



## **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 1921 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**

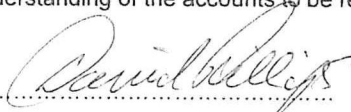
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 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	<u>300</u>	<u>224</u>

<b>2. Debtors and Prepayments</b>		
Trade and sundry debtors	<u>2,663</u>	<u>1,016</u>

- 3. Investments**  
£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	<u>437</u>	<u>0</u>

- 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
	<u>66,200</u>	<u>34,934</u>	<u>51,804</u>	<u>49,330</u>

**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.