

DERBY BACH CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 251883

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1967-08-23

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

Contact

Address 79 Egginton Road
Etwall
Derby
DE65 6NP

Phone 01332342654

Email treasurer@derbybachchoir.com

Website derbybachchoir.com

Activities

Objects: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC BY THE PRESENTATION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Activities: Support of the activities of the Derby Bach Choir and other musical activities in the Derby and East Midlands area.

Classification

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

Geography

- Derby City
- Derbyshire
- Leicestershire
- Nottingham City
- Nottinghamshire
- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£41,541	£28,176	-	-
2024-07-31	£32,269	£27,639	-	-
2023-07-31	£35,678	£32,899	-	-
2022-07-31	£21,610	£25,580	-	-
2021-07-31	£8,414	£7,061	-	-
2020-07-31	£28,590	£22,373	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Charlotte Mary Butters	Chair	2022-10-26
Andrew John Ward		2022-10-26
ELIZABETH ZAKAR-SMITH		2013-05-24
Irina Gyurcheva		2021-02-14
JENNY CASBOULT		
Laura Julie Bishop		2023-11-01
Rosemary Judith Archer		2021-02-14

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Accounts



Chairman's Report

Season 66: September 2024 - June 2025

I write this at the beginning of a new term as we embark on learning new and challenging music that is unfamiliar to many of us, and it strikes me how the choir has risen to and indeed embraced new challenges over the past year. From concerts requiring position changes halfway through, to throwing ourselves into the “managed scramble” of our most recent performance, I am proud of the choir’s resilience and willingness to accept and try new things.

We opened the season with Mozart and Puccini, performing once again at Derby Cathedral. The Mozart Mass was thrilling and in Richard’s words, we gave it a good run for its money with some divine singing from both choir and soloists. Richard felt we also gave Puccini ‘sparkle’ in the Gloria and ‘swagger’ in the Qui tollis, so all in all an excellent performance.

With help from the orchestra we also managed to pull off a birthday surprise for Richard, to mark his 70th birthday which fell just a few days after our concert. Following an excellent suggestion from Rosemary and Tom Corfield, the choir clubbed together to purchase a facsimile of the St Matthew Passion which I presented to Richard to mark the occasion – along with a bottle of whiskey and his favourite coffee and walnut cake which Fiona had made. We all missed that this was also Richard’s 25th anniversary of conducting the choir, so it was a well-timed celebration indeed.

In November we held another Come & Sing led by James Foulds, and continued the Mozart theme with an informal day of rehearsing and performing his choral masterpiece, the Requiem. Despite dreadful weather conditions with torrential rain and widespread flooding we had a splendid turnout and raised around £1,000 for the choir. Special thanks to the catering team for the wonderful spread, and particularly to Fiona and her husband who press all the windfalls they can gather or receive from kind donors to produce the many litres of apple juice, which she served warm and spiced.

We returned after the Christmas break to begin rehearsals for our Spring Concert, “In Time of War”. Haydn’s Paukenmesse (also known as “Missa in tempore belli” – mass in time of war) written in the Napoleonic War was paired with Kodaly’s much more modern Missa Brevis, written during the Second World War. The choir had previously planned to perform the Kodaly piece in 2020 but were rudely interrupted by COVID, so it was wonderful to get it back onto the programme. The concert had its challenges both musically and logistically (!) and

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Chairman: Charlotte Butters

Musical Director: Richard Roddis

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I was most disappointed to miss it due to a family bereavement, but I know Richard appreciated the choir's concentration and attention to detail. The only disappointment was the rather small size of the audience.

The Come & Sing in May didn't disappoint, however, and was a glorious event once again, with some familiar faces amongst both the choir and the soloists who all enjoyed tackling Vivaldi and Handel. Our thanks go again to James for conducting and Tom for accompanying us. We had emails from those who attended too - "I enjoyed it so much. The soloists were lovely", and another who appreciated the opportunity to socialise over a "superb cooked supper with a choice of puds!". The event was a roaring success and raised over £1,000 for the choir - much needed to help balance the declining audiences and increasing costs of our main concerts.

We rounded off our 66th Season with a pared back performance of Handel's Saul at St John's Church in Derby. We were again challenged by the weather, but not floods this time...no, this time it was soaring temperatures in the midst of a heatwave! The choir remained stoic and, well-hydrated with water bottles at hand, pulled off a crisp and assured performance, with Mike Wheeler writing in his review:

"Derby Bach Choir was on sturdy form throughout, incisive in the opening chorus, 'How excellent Thy name', bringing a concentrated sense of communal sorrow to 'Mourn Israel', a buoyant feel to 'Eagles not so swift as they', and - following a compelling moment of stillness in 'O fatal day! How low the mighty lie!', for David and the chorus - jubilation in the final number.

