

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

England & Wales · Charity number 257047

## Details

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**Other names** SAINT MICHAEL'S SINGERS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1968-11-14

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

## Contact

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**Address** 36 Beechwood Avenue  
Coventry  
CV5 6QG

**Phone** 07760153566

**Email** [ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com](mailto:ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com)

**Website** <https://www.coventrycathedralchorus.com>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF CHORAL MUSIC, IN ORDER TO FOSTER THE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF SUCH MUSIC, BOTH KNOWN AND NEWLY COMPOSED WORKS, BY MEANS OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD.

**Activities:** CURRENT ACTIVITIES CONSIST OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCES OF CONCERTS IN COVENTRY CATHEDRAL AND OTHER CHURCHES IN SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE JOINED BY THE LOCAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND SCHOOL CHOIRS. THE CHOIR HAS BEEN ALSO INVITED TO TAKE PART IN EVENTS PROMOTED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS, AS WELL AS PARTICIPATING IN SEVERAL BBC "SONGS OF PRAISE" TELEVISION AND OTHER RADIO RECORDINGS.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- City Of Westminster
- Coventry City
- Gloucestershire
- Herefordshire
- Warwickshire
- Worcestershire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£33,152	£35,660	-	-
2024-07-31	£37,840	£38,940	-	-
2023-07-31	£40,462	£68,623	-	-
2022-07-31	£34,934	£51,804	-	-
2021-07-31	£3,883	£1,647	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>KATHRYN LAWRY</b>	Chair	2019-12-30
Hazel Sheila Allen		
Julie Barnes		
Louise Ransberry		2022-09-13
Luke Fitzgerald		2021-09-01
Martin John Ablitt		2014-01-18
<b>OLWYN SEAL</b>		
Rachel Alexandra Mahon Hancock		2021-12-21

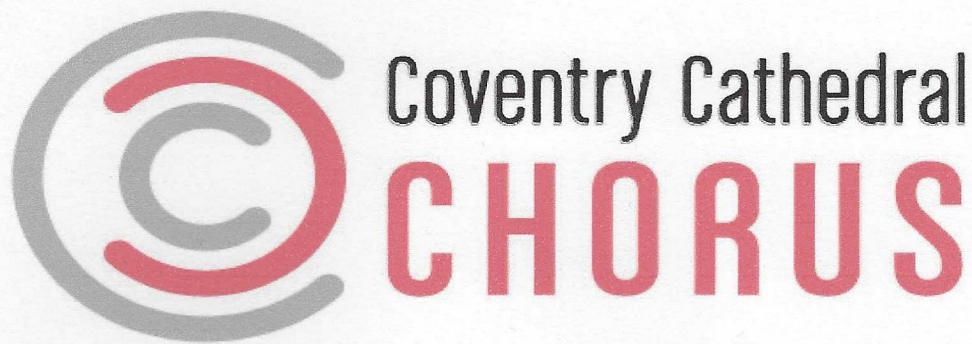
**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**

England & Wales - Charity number 257047

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# Accounts

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2025**

Coventry Cathedral Chorus (formerly Saint Michael's Singers) was established in 1963 soon after the consecration of the new Cathedral Church of Saint Michael at Coventry. The society retains a close association with the Cathedral, which provides a base for rehearsals and a venue for some concerts. The choir also regularly takes part in concerts in other locations and has occasional opportunities to join with other choirs and orchestras to perform at venues further afield.

The choir's current membership of about 60 mixed voices is drawn from a wide region centred on Coventry. Entrance to and continued membership of the choir is subject to regular audition.

From January 2022, Rachel Mahon has been the Chorus' Director of Music, following on from Paul Leddington-Wright's long tenure. Rachel is also the Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral.

The Chorus is run by a voluntary Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting and has no paid officers.

Although of amateur status, Coventry Cathedral Chorus strives to achieve the highest possible artistic standards, as declared in its constitution:

*The aims and objectives of the choir shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music, both known and newly composed, by means of public performance of the highest possible standard*

Over the years the Chorus has been recognised as among the region's leading choral societies, both in terms of its diversity of music and in the quality of performance.

## OFFICERS

The officers of the society for the season 2024/2025 were as follows:

**Chair:** Kit Lawry

**Vice Chair:** Hazel Allen

**Honorary Treasurer:** Eve Cooper

**Honorary Membership Secretary:** Olwyn Seal

### **Other elected committee members:**

Martin Ablitt (stepped down in 2024)

Julie Barnes

Sally Bradshaw

Sally Hughes

Philippa Rainbird (stepped down at Christmas 2024)

Louise Ransberry

Chris Raynor

Carole Solway (moved away at Christmas 2024)

**Conductor:**

Rachel Mahon

**Assistant Conductor:**

Luke Fitzgerald

**Emeritus Conductor:**

Paul Leddington-Wright

### **Chairman's Address:**

Kit Lawry  
19 Lower Ladyes Hills  
Kenilworth  
CV8 2GN  
Mobile: 07774 524352  
Email: [chairofccc@gmail.com](mailto:chairofccc@gmail.com)

### **Honorary Treasurer's Address:**

Eve Cooper  
36 Beechwood Avenue  
Coventry  
CV5 6QG  
07760 153566  
email: [ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com](mailto:ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com)

**Charity Registration Number:** 257047

## THE SEASON'S ACTIVITIES

### *Coventry Cathedral Chorus' own promotions*

- To commemorate Remembrance Day in November 2024 the Chorus performed **Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*** in Coventry Cathedral, conducted by Luke Fitzgerald as Rachel was on maternity leave.
- In December 2024 the choir presented a **Christmastide Celebration** in Coventry Cathedral. We were joined and accompanied by the Brass Band of Central England, children from the All Saints Primary School and the Choristers of Coventry Cathedral, to raise funds for the Coventry & Warwickshire Children's Charity. The programme comprised a mix of popular sacred and secular pieces for the festive season.
- Later in December 2024, we performed Handel's ***Messiah* by candlelight** in Coventry Cathedral. Despite this being on a weekday there was a good audience. The professional Orchestra Pro Anima accompanied us for this, under Michael Bochmann. Rachel returned from maternity leave to conduct this concert.
- On Good Friday in April 2025 the choir performed Charles Wood's ***St Mark's Passion***, and Finzi's ***Welcome Sweet and Sacred Feast*** in Coventry Cathedral, conducted by Luke Fitzgerald.
- In May 2025, we repeated our previous year's collaboration with the Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra to sing a **Last Night of the Proms concert**, this time in All Saints Church in Leamington Spa. We had some sponsorship from Kenilworth Lions Club and, as last year, this concert was much enjoyed. Luke Fitzgerald and Joe Davies were the conductors of CCC and CWYC respectively.
- Rachel Mahon returned from maternity leave to conduct our final concert in the busy 2024-2025 season. This was a **celebration of Elizabethan music** in St John's Church, Kenilworth, as part of English Heritage and Kenilworth Town Council's marking of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth 1's final visit to Kenilworth. We had some sponsorship from Kenilworth Town Council for this concert and attracted a Kenilworth-based audience many of whom hadn't heard us sing before.

