

Report of the Trustees of Warwickshire Youth Choirs

For the year ending 31st August 2025

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are:

The advancement of musical education for the public benefit among children and young people aged between 4 and 24 in Warwickshire and the surrounding area, in particular relating to choral music, through the provision of:

- a) Regular rehearsal and structured workshops designed to enable participation and progression with the aim of developing confidence in, and enjoyment of, singing
- b) Opportunities to perform in both informal and public settings

Trustees give regard to the public benefit of any project development or change to our offer to ensure that it furthers our objectives and gives the best value for money to our members and our community.

Participation has been achieved through weekly choir opportunities for children aged 4+, provision of whole class curriculum music (singing-based curriculum) to primary schools, provision of in-school extra-curricular choirs, all-age workshops, children's workshops and a massed concert involving hundreds of children in partnership with Apollo. This year we worked with Warwickshire Music, Coventry Music, Warwick Schools Foundation, Warwick, A Singing Town and Apollo.

Achievements and Performances

Progression has been achieved within every project through delivery of high-quality music education from expert staff. This year we maintained our offer to both younger and older children which was trialled last year. We also began provision of school-based extra-curricular opportunities. This had mixed success. The model we trialled created a benefit for the school if they recruited children for the after-school club. We feel this model could be really successful in larger schools. However, the schools which took us up on the offer were small village schools who couldn't really make excellent value out of the programme. Progression and aspiration has also been demonstrated through our structured performance opportunities, giving children and young people (CYP) the opportunity to experience performances by groups and individuals at different ages and stages of musical development.

Community provision – Choirs and workshops

Performance opportunities this year have been varied and plentiful. In the autumn term we had a workshop (which 32 children attended) and a concert at Kings High School

which involving children from our school choirs as well as our own choirs. The choirs concluded the term by singing Christmas and winter-themed music at Warwick Castle Light Trail and Warwick Victorian Evening, where we were told that we were the 'best youth choir they had heard' by the Stage Manager.

In February we held a Youthies workshop and an all-age community workshop as part of National Lottery Open Week, launching our Sing Together Project funded by National Lottery Community Fund.

In Spring we 45 families joined us for our 'Sing for Mum' concert and later in term we were delighted to join Village Voices to sing the wonderful Zimbe! By Alexander L'Estrange in Kenilworth.

In Summer, we had small performances at Stratford and Warwick Pursuits Festivals giving preview performances of Sing Together and also giving members the opportunity to sing solo songs. A lot of energy was focussed on our Sing Together Concert, where we brought together 300 primary school children from across the county from both schools and community to sing in Coventry Cathedral with full orchestra. We were delighted to partner with Apollo Academy, a unique inclusive peer-led youth orchestra for children and young people aged 11 to 25. On a blistering hot day, they performed a range of works from our school programme for the year and a Children's Oratorio, Romany Wood written by David Gaukroger and David Carr, both of whom attended the performance. We were thrilled that David Carr (the lyricist) was able to narrate the performance for us, a real honour. Everyone was mesmerised by his amazing voice. We were very saddened to subsequently hear of David's death and hope that the performance will be a wonderful positive memory for his family members from across the world who attended that day.

School Provision

With no outside funding, we engaged 6 schools and employed two singing teachers. We also ran 3 extra-curricular school choirs.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the end financial position of the old Charity and the current state of the finances of the CIO organisation, which the Trustees consider to be sound.

Having had Arts Council funding via Warwickshire Music Hub for the last three years for our schools provision, we launched a very small, self-funded model for 2024-25 to mitigate risks. The programme was a success. However, the small scale meant that admin costs were prohibitive. As a result, we made changes mid-year which to reduce overheads for the charity. Following this realisation, we engaged a professional fundraiser to help us fundraise to secure the option of a larger-scale schools programme for the future, building on the learning and experience we have gathered in recent years. The contract has a refund model built in, so if the fundraiser is not successful in achieving funds for WYC, the fee will be returned at the end of the contract period.

Our choir and workshop delivery is mostly supported by subscription payments, donations and concert tickets. We are incredibly grateful for Warwick Schools Foundation for the benefit in kind that they provide us through use of their excellent facilities for regular rehearsals, workshops and concerts. Their support is essential to our success and ability to provide our low-cost inclusive offer.

Primary expenditures included contracts to musicians and administrators, bursaries, event-related costs and music. These expenditures are fundamental to the achievement of our charity objectives. However, the trustees did note the increased administration costs this year and have sought advice on the use of third-party specialist software to streamline administrative tasks whilst maintaining compliance.

At the end of the year, we report a small surplus. This can support the cashflow / reserves which had been reduced (in real terms) in recent years.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Warwickshire Choristers charity (1150219) is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Warwickshire Youth Choirs is a Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), which was registered with the Charity Commission on 11th December 2024. Its governing document is a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 11th December 2024. At a meeting of the members held on 29th November 2023, it was decided that the assets of the unincorporated charity (number 1150219) would be transferred to the new CIO (1211368). The transfer took place on 30th August 2025.

The trustees of Charity 1150219 agreed to become the founding trustees of the charity number 1211368 except for one who stepped down.

All trustees and volunteers are DBS checked and provide their time voluntarily without remuneration. The role of volunteers is central to the success of our organisation and we are incredibly grateful to them.