Words, it has to be said, did not always come across clearly. In particular, the spoken narration would have benefitted from a microphone. But in all it was a confident performance - a fine example of limited resources well used."

I was particularly taken with Mike's comment about Richard's cameo as the Witch of Endor, which Handel always intended as a tenor role and which he felt "managed to be creepy without resorting to unnecessary cackling"! Special appreciation is also due to our four stand-out performers - Dana, David, Marcus, and especially Tom for all his skill and tenacity throughout the term and particularly in the performance. It was a vivid and vibrant end to another spectacular season for the choir.

As I come to the end of my first full term as Chairman (yes, it really has been 3 years already!) I am more aware than ever of the work that goes on behind the scenes to make it all possible. We rely on volunteers and support from you, our members, to keep going and I am immensely grateful to all those who have stepped up this year to help us. Emma Booth has taken on many of the librarian

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responsibilities; Gill Hopwood and Sylvia Glover provide much-needed support to Jenny and Emma in seeking out sufficient copies for hire for each concert and ensuring we have correct or compatible editions; Joan Dutton, Janet Love and David Parry keep in touch with and coordinate the Friends and Sponsors of the choir who help provide the funds to keep us going each year. These are just some examples – there's a lot more that goes on in the background and not naming it here doesn't make it any less valuable or appreciated.

And yet, the area we most need help in continues to be the area we are struggling most to find support for – marketing and publicity for the choir. Yes, it sounds like a big job! But it doesn't have to be, especially if more than one person were involved. We appreciate all the ideas and suggestions that people have made, but we also need someone to actually put it into action and while the Committee are doing their best, we do not have the capacity to do this as well. As agreed previously by the members we are looking for external support which the choir would pay for, but it is proving a challenge to find someone/a company who has experience of working with a musical group like ours. We will continue to explore this, but at the same time we are always open to any offers of help from within the choir, however small.

We continue to plan future events and programming (all of which need the aforementioned publicity to ensure we have an audience to appreciate them) and I am pleased to share with you what we have planned for the coming Season and beyond:

- June 20th 2026: An Italian Evening, to include Monteverdi *Beatus Vir*, Vivaldi *Magnificat* and a selection of opera choruses
- November 28th 2026: Haydn *Little Organ Mass* and extracts from the Bach *B Minor Mass* – trialling an afternoon concert at 3:30pm, with rehearsal 1:30-2:45pm.
- April 10th 2027: Bach *B Minor Mass* (rehearsals across both autumn and spring terms)
- June 2027: Mendelssohn *Elijah* (exact date and venue to be confirmed)
- Easter 2028: Bach *St John Passion* (in German)

As always, please look out for more details in the choir newsletters and other communications.

You may be aware that 2027 is a busy year in Derby as it marks not only Derby Cathedral's centenary but also the City and the Diocese centenaries as well. This has presented a significant issue for the Committee, because it means that we have been unable to secure the Cathedral for our Autumn concert that year. As a result, we are considering a different programme for this concert, potentially with

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an Advent or Christmas theme, that will be suitable for the smaller venue of St John's Church. Normal service (we hope!) will be resumed in 2028.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their continued support over the past year, in particular Jenny who remains cheerful in the face of all the challenges thrown at her (first the Mamble, and now two grand pianos and a huge orchestra for the upcoming Stravinsky concert?!) and Roz who has been immensely helpful in managing health and safety crises, planning the logistics of scrambled seating plans and helping proof-read various communications.

My thanks also to Richard Roddis our Musical Director for continuing to lead us with patience and humour (and the occasional curveball!), and to Tom Corfield, our wonderful one-man orchestra who keeps us in tune and on the right page!

Finally, thank you all for your continued support of me, the committee and the choir – we definitely couldn't do it all without you!

With very best wishes for our 67th Season,

Charlotte

*Charlotte Butters
Chairman
January 2025*



Performing

Chairman: Charlotte Butters

Musical Director: Richard Roddis

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Performing

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2025 AGM Treasurer's Report

Bank Balances

Derby Bach Choir has two bank accounts – Co-op current account for regular transactions and a reserve account with Cambridge & Counties.

The opening and closing balances can be seen below.

	HSBC/Co-op Current Account	Cambridge & Counties reserve account	Total
Opening balance 1 st August 2024	£11,926.99	£26,972.60	£38,899.59
Closing balance 31 st July 2025	£25,291.35	£28,025.09	£53,316.44
Movement	£13,364.36	£1,052.49	£14,416.85

Interest paid on the C&C account was £1,052.49 (30/04/2025).