### *Performances not promoted by Coventry Cathedral Chorus*

- On 1 November 2024 a group of CCC singers joined **London Music Promoter Senbla.com** to provide background singing for a performance of Game of Thrones music in Warwick Arts Centre's Butterworth Hall. CCC were paid for this performance. The Hall was full and the audience feedback was very positive.
- We also performed 2 paid concerts in Compton Verney's Chapel on 13 December. Compton Verney is a Warwickshire stately home art gallery. This was the first time we'd sung there, and a new audience for us as well. The venue, atmosphere and decorations were beautiful, and we enjoyed the experience – as did the audience.

## *Financial Outcome of Concerts*

**Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*:** This concert attracted a fair sized audience but made a deficit of £2972.

**Christmastide Celebration:** The Children's Charity had a poor fundraising year and did not contribute to the cost of hiring the Cathedral. This meant a loss for the Chorus of £2722. The Chorus have decided it is not worth continuing with this concert in its current form.

**Handel's *Messiah* by candlelight:** This concert attracted a reasonably sized audience who were very appreciative. We were working with a professional orchestra, though, so the outcome was a deficit of £3409.

**Good Friday Concert:** Audience numbers were quite low for this event, possibly because the works are less well known, although they attracted much appreciation. The outcome was a deficit of £1305.

**Last Night of the Proms:** This event was promoted jointly with the Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra, hoping to be a crowd-drawer and produce some profit. It did attract people who clearly enjoyed the event, but in the end, there was a deficit of £482, split equally between CCC and CWYO.

**Celebration of Elizabethan music:** The final concert of the year was very well attended and made a profit of £1893.

To be frugal with CCC's available funds, and try not to make big losses from concerts, we will continue to seek opportunities of paid gigs, and of collaborations with other choirs or orchestras, so they bear or share the financial burden. We have several collaborations lined up for the 2025-26 season.

## **FINANCE**

### **Members' Contributions**

Weekly rehearsal costs (see below) are covered by the members' annual subscriptions, which for this season were raised to £140 per person. Subscriptions amounted to £8974, and Patrons' donations raised £2693, both including Gift Aid which was claimed where applicable.

The 100 club operated again this year, raising £370 for the Chorus.

### **Fees Earned**

A total of £3000 was earned from 2 paid events.

### **Non-Concert Income**

Royalties are earned from time-to-time from CD, radio or television recording sessions. This year the fees totalled £247.

### **Concert Productions**

The principal financial outlay for the Chorus is its concerts. Concert expenditure this year was £23,547.

## Rehearsal Costs

Rehearsal costs consist of fees to the conductor and accompanist. In 2024-25 these totalled £9096.

## Administrative Costs

Having no paid officers, but a very hard-working voluntary committee, the society has very low administration costs of £145, just 0.4% of expenditure.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Concert Planning

Looking forward to the 2025-26 season, we plan a busy concert programme:

- Faure's *Requiem* on 2 November 2025 in Coventry Cathedral, as part of the liturgy of the Cathedral.
- Handel's *Messiah* by candlelight in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 13 December 2025.
- Two paid concerts at Compton Verney for Winter 2025 on Friday 19 December.
- Three local community carol singing events, in UHCW, outside The Town Wall Tavern, Coventry and in the New Inn pub, Leamington Spa.
- Britten's *War Requiem* on Saturday 28 February 2026 in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, with CCC joining as guests of Imperial College Chamber Choir.
- Charles Stainer's *Crucifixion* in Coventry Cathedral on Good Friday, 3 April 2026.
- Mahler's *8th Symphony* in Coventry Cathedral on Monday 16 May 2026, as part of a large collaboration led by Joe Davies.

We will endeavour to maintain the mix of the 2024-25 season: of performing some concerts promoted by CCC, some in collaboration with other orchestras or choirs, some for payment, and singing in several different venues, to different audiences.

### Future Development

- We shall seek to expand our reputation and build audiences through promoting regular, popular events.
- We aim to increase our presence on social media and actively work on inexpensive ways to increase our 'reach' of audiences, such as the Warwickshire District newsletter.
- We have taken out membership of Culture Central which gives us free access to 2,000 people in Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth, Birmingham and the West Midlands through its fortnightly Newsletter where we can advertise our concerts for free.
- Importantly we shall continue to actively recruit new members both for the benefit of the choir and because of the audience members they bring with them. Most new members come through word of mouth from friends.

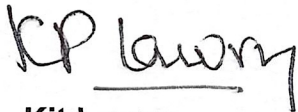
## CONCLUSION

Coventry Cathedral Chorus will continue to use the resources at its disposal to promote concerts of choral music to high standards, collaborating where possible with professional and amateur soloists and orchestras.

The choir is always keen to appeal to new audiences, as well as retaining existing customers, by presenting a wide variety of music. It also takes every opportunity to encourage the interest and involvement of young people in choral music.

In all of these ways the society seeks to fulfil the objectives of its constitution by bringing awareness and enjoyment of choral music to as wide a range of the public as possible.

**On behalf of the management committee:**



**Kit Lawry**  
*Chair*



**Eve Cooper**  
*Honorary Treasurer*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Coventry Cathedral Chorus.**  
I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st July 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those recorded. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and ,consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**


In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

8/10/2025

**David M Phillips, Chartered Management Accountant. Phillips and Becker Ltd,  
Accountancy House, 4 Priory Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1LL**

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 July 2025**

	Notes	Total 2024/25 £	Total 2022/23 £
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Concert Income		14,807	21,152
Donations		1,963	633
Fees earned	1	3,000	0
Net income from Recordings/Royalties		247	224
Membership subscriptions		8,974	10,325
Bank & Building Society interest		128	210
Transport		0	460
Music & Folders		553	1,339
Patrons	5	2,693	2,719
100 Club		570	660
Fundraising		167	78
Other		50	40
		33,152	37,840
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>			
Concert costs		23,547	24,490
Rehearsal costs		9,096	8,285
<b>Other expenditure</b>			
Administration costs		145	105
Insurance		81	79
Memberships		468	392
PRS		125	379
Publicity		637	1,493
Transport		0	1,050
Music & Folders		481	1,579
100 Club		200	300
Subs reimbursement		70	165
Other - social events, refreshments, gifts		585	398
Donation to auditor's charity		225	225
Total resources expended		35,660	38,940
<b>Profit / (Loss)</b>		<b>(2,508)</b>	<b>(1,100)</b>
Interest from COIF investment fund	3	249	1,962
Fund Balance at start of year		35,622	34,760
<b>Fund Balance at end of year</b>		<b>33,363</b>	<b>35,622</b>

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025

	Notes	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>			
Debtors & Prepayments	2	0	2,079
Cash at bank and in hand		12,561	13,040
COIF Investment Fund	3	20,802	20,553
		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,672</u>
Creditors	4	0	50
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,622</u>
<b><u>Net Assets</u></b>		<u><u>33,363</u></u>	<u><u>35,622</u></u>
<b><u>Fund Balances</u></b>			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,622</u>
<b><u>Total Funds</u></b>		<u><u>33,363</u></u>	<u><u>35,622</u></u>

Approved by the Committee Members on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Kit Lawry  
CHAIR

  
Eve Cooper  
HONORARY TREASURER

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025**

All activities are classed as continuing.

Notes on pages 10 and 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

### **Committee Costs**

The Society is a totally voluntary organisation, and no member of its Committee of Management is remunerated. £663.38 was reimbursed during the year to two Committee members in respect of administrative costs incurred by them on behalf of the Chorus.

