



## **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  
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Warwickshire  
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Mobile: 07774 524352  
e-mail: [chairofccc@gmail.com](mailto:chairofccc@gmail.com)

### Honorary Treasurer's Address:

Jann Wallace  
17 Church Street  
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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

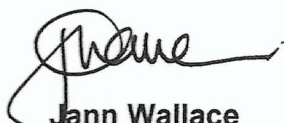
The society will continue to use the resources at its disposal to promote concerts of choral music to the highest standards, working with professional soloists and orchestras, and also engaging with amateur and youth orchestras.

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

30/01/2024

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
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>34,760</u>	<u>62,662</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>34,760</u></u>	<u><u>62,662</u></u>
<b>Fund balances</b>			
Unrestricted funds	5	<u>34,760</u>	<u>62,662</u>
		<u><u>34,760</u></u>	<u><u>62,662</u></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
	£	£
1. Net Income from recordings/royalties	169	300
Profit	<u>169</u>	<u>300</u>

2. Debtors and Prepayments		
Trade and sundry debtors	<u>2,270</u>	<u>2,663</u>

### 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	<u>1,200</u>	<u>437</u>

### 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
	<u>62,662</u>	<u>40,721</u>	<u>68,623</u>	<u>34,760</u>

### 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.