Income and Expenditure

The income and expenditure via the current account is summarised below. Our income has increased due to the one-off **Maurice Walkerdine** legacy deposit. Our expenditure is slightly increased.

	2024/25	2023/24 – ref only
Total income	£41,540.27	£32,269.19
Total expenditure	£28,175.91	£27,639.13
<i>Surplus</i>	<i>£13,364.36</i>	<i>£4,630.13</i>

Main sources of income:

- Legacy 34%	(£14,151.51)
- Subscriptions 27.5 %	(£11,422.86)
- Concert tickets 19%	(£7,997.97)
- Friends donations 7%	(£3,015)
- Gift Aid 7%	(£2,870)

Main sources of expenditure:

- Orchestra 21%	(£5,966)
- Music Director 20.5%	(£5,780)
- Venue (concert) 16%	(£4,554)
- Soloists 14%	(£4,000)
- Accompanist 8%	(£2,232)
- Concert expenses 4%	(£1,093)
- Room hire (St Ann's) 4%	(£1,050)
- Advertising general 2.4%	(£675)



P&L by concert

	Income	Expenditure	Profit/Loss
Mozart & Puccini	£2,825.36	£8,069.25	-£5,243.89
Kodaly & Haydn	£1,821.22	£6,068.67	-£4,247.45
Come & Sing Nov 24	£2,531.68	£548.53	£1,983.15
Come & Sing May 25	£2,234.23	£1,309.75	£924.48
Saul Summer 25	£805.99	£1,219.44	-£413.45
	£10,218.48*	£17,215.64	-£6,997.16*

**PayPal payments included here but not in closing balance due to payments being transferred in 25/26.*

We have made a loss on both Cathedral concerts, Mozart & Kodaly, as well as the Summer Saul concert.

Concert expenditure is very similar to 2023/24, but ticket sales are down by £1,300.

General

Excluding the Maurice Walkerdine legacy means that the choir had a reduced income of £4,880.43 compared to 2023/24; excluding the legacy means the choir had a deficit of **£787.15**.

The treasurer will be assessing Actual concert expenses against the Budget sheet going forward; this is not currently done. This will allow the Music Committee to understand whether costs are on target.

Our auditor has suggested we put a process in place to manage cash for tickets and programmes on the door at concerts.

Consideration should be given to utilising our reserves and surplus for the good of the choir and to achieve its aims. The Main Committee suggests putting £6,000 to one side for marketing to increase concert awareness, increasing ticket sales.

Thanks to John Millard for his assistance with preparing for year end and auditing the accounts. Thanks also to Elizabeth Zakar-Smith for completing the Gift Aid application and to Jenny Casboul for managing the concert budgets.

Finally, thanks to our Friends whose kind donations are gratefully received.

Derby Bach Choir

Independent Examiners Report 2025

1. Introduction

This report is written with the trustees and members of the Derby Bach Choir in mind, and includes the “audit programme”, some observations I made during the process, and the formal report which may be required by the Charity Commission. As an appendix I included a summary of the role of the Independent Examiner that I wrote in 2022.

In order to carry out the audit programme, Laura and I met on 19th January 2026 to look at the evidence. All issues raised were dealt with satisfactorily.

It’s important to say that the accounting records are kept methodically and in apple-pie order!

2. Audit Programme 2025

The thinking behind this document is to outline and record the things to look at in this year’s audit. It is intended to be a dynamic document to be completed over the course of the audit.

2.1 Are the opening and closing bank balances in the accounts the same as, or reconcile to, the bank statements?

Evidence:

- Bank statements for start and finish of the year, checked to Main Account tab and Treasurer’s Report.

Comment/query: Any monies owed by Paypal (or Sum Up, or Stripe etc.) could be regarded as non-cash (i.e. debtors) and so not for inclusion in the accounts. This would be the simplest way of doing it. However, if any amounts are significant, consideration could be given to treating the Paypal balances as cash, or even a footnote in the accounts, as it might have an impact on a concert P & L.

2.2 Do the accounts include all the transactions in the bank accounts?

Evidence:

- Sample check of significant items of income and expenditure in the Main Account tab to bank statements.
- Check Main Account Tab income and expenditure totals (need to add up columns to Summary tab totals)
- Check Summary tab totals to the total of all event tabs. (need to find a way of adding up all the event tabs!)
- Check Main Account tab to Treasurer’s Report

3. Is all income that is due actually received and recorded?

Evidence:

- What is the process for ensuring that all ticket sales are recorded and banked?
- Is there 3rd party evidence for ticket sales that can be checked to the Main Account tab and/or bank account?
- What’s the process for ensuring that all members pay their subscription?
- Is there any evidence to support receipts into the bank account?