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Notes to the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 July 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
<b>1. Fees Earned</b>		
Senbla Concert	1,500	0
Compton Verney Concerts	1,500	0
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>2. Debtors</b>		
Trade & sundry debtors	<u>0</u>	<u>2,079</u>
<b>3. Investments</b>		
Balance at start of year	20,553	18,591
Balance at end of year	20,802	20,553
Increase (decrease) in fund valuation	249	1,962
<b>4. Creditors</b>		
Trade creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>

### 5. Patrons

The brought forward balance in the Patrons' Fund stood at £17,041

Income from Patrons of £2,693 represents subscriptions and Gift Aid where applicable

The balance in the Patron's fund on 31 July 2025 was £19,734.

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**

England & Wales - Charity number 257047

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# Accounts

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2024**

### **THE SOCIETY**

Coventry Cathedral Chorus (formerly Saint Michael's Singers) was established in 1963 soon after the consecration of the new Cathedral Church of Saint Michael at Coventry. The society retains a close association with the Cathedral, which provides a base for rehearsals and a venue for some concerts. The choir also regularly takes part in concerts in Cirencester, in association with Orchestra Pro Anima, and has occasional opportunities to join with other choirs and orchestras to perform at venues further afield around the country.

The choir's current membership of about 65 mixed voices is drawn from a wide region centred on Coventry. Entrance to and continued membership of the choir is subject to regular audition.

From January 2022, Rachel Mahon has been the Chorus' Director of Music, following on from Paul Leddington-Wright's long tenure. Rachel is also the Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral.

The Chorus is run by a voluntary Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting and has no paid officers.

Although of amateur status, Coventry Cathedral Chorus strives to achieve the highest possible artistic standards, as declared in its constitution:

*The aims and objectives of the choir shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music, both known and newly composed, by means of public performance of the highest possible standard*

Over the years the Chorus has come to be recognised as among the region's leading choral societies, both in terms of its diversity of music and in the quality of performance.

## OFFICERS

The officers of the society for the season 2023/2024 were as follows:

**Chair:** Kit Lawry

**Treasurer:** Eve Cooper

**Membership Secretary:** Olwyn Seal

**Other elected committee members:**

Martin Ablitt  
Hazel Allen  
Julie Barnes  
Sally Bradshaw

Philippa Rainbird  
Louise Ransberry  
Carole Solway

**Conductor:**

**Assistant Conductor:**

**Emeritus Conductor:**

Rachel Mahon

Luke Fitzgerald

Paul Leddington-Wright

**Chairman's Address:**

Kit Lawry  
19 Lower Ladyes Hills  
Kenilworth  
CV8 2GN  
Mobile: 07774 524352  
Email: [chairofccc@gmail.com](mailto:chairofccc@gmail.com)

**Treasurer's Address:**

Eve Cooper  
36 Beechwood Avenue  
Coventry  
CV5 6QG  
07760 153566  
email: [ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com](mailto:ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com)

**Charity Registration Number:** 257047

## THE SEASON'S ACTIVITIES

### *Coventry Cathedral Chorus' own promotions*

- In November 2023 the Chorus performed Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* sung in Old Church Slavonic. The Parliament Choir joined us, first in Coventry Cathedral and then in Southwark Cathedral, London. Feedback from audience quotes were very positive: "I never expected to hear that kind of music in this building". Along with that main piece, we sang shorter pieces by Gjeilo, Rheinberger and Barber.
- In December 2023 the choir presented a Christmastide Celebration in Coventry Cathedral. We were joined and accompanied by the Brass Band of Central England, Heart of England school choir and the Choristers of Coventry Cathedral, to raise funds for the Coventry & Warwickshire Children's Charity. A decision was taken to merge what had previously been two repeat concerts (afternoon and evening) into one concert. This proved successful. The programme comprised a mix of popular sacred and secular pieces for the festive season.
- Another change instituted in December 2023 was to sing Handel's *Messiah* once a year, and in Coventry only. (Travelling to Cirencester, though enjoyable, was expensive and sometimes difficult in winter weather.) We also discovered that we could get a reasonable audience performing *Messiah* on a weekday in Coventry, as the Cathedral's Saturday bookings in December needed to be available for other groups. This decision also cut down the choir's commitments from five concerts between mid-November and the end of December to a more manageable three. We performed by candlelight.
- On Good Friday 2024 the choir performed sacred works by Purcell, Bairstow, Sanders and Leighton for Holy Week and Good Friday. Very low advance ticket sales threatened cancellation but, in the end, there was a good, and very appreciative, audience.
- In May 2024, a new addition to our programme of Chorus-promoted concerts in Coventry Cathedral was a collaboration with the Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra to perform a Last Night of the Proms concert. We attempted, without success, to get grant funding for this but it went ahead anyway and was much enjoyed. So much so that C&WYO have already suggested another Last Night concert in May 2025. Joe Davis who conducts the C&WYO shared the conducting with Rachel for this concert.
- Our final "concert" in the 2023-2024 season celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Coventry Cathedral Chorus (or St Michael's Singers, as we were initially named). This took the form of a Sung Evensong in June 2024 to which a very long list of past and present singers, conductors, patrons, Friends of Coventry Cathedral and our President Pam Rhodes were invited, as well as the Cathedral Choristers, to come and join us. It was a delight to welcome Pam Rhodes to Coventry again. Her presence enhanced the event.

## FINANCIAL OUTCOME OF CONCERT ACTIVITIES

### **Rachmaninoff's Vespers**

This was deliberately programmed to be an inexpensive concert; sung A cappella, together with the other shorter pieces of music, without orchestra to keep down costs. It was the only concert in the 2023-24 season to bring in a profit, of £763.

### **Christmastide Concert in aid of Coventry & Warwickshire Children's Charity**

The Chorus originally committed to paying the commercial rate for the Cathedral venue for this concert each year, so that the Cathedral didn't lose out. Changes in audience numbers and other factors (such as having the Brass Band of Central England playing with us – which is a big draw) meant that the concert made a deficit of £583.

The Chair and Vice Chair of CCC met with representatives of the C&WCC in January 2024 and agreed that C&WCC would find sponsorship to cover the cost of hiring the Cathedral venue at its commercial price. We hope that both C&WCC and CCC takings from this concert will be positive in future.

### **Handel's *Messiah* in Coventry Cathedral**

This concert attracted a reasonably sized audience who were very appreciative. We were working with a professional orchestra, though, so the outcome was a deficit of £2,143.

### **Good Friday Concert**

Audience numbers were quite low for this event – possibly because the works are less well known, although they attracted much appreciation. The outcome was a deficit of £311.

### **Last Night of the Proms**

This event was promoted jointly with the Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra, hoping to be a crowd-drawer and produce some profit. It did attract people who clearly enjoyed the music, joining in and waving a variety of flags, but resulted in a deficit of £326, split equally between CCC and C&WYO.

### **Jubilee Choral Evensong**

This event was aimed as a celebration of the Chorus and its 60 years of music-making. The music, company, and bringing together of a large group of people who care for Coventry Cathedral Chorus was wonderful. However, it made a deficit of £123.

## **FINANCE**

### *INCOME SOURCES*

#### **Members' Contributions**

Weekly rehearsal costs (see below) are covered by the members' annual subscriptions, which for this season were put up to £130 per person. Subscriptions amounted to £10,325 and Patrons' donations raised £2719, both including Gift Aid which was claimed where appropriate.