Reference and Administrative Details

Name and Registration Number

Warwickshire Choristers (working name Warwickshire Youth Choirs) 1150219

Unincorporated membership charity to 30 August 2025

Warwickshire Youth Choirs 1211368 from 31st August 2025

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Principal Address

42 Kempson Ave
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands, B721HE

Trustees

Annabel Precious
Elizabeth Mitchell
Lucy MacDonald

Independent Examiner

Andy Hopkins (BVSC)

This report was approved by the trustees on 28th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Elizabeth Mitchell

Elizabeth Mitchell



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Warwickshire Youth Choirs

On accounts for the year ended

31st August 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1211368

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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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: 2/08/2026

Name:

Andy Hopkins, BVSC Accountancy Services, BVSC, Latham House, Paradise Street, Birmingham, B1 2AJ

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31st August 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Full Year 2025	30 th to 31 st Aug 2025	1 st Sept 2024 to 30 th Aug 2025	Total 2024	
--	--------------------	------------------	----------------	---	--	------------	--

Income and endowments from:

Donations and legacies	50	27,900	27,950	-	27,950	55,739	A1
Gift Aid	1,427	-	1,427	-	1,427	1,327	
Interest Received	36	-	36	-	36	30	
Charitable Activities	31,930		31,930	-	31,930	10,574	A2
Total	33,443	27,900	61,343	-	61,343	67,850	

Expenditure on:

Raising funds	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	819	B1
Charitable Activities	28,233	27,900	56,133	-	56,133	71,658	B2
Total	31,233	27,900	59,133	-	59,133	72,477	

Net Income/ (Expenditure)	2,210	-	2,210	-	2,210	(4,626)	
----------------------------------	--------------	----------	--------------	----------	--------------	----------------	--

Reconciliation of funds:

Total funds brought forward	7,866	-	7,866	10,076	7,866	12,492	
Total funds carried forward	10,076	-	10,076	10,076	10,076	7,866	

Balance Sheet

For year ending 31st August 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Full Year 2025	30 th to 31 st Aug 2025	1 st Sept 2024 to 30 th Aug 2025	2024 Total	
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Current Assets							
Cash at bank and in hand ¹	12,610	-	12,610	12,610	12,610	8,561	
Debtors ²	5,862	-	5,862	5,862	5,862	1,721	B2
Total current assets	18,472	-	18,472	18,472	18,472	10,283	
Liabilities							
Creditors: falling due within one year ³	8,396	-	8,396	8,396	8,396	2,417	C1
Net current assets	10,076	-	10,076	10,076	10,076	7,866	D

This Balance Sheet was approved by the trustees on 24th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Elizabeth Mitchell

Elizabeth Mitchell

Constitution and Charity merger

Warwickshire Youth Choirs is a CIO which was registered with the Charity Commission on 11th December 2024. Its governing document is a constitution approved on date 29th November 2023 and registered with the Charity Commission on date 11th December 2024

At a meeting held on 29th November 2023, the members of the unincorporated charity (1150219) approved the transfer of assets to the CIO. The transfer took place on 30th August 2025.

Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the year, are set out below. Where a change of accounting policy has occurred, the prior year figures have been adjusted to reflect the new treatment.

These accounts present a true and fair view. The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 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 2019). The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Basis of Preparation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value, and are in accordance with trust law, applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issues in March 2005.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of any of the objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The designated fund for reserves at year ending 31st August 2024 is £7,500 which amounts to approximately three months operating income. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area of purpose and restriction means that the funds can only be used for specific projects or activities.

Incoming Resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds. Governance costs include those incurred in the governance by the trustees of the charity's assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of operating the charity.

Donated Goods and volunteer and other donated services

The charity did not receive any donated goods. The trustees acknowledge the importance of volunteers to support the projects and governance of the charity. The value of general volunteering is not incorporated in these financial statements. Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity had the charity purchased them. In this accounting period, we valued the gift of venue hire as 35 weeks at £90 per week for rehearsals, 2 workshops at £150 and 2 concerts at £300, a total of £4,050. These are sums that trustees had agreed could be spent for a suitable venue. These are included in A2 and B2 in the SoFA.

Trustee Remuneration and Benefits None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or has received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or any related entity.

Trustee Expenses No trustees were paid expenses other than reimbursement of product bought on behalf on Warwickshire Youth Choirs at our request.

Related Party transactions There were no related party transactions during this reporting period.

Financial Service Fees We are really grateful to Andy Hopkins for independently Examining the charity accounts.

Ex-Gratia Payments There were no ex-gratia payments made during the reporting period.

Staff Costs and Employee Benefits All our staff are part-time freelance contractors. No social security or pension costs were incurred during the reporting period. A total of four part-time staff were contracted during the period. The total costs of staff was £38,234. No employees received benefits of more than £60,000

Key Management Personnel Payments to senior management in the reporting period was £18,751.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Endowments

	2025	2024
Donations and Legacies		
Donations	23,900	50,789
Gift Aid	1,427	1,327
Benefit in Kind	4,050	4,050
Charitable Activities		
Events	8,694	4,289
Subscriptions	23,236	6,466
Interest Received	36	30
Total	61,343	67,850

Expenditure

	2025	2024
Raising donations and legacies		
Fundraising Costs	3,000	-
Other		819
Charitable activities		
Musician Fees	32,384	46,618
CPD / Training	-	406
Event Costs	10,744	8,952
Website and other costs	281	235
Venue Costs	5,100	-
Administration	6,271	14,825
Bank charges	60	60
Governance costs (insurance and Independent Examiner	537	361
DBS checks	-	200
Uniform	756	-
Total expenditure	59,133	71,657
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME	2,210	(4,626)