2.3 Is all expenditure authorised and recorded?

Evidence:

- What is the process for authorising expenditure?
- Check a sample of major items of expenditure to the Main Account tab, to ensure that liability to a third party is evidenced, authorised, and paid. Sample to include the top 5 payments.

2.4 Treasurer's Report

Review.

4. Observations

4.1 If I were a member (and not an auditor!) I would ask:

- The concerts have made a loss of £8,330.77. How has this been financed? (I presume it's subs, donations, gift aid, legacy, less administration costs. You could argue it's all in the report, except the admin cost.)
- Were it not for the legacy, current account income would have been £27,388.76, a drop of £4,880.43 compared to the previous year, and the result would have been a loss of £787.15 (compared to the previous year surplus of £4,630.13) If this trend is repeated in future years, it will eat into the DBC reserves. Are we ok with that (because that might be what the reserves are for)? Or should we look into ways of managing future deficits? Obviously no need to panic, but it's a worth a thought.
- Was the legacy intended for any specific purpose, or do the membership want to ring fence it for something? Or just leave it in general reserves?

4.2 During the audit, we discussed the following additional matters which Laura will take forward

- Consistency between concert results and summary sheet.
- Looking into control of cash receipts at concerts.
- Feedback financial results to concert committee (to compare to budget, and evidence good financial control)
- PayPal cash balance at 31st August to be transferred to the bank account and included in 2025-26 as Sundry Income. Thereafter, transfers to take place on a regular basis.

5. The Formal Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Derby Bach Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Derby Bach Choir (the Trust) for the year ended 31st July 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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.

Signed:

Name: John Millard

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 23 Penny Long Lane Derby DE22 1AX

John Millard

23.01.26

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Appendix:

The Role of the Independent Examiner

- **What is an Independent Examiner supposed to do?**

The Charity Commission document CC32 is 84 pages of directions and guidance for independent examiners of charity accounts. Trustees need to know of its existence, and some may wish to read it, but for those who have other calls on their time I have extracted some of the salient parts. It is important that trustees are aware of what the Independent Examiner is to do, and also what he/she is not to do.

An independent examination is a form of external scrutiny which provides a limited check on specific matters. It is sometimes referred to as giving "negative assurance". The examiner is required to confirm whether there are any matters of material concern which has come to his/her attention. This contrasts to the role of an auditor who is supposed to provide an opinion on whether the accounts give a "true and fair view". So the examination is therefore a limited form of scrutiny compared to an audit, providing less assurance in terms of depth of work which is carried out.

- **What is the content of an Independent Examination?**

What is required to be done is set out in the Directions made by the Charity Commission, and the content of the report is set out in the 2008 regulations. (There are 13 Directions and several examples of a formal examination report!)

The examination comprises:

- Review of accounting records
- Comparison of the accounts to the records
- Review of the accounts
- Consideration of any unusual items and matters of concern

In my view, the depth of these activities largely depends on factors such as the professional judgment of the examiner, the size and complexity of the charity, and the thoroughness and integrity of the accounting records. It can also depend on the tact and diplomacy of the examiner, who must remember that most treasurers are part-time amateurs who should not be subject to over-zealous interrogation!

- **Who does the Independent Examiner report to?**

Trustees are responsible for the keeping of accounting records and the production of accounts. The examiner's role is to report to the accounts on these matters, and commenting in particular on:

- The accounting records
- Whether the accounts agree with the records
- And whether the form of accounts is correct

To put it another way, the examiner gives the trustees extra assurance that the treasurer is doing his/her job properly!

The report in Section 4 below follows the template suggested in CC32 4.1, and is the same as used by the previous examiner of DBC in the submission of the accounts to the Charity Commission.

- **When is an Independent Examination required?**

Charity law requires that any charity with a gross income of more than £25,000 must have an independent examination, and its accounts have to be filed with the Charity Commission within 10 months of its financial year end. (With income over £250,000 an audit is required.) A charity with income less than £25,000 may have an independent examination if it so wishes. For 2021-22, DBC comes under this threshold with income of £21,610; the projection for 2022-23 suggests the income may be just over the border!

- **Who can be an Independent Examiner?**

CC32 says that an Independent Examiner "must have the right skill". This means that they must be independent, and have the necessary experience and skills. They must have an understanding of what accounts are, what they are intended to do, and must have some analytical skills.

I have previously supplied James with a potted version of my CV, but in summary, I have been a chartered accountant for some 42 years, I have worked in the charity sector for 25, and have had financial roles, and been treasurer and trustee, for Broadway church and Derby City Mission for many years.