The 100 club operated again this year, raising £360 for the Chorus.

#### **Non-Concert Activities**

Royalties are earned from time-to-time from CD, radio or television recording sessions and also from concerts promoted by other agencies. Such fees totalled £224 in 2023-24.

## RESOURCE UTILISATION

### Concert Productions

The principal resource utilisation of the Chorus is its concerts. For 2023/24 expenditure on concerts was £24,490.

### Rehearsal Costs

Rehearsal costs consist of fees to the conductor and accompanist and costs related to the rehearsal venue. In 2023-24 these totalled £8285.

### Administrative Costs

Having no paid officers, but a very hard-working voluntary committee, the Chorus has very low administration costs - this year totalling £105, just 0.3% of expenditure.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Concert Planning

Looking forward to the 2024-25 season, we plan a busy concert programme:

- Senbla.com, a London-based music promotion company, approached CCC to sing with them in a concert in Warwick Arts Centre featuring music from Game of Thrones, Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit. This represents a new venue and audience for CCC and a paid event on 1 November 2024.
- A Remembrance concert on 9 November 2024: Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.
- A Christmastide Celebration concert in support of Coventry & Warwickshire Children's Charity on 7 December 2024 featuring the Brass Band of Central England and All Saints Primary School choir, in Coventry Cathedral.
- Two concerts in Compton Verney (another new venue and audience for CCC) on 13 December. Compton Verney is a Warwickshire stately home art gallery. These two concerts will also be paid.
- Handel's *Messiah* with candlelight in Coventry Cathedral on Monday 16 December.
- A performance of Charles Wood's *St Mark's Passion* and Finzi's *Welcome Sweet and Sacred Feast* in Coventry Cathedral on Good Friday, 18 April 2025.
- Last Night of the Proms with C&W Youth Orchestra on 10 May 2025 in All Saints Church, Leamington Spa.
- A concert to celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth 1's visit to Kenilworth in 1575, in St John's Church, Kenilworth on Saturday 12 July 2025.

Further ahead we will endeavour to maintain the mix of the 2024-25 season: performing some concerts promoted by CCC, some in collaboration with other orchestras or choirs, some for payment, and singing in several different venues to reach different audiences.

## Future Development

- Working with our long-term friends, the Orchestra Pro Anima, and with the Brass Band of Central England, and re-igniting our partnership with the Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra, we shall look to expand our reputation and build audiences through promoting regular, popular events.
- Aiming to increase our presence on social media and actively work on inexpensive ways to increase our 'reach' of audiences. We have taken out membership of Culture Central which gives us free access to 2,000 people in Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth, Birmingham and the West Midlands, through its fortnightly Newsletter where we can advertise our concerts for free.
- Researching how people coming to our concerts heard about them, and what draws them in.
- Continuing to seek and create opportunities to involve young people in our concerts, as well as the Choir Choristers, to attract audience (family members etc.) and to encourage children to continue participating in music-making in the future. To support this, we will work on building relationships with other organisations involved in music education in the area.
- Actively recruiting new members both for the benefit of the choir and because of the audience members they will bring with them. Most new members come through word of mouth from friends.

## CONCLUSION

The Coventry Cathedral Chorus will continue to use the resources at its disposal to promote concerts of choral music to the highest standards, working where possible with professional orchestras and soloists.

The choir is always keen to appeal to new audiences, as well as retaining existing customers, by presenting a wide variety of music including newly composed works. It also takes every opportunity to encourage the interest and involvement of young people in choral music.

In all of these ways the society seeks to fulfil the objectives of its constitution by bringing awareness and enjoyment of choral music to as wide a range of the public as possible.

**On behalf of the management committee:**



**Kit Lawry**  
*Chair*



**Eve Cooper**  
*Treasurer*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Coventry Cathedral Chorus.**  
I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st July 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those recorded. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and ,consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

13/11/2024

**David M Phillips, Chartered Management Accountant. Phillips and Becker Ltd,  
Accountancy House, 4 Priory Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1LL**

## COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 July 2024

	Notes	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23 (restated)
		£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
Concert Income		21,152	23,810
Donations		633	546
Fees earned		0	0
Net income from recordings/royalties	1	224	169
Membership subscriptions		10,325	8,792
Bank interest		210	94
Transport		460	250
Folders/Music		1,339	3,089
Patrons	6	2,719	2,989
100 Club		660	650
Fundraising		78	73
Other		40	0
		37,840	40,462
<b>Resources used</b>			
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>			
Concert costs		24,490	36,249
Rehearsal costs		8,285	7,225
<b>Other expenditure</b>			
Administration costs		105	240
Insurance		79	75
Making Music membership		392	365
PRS		379	78
Publicity		1,493	720
Transport		1,050	550
Folders/Music		1,579	2,678
100 Club		300	325
Special event - retirement of musical director		0	77
Subs reimbursement		165	0
Other - social events, refreshments etc		398	25
Donation to Coventry Cathedral		0	19,816
Donation to auditor's charity		225	200
		38,940	68,623
Net (outgoings)/ incoming resources		(1,100)	(28,161)
Revaluation of COIF investment fund	3	1,962	259
Fund Balances at 1 August 2023		34,760	62,662
<b>Fund Balance at 31 July 2024</b>		35,622	34,760

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2024

	Notes	2023/24	2022/23
		£	(restated) £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors & Prepayments	2	2,079	2,270
Cash at bank and in hand		13,040	15,099
COIF Investment Fund	3	20,553	18,591
		<u>35,672</u>	<u>35,960</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	50	1,200
		<u>35,622</u>	<u>34,760</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>35,622</u>	<u>34,760</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>35,622</u></u>	<u><u>34,760</u></u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	5	35,622	34,760
		<u><u>35,622</u></u>	<u><u>34,760</u></u>

Approved by the Committee Members on 25.11.2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
**Kit Lawry**  
**CHAIR**

  
**Eve Cooper**  
**TREASURER**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024**

All activities are classed as continuing. Notes on pages 10 and 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

### **Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and Statements and Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities. In particular, the accounts are prepared using the accruals method with income and expenditure being recognised strictly in accordance with the dates of the concerts in which the choir is performing.

#### **Funds**

The Society's funds generally consist solely of unrestricted amounts. Unrestricted funds consist of both general and designated amounts which the Society may use at its discretion.

#### **Committee Costs**

The Society is a totally voluntary organisation, and no member of its Committee of Management is remunerated. £459 was reimbursed during the year to two Committee members in respect of administrative costs incurred by them on behalf of the Chorus.

## COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

### Notes to the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 July 2024

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
<b>1. Net income from recordings / royalties</b>		
Profit	224	169
<b>2. Debtors</b>		
Trade & sundry debtors	2,079	2,270
<b>3. Investments</b>	20,553	18,591
<b>4. Creditors</b>		
Trade creditors	50	1,200

#### 5. Total Funds

The movements during the year were as follows:

	Balance 01/08/2023 (restated)	Incoming funds	Funds used	Balance 31/07/2024
General Funds	34,760	37,840	38,940	33,660
Revaluation of COIF investment fund		1,962		1,962
	34,760	39,802	38,940	35,622

#### 6. Patrons

The brought forward balance in the Patrons' Fund stood at £14,322.

Income from Patrons of £2,719 represents subscriptions and Gift Aid where applicable.

