting together the deal with Northern Chamber Orchestra. Hopefully this arrangement will be mutually beneficial. NCO would like to attract audiences in Chester and feel that they can have a wider appeal by combining with a choir. We would like to be back in Storyhouse, with an orchestra and it suits us very well not to have the financial risk of hiring either of those. We are performing free for NCO, and they are taking the financial risk with Storyhouse. In the modern world concerts must be financially viable and this is a good way to be in a great venue, with a great orchestra, at minimum risk to a small organisation like ourselves.

We are still holding true to our themes and values by performing pieces which lie outside the mainstream repertoire, including some modern composers such as the very much alive Sally Beamish. We also continue with our theme of being a choir who can perform alone or with someone who wants to make music with a choir, be it ETO last year, the Lichfield choral society or the NCO; flexible but always excellent quality. This variety makes life interesting for us hopefully, for Ellie as well and most importantly our audience. There's no point singing if nobody comes.

This year we have worked harder than ever before at our marketing. We have great flyers courtesy of NCO, and thank you to all of you have distributed them far and wide. Our PR company Curtain Up has made a press release to local radio stations and newspapers and we are plugging away on Facebook and Twitter. (Please keep sharing) If anyone fancies doing Instagram and Tik Tok for us, please volunteer! It is my personal ambition that we should be able to attract people who have never been to a classical music concert, and for them to find enjoyment in what we do.

I would like to thank all those people who have done so much work to make Chester Festival Chorus the living entity it is: Jon Saunby, for his tireless work on the accounts and CIO submissions, and our new Committee member Caroline Thorne. Our very hardworking membership secretary Margaret Newman, who communicates so effectively with you all, and reminds me what needs to be done, Chris Green for the website and the minutes of the meetings, as well as the Storyhouse inside track, and Rhiannon for her epic librarian work, especially this year for assembling such a diverse range of music. It takes a special kind of person to be as good at this as you are Rhiannon, and you are that special person. I want to take a moment to think of David Pawson who has been very active on the committee in the early part of the year but now has had to withdraw in order to spend time with his wife who is very ill. Life is not fair, sometimes. I think we would all want to wish him well.

Finally, I say thank you to Ellie, our musical director, for putting together this arrangement with NCO, and for the amazing programme. But more so for being our musical inspiration and guide. It is really amazing to work with someone with such patience and with such positivity and enthusiasm. I hope you are all finding the rehearsals as inspiring as I do. Even at the end of a long and busy day, taking the notes and turning them into music is what this choir is all about. Someone said to me once, "There's something very good about being part of something excellent". I think we are excellent, that under Ellie's guidance we are able to excel, and long may it continue. I think you are a really talented person and I hope that we remain interesting for you to work and sing with for as long as we can. Making music is joyous and it is important that we continue to turn out, find new members, find new audiences and spread our love for what we do far and wide. So let's go forward to a great concert this year and for many more years to come. Sell tickets!

Andy Ashton

Chair

June 2023

## **Chester Festival Chorus - Treasurer's Report, period ending 31 March 2023**

In February 2022 our status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was confirmed, and as this is our first formal reporting period as a CIO, the accounts presented in this report cover the period from February 2022 to March 2023. This neatly coincides with the financial activity in relation to last season – covering our 3 concerts in 2022.

But – and quoting (almost) from the Schicksalslied – “whilst high up above the celestial seraphim play their golden lyre, down here on earth some poor individual lurches from one set of accounts to another...”, and so we must briefly abandon our contemplations of destiny and look at some numbers!

Over the course of the period, we made a small net surplus of £393, a breakdown of which follows. We retain a healthy bank balance of just under £6000, ignoring the element of 2023 subs received in late March (which will form part of the 2023 accounts). When setting the budget - on which the subscriptions are based - it is our aim to ensure that, as a minimum, we cover our costs. Given that there is always some inherent uncertainty in the final number of singers and other variables including ticket sales for the summer concert at St Werburghs, I think it's fair to say that the subscription prices were spot-on, and that the combined subs of £100 covering the three concerts represented outstanding value for money.

I am conscious that in last year's report I covered the financial summary for the St Johns, but I will repeat myself briefly for the sake of completeness. As I reported last year, we made a surplus of just under £600 on the St John Passion concert, largely due to an unexpected and generous discount from our rehearsal venues. We made a loss of just over £200 on the Verdi concert due to the number of singers (and as such, total subs) being slightly lower than anticipated, and due to us giving a discount on the cost of the coach to Lichfield. Finally, we made a small surplus on the summer concert.

I'm delighted to report that we were able to make a charitable donation to CATH of £433, being half of the ticket sales for the summer concert – this amount is reflected in the above surplus.

I'm also happy to be able to report that we are now registered with HMRC for Gift aid and we are expecting to be able to make a small retrospective claim for last year, for members who have filled in their gift aid forms and sang in the concerts. Any financial amount we receive from this claim has not been reflected in the above figures, but will be reflected in the March 2024 accounts. I would encourage all members who pay tax to fill in a gift aid form – the more gift aid we are able to claim, the more we can pass on the in our subs.

Jonathan Saunby – Treasurer

30 May 2023

**Chester Festival Chorus**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**Period ended 31 March 2023**

		<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>	<b>Note</b>	
Donations and legacies	<b>1</b>	1,002
Charitable activities	<b>2</b>	6,686
Investment income		-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>7,688</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>		
Charitable activities	<b>3</b>	6,294
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>6,294</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>1,395</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>		
Total funds brought forward		<b>4,405</b>
Surplus on 2022 concerts		393
Transfers from legacy CFL account		1,002
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5,800</b>

**Chester Festival Chorus**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023**

		<b>31/03/23</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock		-
Debtors & Prepayments		-
Cash at bank and in hand		6,950
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>6,950</b>
Creditors & accruals		-
Deferred Income	<b>5</b>	1,150
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,150</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>5,800</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>5,800</b>

## Notes to the accounts

	<b>14 months to 31/3/23</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>1 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES</b>	
Transfers from Chester Festival Ltd	1,002
Gift Aid	-
	<u>1,002</u>
<b>2 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	
Subscriptions	5,680
Music hire / purchase	141
Ticket / programme sales	865
	-
	<u>6,686</u>
<b>3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	
Payments to Music Director and accompanists	4,231
Rehearsal venue costs	710
Music Purchase, hire and printing costs	265
Additional artists / royalties	360
Charitable donation (CATH)	433
Net cost of coach to Lichfield	155
Support costs (Making Music subscription, Insurance, and 2020-21 website)	141
	<u>6,294</u>
	393
<b>4 Funds carried forward</b>	
<b>Total funds as at 1 Feb 2022</b>	4,405
Gift aid claim for cancelled St Johns concert	402
Transfer of remaining legacy funds from CFL to CFC	600
Surplus from 2022 concerts	393
	<u>5,800</u>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>5,800</b>
<b>5 Prepayments and Accruals</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions for Summer 2023 concert received in March '23	1,150