John Millard

1st December 2022

DERBY BACH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 251883

Accounts



Chairman's Report

Season 65 2023-24

As I reflect on another season with Derby Bach Choir I have been looking back through concert programmes and meeting minutes and am again surprised by how much we have accomplished over the course of the year. I am continuing to get to grips with my role as Chair and tapping into the wealth of knowledge and experience of our more experienced and long-standing members (which basically means trying to get into Jenny's brain!).

We opened the season at our regular venue of Derby Cathedral with our Autumn concert "For an Unknown Soldier". The choir rose to the challenge of learning this unfamiliar piece by Jonathan Dove, and performed it alongside Fauré's "Requiem". The Dove was new to many, audience and performers alike, but it left quite an impression on everyone. Sitting in the audience, I looked around at one point to see the entire audience captivated and enthralled by the power of the music, despite its raw emotion and the sometimes savage lyrics.

When James Foulds gave notices that he was standing down as Treasurer last year, he also told us that he would no longer be available to rehearse and conduct a Christmas concert, although he was still able and willing to run Come and Sing events. With limited time to find another conductor who could commit to rehearsals as well as a concert (and with usual venue St John's arranging their own event with another society on 1st December), the Committee made the decision to replace the concert with a Come and Sing, the choice of music being the festive "Messiah". This very popular fundraising event gave the choir a profit just short of £1,000, with 110 people in attendance (30 of whom were DBC members).

The choir returned to St Anne's in January to begin rehearsals for our March concert and a return to the more familiar repertoire of Bach's St John Passion. Sadly, James Oxley was unable to join us for this performance as we had hoped, due to a prior engagement, but we were instead joined by Mark Dobell in the role of Evangelist and other familiar faces including William Purefoy among the soloists. Mark wrote to us afterwards *"I meant to write before now to say thank you so much for a wonderful concert on Saturday. I thought the choir did a terrific job, especially all the 'cameos', and the band were fantastic, particularly for such a reduced number of players. Richard as always put together a very convincing narrative to the piece, so please pass on my thanks to him and to all*

concerned. Thanks for all the food and drinks and for looking after us so well. I really hope there is a next time, and soon. I very much enjoy working with you and DBC."

The concert was also reviewed by Mike Wheeler who wrote *"the work's dramatic shape was well sustained, culminating in a remarkable concentrated stillness in the climactic description of Jesus' death, a powerful moment that everyone in the building clearly experienced."*

In May we were again hosted by St George's Church in Ticknall for our second Come and Sing of the season, rehearsing and performing the Mozart Vespers and parts of the Coronation Mass. It was another successful fundraising event for the choir ably led by James and accompanied by the talented Tom Corfield.

Finally, in June we returned to St John's in Derby, this time to perform Parry's Blest Pair of Sirens (have to be careful when I say that...!) and the Nelson Mass. We were joined by local soloists for this summer celebration and it felt like a fitting way to close our 65th Season.

We are delighted to have welcomed the new members who have joined us throughout the last year, as well as those longstanding members who have returned year on year. We have also said farewell to some, and sadly these included Sheila Heathcote who passed away peacefully in June. Sheila had been a member of DBC since the early 1990s and was a talented musician, loyal participant, and a good laugh. A very special lady who is greatly missed.

Derby Bach Choir means something different to each of us. It gives us the opportunity to perform great works in the company of professional soloists and musicians, forge friendships and socialise with like-minded people from all walks of life. It would be easy to take all this for granted, but as I come to the end of my second year as Chairman I am more aware than ever of the incredible work that goes on behind the scenes to make it all possible. We rely heavily on volunteers and support from our members to keep going and are always looking for more people to offer their help, in whatever form that may take. Please do take the time to consider what you might be able to help us with, and speak to me or one of the committee members if you'd like to find out more.

The committee continue to plan future events and programming for the coming years and I am pleased to share with you what we have planned so far:

- March 29th 2025: Kodaly *Missa Brevis* and Haydn *Paukenmesse*, concert title 'In Time of War'
- May 10th 2025: Vivaldi *Gloria* and some of Handel *Coronation Anthems*
- June 21st 2025: Handel *Saul*
- November 15th 2025: Bach *Magnificat* plus other content tbc
- March 2026: proposed programme Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*, Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Chichester *Psalms* Mozart *Wind Divertimento*
- March 2027: Bach B Minor Mass (with rehearsals across 2 terms starting in September 2026)

The music-sub-committee will be meeting before Christmas to finalise the details for the 2025-26 season and beyond, and we will endeavour to share those plans with you as early as possible.

In a climate of increasing costs such as venue hire, fees for musicians and library fees for the hire of music, the Choir will need to think carefully about how we allocate money and where we can do more to raise funds. I know that our Treasurer, Laura, will be sharing further details about our financial position in her report. Costs will certainly be something we will need to consider carefully as part of our planning for future programmes.