The balance in the Patrons' Fund at 31 July 2024 was £17,041.

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**

England & Wales - Charity number 257047

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# Accounts

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

### **THE SOCIETY**

Coventry Cathedral Chorus (then Saint Michael's Singers) was established in 1963 soon after the consecration of the new Cathedral Church of Saint Michael at Coventry. The society retains a close association with the Cathedral, which provides a base for rehearsals and a venue for some concerts. The choir also performs concerts in Cirencester, in association with Orchestra Pro Anima, and has occasional opportunities to join with other choirs to perform at venues further afield around the country.

The choir's current membership of 80 mixed voices is drawn from a wide region centred on Coventry. Entrance to and continued membership of the choir is subject to audition.

When Paul Leddington Wright, the choir's long-term conductor, stepped down in December 2021, Coventry Cathedral's Director of Music, Rachel Mahon, took over as Coventry Cathedral Chorus' Conductor and Director of Music, in January 2022.

The Society is run by a voluntary Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting and has no paid officers.

Although of amateur status, Coventry Cathedral Chorus strives to achieve the highest possible artistic standards, as declared in its constitution:

*The aims and objectives of the choir shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music, both known and newly composed, by means of public performance of the highest possible standard.*

Over the years the Society has come to be recognised as among the region's leading choral societies, both in terms of its diversity of activity and in the quality of performance.

## OFFICERS

The officers of the society for the season 2022/2023 were as follows:

**Chair:** Kit Lawry

**Vice Chair:** Hazel Allen

**Treasurer:** Jann Wallace

**Membership Secretary:** Olwyn Seal

**Minutes Secretary:** Julie Barnes

### Other elected committee members:

Martin Ablitt  
Matthew Horspool  
Robert Johnson

Philippa Rainbird  
Louise Ransberry  
Carole Solway

**Ex officio - Conductor:**

Rachel Mahon

**Accompanist and Deputy Conductor:**

Luke Fitzgerald

**Guest Conductor in autumn 2022:**

Paul Trepte

**Emeritus conductor:**

Paul Leddington Wright

### Chair's Address:

Kit Lawry  
19 Lower Ladyes Hills  
Kenilworth  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2GN  
Tel: 01926 854981  
Mobile: 07774 524352  
e-mail: [chairofccc@gmail.com](mailto:chairofccc@gmail.com)

### Honorary Treasurer's Address:

Jann Wallace  
17 Church Street  
Wellesbourne  
Warwickshire  
CV35 9LS  
Tel: 01789 542375  
Mobile: 07743 856893  
email: [ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com](mailto:ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com)

**Charity Registration Number: 257047**

## THE SEASON'S ACTIVITIES

### *Coventry Cathedral Chorus' own promotions*

- In November 2022 the Chorus performed a Remembrance concert in Coventry Cathedral honouring the memory and music of Ralph Vaughan Williams with internationally renowned soloists and with Warwick Symphony Orchestra, as part of the cathedral's annual Peace Festival. This concert was conducted by a guest conductor, Paul Trepte, as Rachel Mahon was on maternity leave.
- In December 2022 the choir presented two Christmas concerts (afternoon and evening) in aid of Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Charity, both conducted by Rachel Mahon. The afternoon programme featured the choir, Jaguar Land Rover Brass Band, the cathedral boy choristers and a local junior school while the evening event showcased the choir, Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra, the cathedral girl choristers and another local Academy choir. Both programmes contained a mix of popular sacred and secular pieces for the festive season.
- In December 2022 the choir performed Handel's *Messiah* twice: one concert in Cirencester Parish Church, followed by another performance in Coventry Cathedral, with the Orchestra Pro Anima and leading young professional soloists.
- On Good Friday 2023 the choir performed Bach's *St John Passion* sung in German in Coventry Cathedral, accompanied again by Orchestra Pro Anima and with professional soloists.

### *Invitations from other organisations*

- In June 2023 we were invited by The Friends of St Nicholas and St Barnabas Churches, Kenilworth to present a programme of baroque music, madrigals, and contemporary settings of Shakespeare songs for a summer concert. This was conducted by CCC's Deputy Conductor, Luke Fitzgerald, while Rachel Mahon was on an organ recital tour in Australia. 135 people came to this concert; all the audience feedback was very positive.

## FINANCIAL OUTCOME OF CONCERT ACTIVITIES

### **Vaughan Williams Remembrance concert:**

Ticket sales for all our concerts have been lower than before Covid, due to uncertainty of future plans and remaining risk aversion to being in public places with other people around. A pattern emerges of few tickets being sold in advance and then quite large numbers of people buying tickets at the door on the day. This makes planning numbers of programmes to print, and how many audience chairs to set out, difficult. 89 people came to this concert. The concert resulted in a deficit of £2,629.

### **Christmas Concerts in aid of Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Charity:**

Audience numbers for these were down slightly from last year's numbers: 561 altogether. The concerts resulted in a deficit of £1,376.

### **Handel's Messiah in Cirencester:**

This concert attracted a good sized audience (235), though not the packed pews of previous Cirencester concerts. People were appreciative despite there being no

heating in the church for the second half of the concert due to technical problems. The outcome was a deficit of £482.

**Handel's Messiah in Coventry Cathedral:**

This concert was slightly upstaged by an extremely well-publicised American choir's performance of Handel's *Messiah* in the Cathedral a couple of weeks earlier. Audience numbers were below what we had hoped for: 295. There was a deficit of £1,227 on this concert.

**Good Friday Concert (Bach's St John's Passion sung in German)**

Audience numbers were quite low for this event, although many more people than expected bought tickets on the door. We used a horseshoe shaped seating plan, halfway down the Nave, which created an intimate atmosphere between the choir, orchestra and audience. People commented on how good this felt. About 130 people were in the audience. The low numbers meant the concert incurred a deficit of £5,151.

**Sing We at Pleasure**

This event was promoted jointly with the Friends of St Nicholas and St Barnabas Churches on the basis of sharing any profits after expenses. It was held in St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth with organ accompaniment and a string quintet. It was quite well supported with 135 people in the audience. The concert produced a small surplus of £581.

**FINANCE**

*INCOME SOURCES*

**Members' Contributions**

Weekly rehearsal costs (see below) are covered by members' annual subscriptions which for this season were held at £120 per person. Subscriptions amounted to £8,792 including Gift Aid claimed where applicable.

**Non-Concert Activities**

Royalties are earned from time-to-time from CD, radio or television recording sessions and also from concerts promoted by other agencies. Such fees totalled £169 in this year.

*RESOURCE UTILISATION*

**Concert Productions**

The principle resource utilisation of the Chorus is its concerts. For 2022/23 expenditure on concerts was £36,249. This was offset by ticket sales income of £23,810 and grants totalling £2,250, resulting in a deficit on the concert account of £10,189.

## Rehearsal Costs

Rehearsal costs consist of fees to the conductor and accompanist, and any costs relating to the rehearsal venue. In 2022/23 these totalled £7,225.

## Administrative Costs

Having no paid officers, but a very hard-working voluntary committee, the society has very low administration costs - this year totalling £240 (0.0035% of expenditure).