My thanks to my fellow committee members for their ongoing support over the past year, and in particular to Mary Boocock and Rosemary Corfield who are stepping down from the committee this year, although Rosemary is kindly going to continue to support us with providing refreshments during our mid-rehearsal breaks.

I would also like to thank Richard Roddis for his continued musical direction, leading us with patience, humour and passion. Thanks also to Tom Corfield, without whom many of us would be lost somewhere in the middle of the second stanza.....!

Finally, thank you all for continuing to support the committee and choir. I am sure you, like me, are looking forward to performing again and our November concert is only 3 weeks away, so time to make use of the available learning aids if you haven't already and make sure we're all on top of the notes!

With very best wishes for Season 66!

*Charlotte Butters
Chairman
October 2024*



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Derby Bach Choir	251883
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	8/1/2023	To	7/31/2024
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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					
Events	10,972	-	-	10,972	13,254
Fundraising	4,195	-	-	4,195	16,155
Interest	838	-	-	838	321
Grant	-	-	-	-	5,948
Legacy	1,936	-	-	1,936	-
Subscriptions	11,294	-	-	11,294	-
Miscellaneous	3,034	-	-	3,034	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	32,269	-	-	32,269	35,678
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	32,269	-	-	32,269	35,678
A3 Payments					
Events	21,835	-	-	21,835	22,765
Admin	5,804	-	-	5,804	10,135
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	27,639	-	-	27,639	32,900
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	27,639	-	-	27,639	32,900
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,630	-	-	4,630	2,778
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,270	-	-	34,270	31,491
Cash funds this year end	38,900	-	-	38,900	34,269

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	HSBC	11,927	-	-
	Cambridge and Counties	26,973	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	38,900	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Laura Bishop		23-May

Derby Bach Choir

Independent Examiners Report 2024

1. Introduction

This report is written with the trustees of the Derby Bach Choir in mind, and is a brief overview of what I have done as an Independent Examiner, the formal report which will be submitted to the Charity Commission, and some observations I made as I went through the process. As an appendix I included a summary of the role of the Independent Examiner that I wrote in 2022.

2. The 2024 Independent Examination

This is a summary of the tasks I have carried out in reviewing the 2023-24 accounts. These are tests carried out on a sample basis - it is not a 100% verification.

- Confirmed that the accounts being examined are the version approved by the trustees
- Reviewed the accounting records compiled on spreadsheets
- Verified transactions in the accounting records to third party evidence (invoices, receipts etc.), and to receipts and payments in the bank account
- Checked the opening and closing bank balances in the accounting records to the bank statements
- Checked that the accounts represent the accounting records
- Checked additions
- Corresponded with Laura on all the above

3. The Formal Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Derby Bach Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Derby Bach Choir (the Trust) for the year ended 31st July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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.

Signed:

Name: John Millard

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 23 Penny Long Lane Derby DE22 1AX

4. Some Observations

It is Laura's first year in the role, and I hope I have been helpful and not overbearing in raising issues which are not strictly within the remit of the Independent Examiner! I have spotted a few gaps, and suggested some improvements.

In addition, the following are some observations that I have made during the course of my examination. They are not made as part of the examination, but are just suggestions for the Treasurer or trustees to consider.

4.1 As last year, in looking at ticket sales, I have confined myself to checking that the accounting records and the bank statements agree. Although some third-party evidence is available (e.g. SumUp and PayPal statements) to authenticate monies banked, it is not possible to prove or disprove whether any money has been received but not banked or recorded. Ultimately it is the responsibility of trustees to ensure, as far as possible, that every concert seat occupied has been paid for and the money banked. My suggestion is that the Trustees regularly monitor the processes which make this happen.

4.2 I recommend that the Trustees have a reserves policy. This is a requirement of the Charity Commission, though there is no guidance as to what it should be, because every charity has different needs and obligations. Often it is expressed as a percentage of operating costs, and 20% or 25% is quite common. The thinking here is that if income suddenly ceased, could the charity meet its financial obligations? At the end of the financial year the DBC reserves were £38,900, which can be contrasted with expenditure of £27,639. There are other considerations, of course, but I suggest that trustees ensure that they are comfortable that the assets for which they are responsible are being used to further the objectives of the charity.

4.3 When the dust has settled, Laura and I will review exchanges we have had over the last few weeks with the aim of tightening the process for next year. We have in mind to agree a list of data requirements (i.e. accounting records) and other documents (e.g. bank statements); layout of reports to trustees/members for the AGM, and an outline timetable.