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Concert Planning

Looking forward to the 2023-24 season, we plan a full concert programme:

- A Remembrance as part of Coventry's Peace Festival and also commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Sergei Rachmaninoff, in Coventry Cathedral on 11 November 2023, with shorter music pieces by three other composers as well. We will be joined by the Parliament Choir for this concert.
- A repeat of the above Rachmaninoff concert with the Parliament Choir in Southwark Cathedral, London, on 22 November 2023.
- A Christmastide concert in support of Coventry & Warwickshire Childrens' Charity on 9 December.
- A performance of Handel's *Messiah* in Coventry Cathedral on Monday 18 December.
- A performance of Motets for Holy Week / Good Friday in Coventry Cathedral on Good Friday 29 March 2024.
- A Prom concert collaboration with Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra on 11 May 2024 featuring music from stage and screen dramas.
- A Festal Evensong celebrating the Chorus' 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, involving our President, Pam Rhodes, and former CCC conductors and members.

Further ahead, we look to follow the same pattern of concert events, attracting more singers and collaborating with other Coventry community musical groups.

### Future Development

- Working in partnership with the Orchestra Pro Anima, Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and Jaguar Land Rover Brass Band (now known as the Brass Band of Central England), we shall look to expand our reputation and build audiences through promoting regular, popular events.
- We continue to seek and create opportunities to involve young people in our concerts both to attract audience (family members) and to encourage children to continue participating in music-making in the future. This season we began a collaboration with Coventry University's music tech department whereby they provide rehearsal space for CCC when we cannot be accommodated in the Cathedral, and CCC offered the music tech students the opportunity to film and record a live rehearsal in the Cathedral in November 2022. We are planning to work closely with other organisations involved in music education in the area,

such as the new Music Hub recently established in the newly refurbished Drapers Hall, Coventry. (See our concert for 11 May 2024 with the Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra and their new conductor, noted above.)

- We are aiming to significantly increase our presence on social media and use more promotional tools to better target our intended audiences.
- We also plan to improve our focus of paper publicity media distribution of promotional material – including poster displays and magazine entries.
- We shall continue to actively recruit new members both for the benefit of the choir and because of the audience members they will bring with them.

## CONCLUSION

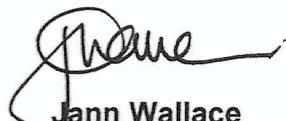
The society will continue to use the resources at its disposal to promote concerts of choral music to the highest standards, working with professional soloists and orchestras, and also engaging with amateur and youth orchestras.

The choir is always keen to appeal to new audiences, as well as retaining existing customers, by presenting a wide variety of music including newly composed works. It also takes every opportunity to encourage the interest and involvement of young people in choral music.

In all of these ways the society seeks to fulfil the objectives of its constitution by bringing awareness and enjoyment of choral music to as wide a range of the public as possible.

**On behalf of the management committee:**

  
**Kit Lawry**  
*Chair*

  
**Jann Wallace**  
*Honorary Treasurer*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Coventry Cathedral Chorus**  
I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those recorded. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed 

Date 30/07/2024

Full Name: **DAVID M PHILLIPS – CHARTERED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT  
PHILLIPS AND BECKER LTD - ACCOUNTANCY HOUSE, 4 PRIORY  
ROAD, KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE, CV8 1LL**

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2023**

	Notes	Total 2022/23 £	Total 2021/22 (restated) £
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
Concert income		23,810	19,959
Donations		546	75
Net income from recordings/royalties	1	169	300
Membership subscriptions		8,792	9,456
Bank interest		94	19
Transport		250	-
Folders/outfits/music		3,089	1,210
Patrons	6	2,989	3,139
100 Club		650	-
Fundraising		73	-
Special Event – retirement of musical director		-	776
		<b>40,462</b>	<b>34,934</b>
<b>Resources used</b>			
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>			
Concert cost		36,249	37,809
Rehearsal Costs		7,225	7,375
<b>Other expenditure</b>			
Administrative costs		240	58
Insurance		75	43
Making Music membership		365	98
PRS (Making Music)		78	-
Publicity		720	242
Transport		550	-
Folders/outfits/music		2,678	1,398
100 club		325	-
Special event – retirement of Musical Director		77	4,466
Other – social events, refreshments		25	115
Donation to Coventry Cathedral		19,816	-
Donation to auditor’s charity		200	200
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>68,623</b>	<b>51,804</b>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(28,161)	(16,870)
Revaluation of COIF investment fund	3	259	13,332
Fund balances at 1 August 2022		62,662	66,200
Fund balances at 31 July 2023		<b>34,760</b>	<b>62,662</b>

All activities are classed as continuing. The notes on pages 10 and 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2023

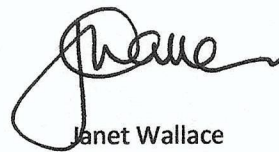
	Notes	2022/23 £	2021/22 (restated) £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	2	2,270	2,663
Cash at bank and in hand		15,099	22,104
COIF investment fund	3	18,591	38,332
		<u>35,960</u>	<u>63,099</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	1,200	437
		<u>34,760</u>	<u>62,662</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<u>34,760</u>	<u>62,662</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>34,760</u>	<u>62,662</u>
<b>Fund balances</b>			
Unrestricted funds	5	34,760	62,662
		<u>34,760</u>	<u>62,662</u>

Approved by the Committee of Members on

and signed on its behalf by

  
Kit Lawry

Chair

  
Janet Wallace

Hon. Treasurer

## COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

### Cash Flow Statement for the year ending 31 July 2023

	2022/23	2021/22 (restated)
	£	£
Net (deficit)/surplus of incoming resources	(28,161)	(16,870)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	393	(1,647)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	763	437
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>(27,005)</b>	<b>(18,080)</b>
Investments, cash at bank and in hand at 1 August 2022	60,436	65,184
Revaluation of COIF investment fund	259	13,332
<b>Investments, cash at bank and in hand at 31 July 2023</b>	<b>33,690</b>	<b>60,436</b>

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023

#### Accounting Policies

##### Basis of Accounting

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and Statements and Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities. In particular, the accounts are prepared using the accruals method with income and expenditure being recognised strictly in accordance with the dates of the concerts in which the choir is performing.

##### Funds

The Chorus's funds generally consist solely of unrestricted amounts. Unrestricted funds consist of both general and designated amounts which the Chorus may use at its discretion.

##### Committee Costs

The Chorus is a totally voluntary organisation and no member of its Committee of Management is remunerated. £1,132 was reimbursed during the year to eleven Committee members in respect of administrative costs incurred by them on behalf of the Chorus.

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2023

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<b>1. Net Income from recordings/royalties</b>	169	300
Profit	169	300
<b>2. Debtors and Prepayments</b>		
Trade and sundry debtors	2,270	2,663

### 3. Investments

Some years ago, £25,000 was invested in the COIF investment fund. During the 2022/23 year £20,000 was drawn down from this fund into the Chorus current account. At the same time the value of the fund held in the accounts was changed from the original investment value of Q£25,000 to show that of the year-end valuation as per statements from the COIF Charities Investment Fund – Accumulation Units.

The movements in the fund for the year were:

Balance at 1 August 2022 (restated)	Drawn down in year	Balance at 31 July 2023	Increase / (decrease) in fund valuation in year
38,332	20,000	18,591	259

### 4. Creditors

Trade creditors	1,200	437
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### 5. Total Funds

The movements for the year were as follows:

	Balance at 1 August 2022 (restated)	Incoming Funds	Funds used	Balance at 31 July 2023
General funds	62,662	40,462	68,623	34,501
Revaluation of COIF fund		259		259
	62,662	40,721	68,623	34,760

### 6. Patrons

The brought forward balance in the Patrons' Fund was £11,333.