John Millard

28th October 2024

Appendix:

The Role of the Independent Examiner

- **What is an Independent Examiner supposed to do?**

The Charity Commission document CC32 is 84 pages of directions and guidance for independent examiners of charity accounts. Trustees need to know of its existence, and some may wish to read it, but for those who have other calls on their time I have extracted some of the salient parts. It is important that trustees are aware of what the Independent Examiner is to do, and also what he/she is not to do.

An independent examination is a form of external scrutiny which provides a limited check on specific matters. It is sometimes referred to as giving “negative assurance”. The examiner is required to confirm whether there are any matters of material concern which has come to his/her attention. This contrasts to the role of an auditor who is supposed to provide an opinion on whether the accounts give a “true and fair view”. So the examination is therefore a limited form of scrutiny compared to an audit, providing less assurance in terms of depth of work which is carried out.

- **What is the content of an Independent Examination?**

What is required to be done is set out in the Directions made by the Charity Commission, and the content of the report is set out in the 2008 regulations. (There are 13 Directions and several examples of a formal examination report!)

The examination comprises:

- Review of accounting records
- Comparison of the accounts to the records
- Review of the accounts
- Consideration of any unusual items and matters of concern

In my view, the depth of these activities largely depends on factors such as the professional judgment of the examiner, the size and complexity of the charity, and the thoroughness and integrity of the accounting records. It can also depend on the tact and diplomacy of the examiner, who must remember that most treasurers are part-time amateurs who should not be subject to over-zealous interrogation!

- **Who does the Independent Examiner report to?**

Trustees are responsible for the keeping of accounting records and the production of accounts. The examiner’s role is to report to the accounts on these matters, and commenting in particular on:

- The accounting records
- Whether the accounts agree with the records
- And whether the form of accounts is correct

To put it another way, the examiner gives the trustees extra assurance that the treasurer is doing his/her job properly!

The report in Section 4 below follows the template suggested in CC32 4.1, and is the same as used by the previous examiner of DBC in the submission of the accounts to the Charity Commission.

- **When is an Independent Examination required?**

Charity law requires that any charity with a gross income of more than £25,000 must have an independent examination, and its accounts have to be filed with the Charity Commission within 10 months of its financial year end. (With income over £250,000 an audit is required.) A charity with income less than £25,000 may have an independent examination if it so wishes. For 2021-22, DBC comes under this threshold with income of £21,610; the projection for 2022-23 suggests the income may be just over the border!

- **Who can be an Independent Examiner?**

CC32 says that an Independent Examiner “must have the right skill”. This means that they must be independent, and have the necessary experience and skills. They must have an understanding of what accounts are, what they are intended to do, and must have some analytical skills.

I have previously supplied James with a potted version of my CV, but in summary, I have been a chartered accountant for some 42 years, I have worked in the charity sector for 25, and have had financial roles, and been treasurer and trustee, for Broadway church and Derby City Mission for many years.

John Millard

1st December 2022

DERBY BACH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 251883

Accounts



Chairman's Report 2022/23

I thought my first season as Chair of Derby Bach Choir had been a rather 'quiet' one as I've got to grips with my role and what goes on behind the scenes. As I have reflected on the year to write my report, however, I realise how much we have accomplished and how busy it has been after all!

We started the season with Verdi's Requiem in our usual venue of Derby Cathedral. I think it's safe to say that, as one of our first 'proper' performances since the tribulations of Covid, we had a rather record-breaking audience in number and appreciation. The choir was also well-represented in number, and I think all would agree it was a memorable performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

Nothing puts me in the festive mood better than singing carols and the joy of brass band music. We enjoyed all of this and more when we returned to St John's Church for our "Christmas Brass & Voices" concert in December, joined once again by Derwentio Brass and children of the Old Vicarage School Choir who, as always, lent an extra drop of Christmas magic to the occasion. Add in a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in the interval and we were all ready for the festive season.

The choir returned to rehearsals in January to prepare for our March performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion. Shortly before this concert we had heard the sad news of the death of John York Skinner, a former conductor of the choir, and the committee made the unanimous decision to dedicate the concert in his memory.

James Oxley headed a wonderful cast of soloists and it was particularly special to have Peter Savidge coming out of retirement to sing the role of Christus for us. It was also great to have some solos sung from within the choir, as well as the Cathedral Choristers singing from the gallery. We received wonderful feedback from a variety of sources, including our Musical Director Richard Roddis who said afterwards, *"I venture humbly that we reached the heart of this great Passion, surely one of the greatest musical achievements of all time, and in doing so we paid proper tribute to the mighty JS whose name we proudly bear. And at the same time, the performance was a fitting memorial to our friend and conductor, John York Skinner."*

A note from Lady Scarsdale, our patron, also thanked us for *"a momentous concert. The standard of singing was magnificent!"* All in all, it was a very special performance that was enjoyed by many.