Income from Patrons of £2,989 represents subscriptions (and Gift Aid where applicable) received in this season from patrons of the choir.

The balance in the Patrons' Fund as at 31 July 2023 was £14,322.

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**

England & Wales - Charity number 257047

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# Accounts

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2022**

### **THE CHORUS**

Coventry Cathedral Chorus (formerly Saint Michael's Singers) was established in 1963 soon after the consecration of the new Cathedral Church of Saint Michael at Coventry. The Chorus retains a close association with the Cathedral, which provides a base for rehearsals and a venue for some concerts. The choir also regularly takes part in concerts in Cirencester, in association with Orchestra Pro Anima, and has occasional opportunities to join with other choirs to perform at venues further afield around the country.

The choir's current membership of 70 mixed voices is drawn from a wide region centred on Coventry. Entrance to and continued membership of the choir is subject to regular audition.

From 1983 to 1991 the choir was conducted by Paul Leddington Wright who was a member of the music staff at Coventry Cathedral. Paul retired from the conductor's role in December 2021 and the Chorus has appointed Rachel Mahon as its new Director of Music. Rachel is also the Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral.

The Chorus is run by a voluntary Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting and has no paid officers.

Although of amateur status, Coventry Cathedral Chorus strives to achieve the highest possible artistic standards, as declared in its constitution:

*The aims and objectives of the choir shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music, both known and newly composed, by means of public performance of the highest possible standard*

Over the years the Chorus has come to be recognised as being among the region's leading choral societies, both in terms of its diversity of music and in the quality of performance.

## **OFFICERS**

The officers of the Chorus for the season 2021/2022 were as follows:

**Chairman:** Hazel Allen

**Honorary Treasurer:** Jann Wallace

**Honorary Secretary:** Olwyn Seal

**Other elected committee members:**

Martin Ablitt  
Julie Barnes  
Eleanor Hodgson  
Matthew Horspool

Robert Johnson  
Kit Lawry  
Pam Norman  
Barrie Rogers

**Ex officio - conductors:**

Paul Leddington Wright

Rachel Mahon

**- rehearsal accompanist:**

Luke Fitzgerald

**Chairman's Address:**

Hazel Allen  
3 Woodway Avenue  
Hampton Magna  
Warwick  
CV35 8SB  
Tel: 01926 499012  
Mobile: 07803700986  
e-mail: [hazelsallen@msn.com](mailto:hazelsallen@msn.com)

**Honorary Treasurer's Address:**

Janet Wallace  
17 Church Street  
Wellesbourne  
Warwickshire  
CV35 9LS  
Tel: 01789 542375  
Mobile: 07743 856893  
email: [ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com](mailto:ccctreasurer1963@gmail.com)

**Charity Registration Number:** 257047

## THE SEASON'S ACTIVITIES

Following easing of restrictions imposed by the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the choir resumed singing in September 2021 with procedures and systems in place to comply with social distancing requirements for both singers and audiences.

### *Coventry Cathedral Chorus' own promotions*

- In November 2021 the Chorus was joined in Coventry Cathedral by Brighton Festival Chorus, internationally renowned soloists, Orchestra Pro Anima and Jaguar Land Rover Band for a performance of Verdi's Requiem as part of the cathedral's annual Peace Festival.
- In December 2021 the choir presented two Christmas concerts (afternoon and evening) in aid of Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Charity. The afternoon programme featured the choir, Jaguar Land Rover Band, the cathedral boy choristers and a local junior school while the evening event showcased the choir, Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra, the cathedral girl choristers and another local school choir. Both programmes contained a mix of popular sacred and secular pieces for the festive season.
- In December 2021 we took the difficult decision to cancel our planned performance of Handel's Messiah in Cirencester due to the emergence of the Omicron strain of Coronavirus and the surge in cases. We were, however, able to perform the work in Coventry Cathedral due largely to the greater size of the venue. This was Paul Leddington Wright's final concert as our Musical Director and we were pleased to be joined for the occasion by many former choir members.
- On Good Friday in 2022 the choir performed Chilcott's 'St John Passion' and Finzi's 'Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice' – the programme deferred from 2020 which had been cancelled due to Coronavirus. We were accompanied by Orchestra Pro Anima and Fine Arts Brass.

### *Invitations from other organisations*

- In June 2022 we were invited by The Friends of St Nicholas and St Barnabas Churches, Kenilworth to present a programme of music to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

## FINANCIAL OUTCOME OF CONCERT ACTIVITIES

### **Verdi: Requiem**

This was a very expensive concert to promote, partly because of the size of the orchestra required and partly because of the cost of 'hosting' and covering travel expenses for the Brighton Festival Chorus who joined us in the performance. Ticket sales were also low due to uncertainty, nervousness and risk aversion linked to COVID as some restrictions were still in place and cases had started to increase again. As a result the concert resulted in a deficit of some £10,400.

### **Christmas Concerts in aid of Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Charity**

Despite there still being some impact from Coronavirus, we were pleased to see audience numbers for these were roughly the same as the last ones we did in 2019. The concert made a small surplus of £534.

### **Handel's Messiah in Coventry Cathedral**

This concert attracted a reasonably sized audience who were very appreciative. The outcome was a deficit of £4,175.

### **Good Friday Concert (Chilcott/Finzi)**

Audience numbers were very low indeed for this event – possibly because the works are rather less well known. The outcome was a deficit of £3,083.

### **A Royal Celebration**

This event was promoted jointly with the Friends of St Nicholas and St Barnabas Churches on the basis of sharing any profits after expenses. It was held in St Nicholas Church Kenilworth using organ accompaniment and the concert was very well supported and resulted in a surplus for the choir of £559.

## **FINANCE**

### *INCOME SOURCES*

#### **Members' Contributions**

Weekly rehearsal costs (see below) are covered by the members' annual subscriptions, which for this season were held at £120 per person. Subscriptions amounted to £9,456 including Gift Aid claimed where applicable.

Most music scores are purchased and owned by individual choir members. This season, orders were placed in bulk by the choir's librarian, and members then paid the Choir for their copies. In addition, new members pay for their music folders. Receipts from this produced an income of £1,210 in the year.

#### **Non-Concert Activities**

Royalties are earned from time-to-time from CD, radio or television recording sessions and also from concerts promoted by other agencies. Such fees totalled £300 in this year.

### *RESOURCE UTILISATION*

#### **Concert Productions**

The principal resource utilisation of the Chorus is its concerts. For 2021/22 expenditure on concerts was £37,809, offset by concert income of £19,959 resulting in a deficit on the concert account of £17,850.

#### **Rehearsal Costs**

Rehearsal costs consist of fees to the conductor and accompanist. In 2021/22 these totalled £7,375.

**Administrative Costs**

Having no paid officers, but a very hard-working voluntary committee, the Chorus has very low administration costs - this year totalling £101, just 0.2% of expenditure.

**Special event – retirement of Musical Director**

As mentioned above, Paul Leddington Wright, the Chorus's Musical Director for 37 years, retired. The Committee agreed to make a donation of £100 for every year of Paul's service to the choir, meaning he was given a gift of £3,700 in gratitude and recognition of all he did for the choir.

In addition, a collection was held and monies collected (£776) were used to buy further gifts. A farewell party was also held including costs of £88.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **Concert Planning**

Looking forward to the 2022-23 season, we plan a full concert programme:

- A concert to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams in Coventry Cathedral on 12 November. This concert forms part of the Cathedral's Peace Festival.
- 2 Christmas concerts in support of Coventry & Warwickshire Children's Charity on 10 December.
- Two performances of Handel's 'Messiah': the first in Cirencester on Saturday 17 December and the second in Coventry Cathedral on Monday 19 December.
- A performance of Bach's 'St John Passion' in Coventry Cathedral on Good Friday, 7 April 2023.
- On 27 April 2023, members of the choir are joining the Parliament Choir to sing Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' in Rome.
- A concert of baroque music and madrigals in St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth at the invitation of the Friends of St Nicholas and St Barnabas churches in June 2023.

Further ahead, we shall look to follow the same pattern of concert events with the addition of developing an event to involve choirs of local schoolchildren and the Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra.

### **Future Development**

- Working in partnership with the Orchestra Pro Anima, Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and the Brass Band of Central England (formerly Jaguar Land Rover Band), we shall look to expand our reputation and build audiences through promoting regular, popular events.
- We continue to seek and create opportunities to involve young people in our concerts both to attract audience (family members etc.) and to encourage children to continue participating in music-making in the future. To support this, we will work on building relationships with other organisations involved in music education in the area.
- We are aiming to increase our presence on social media significantly and also to use extra promotional tools to target our intended audience better. We shall actively work on ways to increase our 'reach'.
- We also plan to improve our focus of paper publicity media distribution of promotional material – including poster displays, magazine entries and so on.
- We shall continue to actively recruit new members both for the benefit of the choir and because of the audience members they will bring with them.

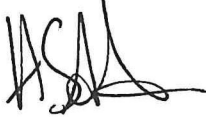
## **CONCLUSION**

Coventry Cathedral Chorus will continue to use the resources at its disposal to promote concerts of choral music to the highest standards, working where possible with professional orchestras and soloists.

The choir is always keen to appeal to new audiences, as well as retaining existing customers, by presenting a wide variety of music including newly composed works. It also takes every opportunity to encourage the interest and involvement of young people in choral music.

In all of these ways the Chorus seeks to fulfil the objectives of its constitution by bringing awareness and enjoyment of choral music to as wide a range of the public as possible.

**On behalf of the management committee:**



**Hazel S Allen**  
*Chairman*



**Jann Wallace**  
*Honorary Treasurer*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Coventry Cathedral Chorus**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those recorded. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

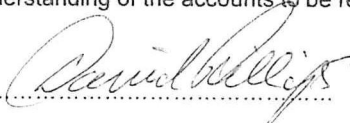
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed.....



Date .....

4th April 2023

Full Name: **DAVID M PHILLIPS – CHARTERED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT  
PHILLIPS AND BECKER LTD - ACCOUNTANCY HOUSE, 4 PRIORY  
ROAD, KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE, CV8 1LL**

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2022**

	Notes	Total 2021/22 £	Total 2020/21 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
Concert income		19,959	405
Donations		75	285
Fees earned		-	-
Net income from recordings/royalties	1	300	224
Membership subscriptions		9,456	-
Bank and building society interest		19	20
Transport		-	-
Folders/outfits/music		1,210	-
Patrons	6	3,139	2,949
100 Club		-	-
Special Event – retirement of musical director		776	-
Other		-	-
		<b>34,934</b>	<b>3,883</b>
<b>Resources used</b>			
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>			
Concert cost		37,809	1,094
Rehearsal Costs		7,375	-
<b>Other expenditure</b>			
Administrative costs		101	524
Publicity		242	29
Transport		-	-
Folders/outfits/music		1,398	-
100 club		-	-
Special event – retirement of Musical Director		4,564	-
Other – social events, refreshments		115	-
Donation		200	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>51,804</b>	<b>1,647</b>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(16,870)	2,236
Fund balances at 1 August 2021		66,200	63,964
Fund balances at 31 July 2022		<b>49,330</b>	<b>66,200</b>

All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 11 and 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2022

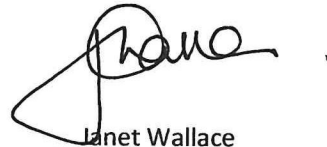
	Notes	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	2	2,663	1,016
Cash at bank and in hand		22,104	40,184
COIF investment fund	3	25,000	25,000
		<u>49,767</u>	<u>66,200</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	437	0
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>49,330</u>	<u>66,200</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><b>49,330</b></u>	<u><b>66,200</b></u>
<b>Fund balances</b>			
Unrestricted funds	5	49,330	66,200
		<u><b>49,330</b></u>	<u><b>66,200</b></u>

Approved by the Committee of Members on 27.09.2022 and signed on its behalf by



Hazel Allen

Chair



Janet Wallace

Hon. Treasurer

# COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

## Cash Flow Statement for the year ending 31 July 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Net (deficit)/surplus of incoming resources	(16,870)	2,236
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,647)	(1,016)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	437	(434)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>(18,080)</b>	<b>786</b>
Investments, cash at bank and in hand at 1 August 2021	65,184	64,398
<b>Investments, cash at bank and in hand at 31 July 2022</b>	<b>47,104</b>	<b>65,184</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022

### Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Accounting

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and Statements and Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities. In particular, the accounts are prepared using the accruals method with income and expenditure being recognised strictly in accordance with the dates of the concerts in which the choir is performing.

#### Funds

The Chorus's funds generally consist solely of unrestricted amounts. Unrestricted funds consist of both general and designated amounts which the Chorus may use at its discretion.

#### Committee Costs

The Chorus is a totally voluntary organisation and no member of its Committee of Management is remunerated. £1,765 was reimbursed during the year to six Committee members in respect of administrative costs incurred by them on behalf of the Chorus. This is a significant increase on 2020-21 (£152) due in the main to Committee members funding in the first instance:

- gifts and expenses re Paul Leddington Wright's retirement £691,
- Making Music membership and insurance £141,
- transportation and erection of concert staging £615 and
- soloist gifts, concert and social event refreshments £267

for all of which reimbursement was from Chorus funds.

## COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
<b>1. Net Income from recordings/royalties</b>	300	224
Profit	300	224
 <b>2. Debtors and Prepayments</b>		
Trade and sundry debtors	2,663	1,016
 <b>3. Investments</b>		
£25,000 is invested in the COIF investment fund and is included in these accounts at this value. On 31 July 2022, this investment was valued at £38,332.		
 <b>4. Creditors</b>		
Trade creditors	437	0

**5. Total Funds**

The movements for the year were as follows:

	Balance at 1 August 2021	Incoming Funds	Funds used	Balance at 31 July 2022
General funds	66,200	34,934	51,804	49,330
	66,200	34,934	51,804	49,330

**6. Patrons**

The brought forward balance in the Patrons' Fund was £10,594.

Income from Patrons of £3,139 represents subscriptions (and Gift Aid where applicable) received in this season from patrons of the choir.

The patrons kindly agreed that the cost of £2,400 for the soloists for the Verdi Requiem should be met from the Patrons' Fund.

The balance in the Patrons' Fund as at 31 July 2022 was £11,333.