1 Photo of DBC rehearsing St Matthew Passion, by Mike Dewis (bass soloist)

In May we returned to St George's Church in Ticknall for the annual Come & Sing event, this time to learn and perform the Brahms Requiem (mercifully in English this time!). Feedback afterwards showed what a wonderful fundraising event this is for the choir, and how very much appreciated were the skills of conductor James Foulds and accompanist Tom Corfield.

Our final concert of the season was an Edwardian Musical Evening at Derby Grammar School. We were all hoping the beautiful June weather would persist but on the day the heavens opened! There was a perfectly timed window of sunshine between rehearsals and concert though, allowing many of us to enjoy a picnic in the grounds. Accompanist Abigail Johnson, violin soloist Matt Byrne, and bass soloist Jeremy Leaman joined us for a selection of music including pieces by Brahms, Elgar and Stanford. Some may have noticed the thunder and lightning during the performance which, if my memory serves correctly, rather appropriately accompanied a rousing rendition of 'The Marksmen' from Elgar's Bavarian dances!

The choir has gained a few new members across all parts throughout the year, and we are delighted to welcome them all. As is often discussed, we continue to try to attract more new singers and I am working with a few interested members of the choir alongside the committee to develop our marketing strategy. If anyone is interested in helping with this or better yet has previous marketing experience, please do get in touch with me.

Over the past year we have sadly heard of the deaths of one or two friends and past members of the choir, including Maurice Walkerdine who was a longstanding member of the choir and former Chairman, and will be sorely missed.

On a more practical note, I would like to thank the committee members for their support and hard work over the last year. My thanks especially go to Jenny Casboul and James Foulds who have both been great sources of information and

wisdom about all things Derby Bach Choir-related. James in particular has been a stalwart of the choir both as a long-standing member, assistant conductor and more latterly as Treasurer, and I hope you will all join me in thanking him for his outstanding contribution to the choir over the years. We hope to see him back with the Tenors very soon.

The committee continue to plan future events and programming for forthcoming seasons, and I know members are keen to be involved in making suggestions for future concert material. I am looking into a potential way of capturing ideas on an ongoing basis in future - the aim is to have a link on the 'Members' area of the website so that ideas can be shared at any time and the committee will be able to download them periodically for discussion.

As a charity, the choir relies on support from its members to keep going. I know that I am repeating the requests of past chairs, but it is still the case that we need volunteers to help keep the choir running smoothly. However, what is different now is that we are trying to consider different ways of delivering roles, and not necessarily suggesting that it has to be one person shouldering each responsibility. In the coming weeks we will be sharing information about the different roles/areas we need some help with, so if you think you might be interested or just want to find out a bit more, please get in touch with me or Jenny.

My thanks to Richard Roddis, our Musical Director, for continuing to lead us with enthusiasm and patience. Thanks also to Tom Corfield our talented accompanist, who somehow manages to play all of our vocal parts at once as well as the whole orchestra with only 2 hands and a piano!

All that remains is for me to thank you all for continuing to support the committee and choir (and me!), and to look forward to the rest of this season. Let's continue to find ways to support each other and the choir and, most of all, KEEP SINGING!

*Charlotte Butters
October 2023*



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Consent CIO

No (if any)

1181912

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/22	To	Period end date 31/03/23
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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					
Donations	1139	-	-	1,139	32,752
GiftAid	4,045.00	-	-	4,045	303
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,184	-	-	5,184	33,055
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,184	-	-	5,184	33,055
A3 Payments					
Advertising	758	-	-	758	6,698
Bank charges		-	-	-	56
Design		-	-	-	275
Legal and professional fees	3,051	-	-	3,051	19,524
Office expenses, repairs & maintenance	275	-	-	275	250
Printing, postage and stationery	190	-	-	190	3
Software and IT	280	-	-	280	719
Staff	2,290	-	-	2,290	2,430
Telephone	45	-	-	45	35
Travelling expenses	473	-	-	473	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total	7,362	-	-	7,362	29,990
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,362	-	-	7,362	29,990
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,178	-	-	- 2,178	3,065
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 2,178	-	-	- 2,178	3,065

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 accounts	4460		-
			-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	4,460	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Oliver Müller	28/08/23



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Derby Bach Choir

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 st July 2023	Charity no (if any)	251883
----------------------------	--------------------------------	--------

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2023 DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 16th November 2023

Name: John Millard

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

ACA (ICAEW)

Address:

23 Penny Long Lane
Derby
DE22 1AX