



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

Honorary Treasurer's Address:

Eve Cooper
36 Beechwood Avenue
Coventry
CV5 6QG
07760 153566
email: 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 450th 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.

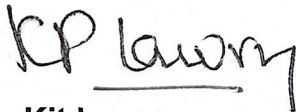
CONCLUSION

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

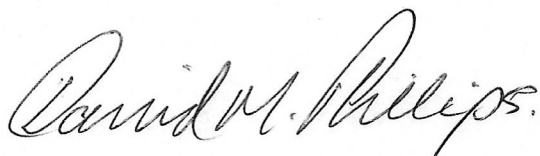
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 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 £
<u>Income</u>			
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
		<hr/> 33,152	<hr/> 37,840
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Direct charitable expenditure			
Concert costs		23,547	24,490
Rehearsal costs		9,096	8,285
Other expenditure			
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		<hr/> 35,660	<hr/> 38,940
Profit / (Loss)		(2,508)	(1,100)
Interest from COIF investment fund	3	249	1,962
Fund Balance at start of year		35,622	34,760
Fund Balance at end of year		<hr/> 33,363	<hr/> 35,622

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025

	Notes	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
<u>Current Assets</u>			
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
Net Current Assets		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,622</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,622</u>
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,622</u>
<u>Total Funds</u>		<u>33,363</u>	<u>35,622</u>

Approved by the Committee Members on 17th 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
	£	£
1. Fees Earned		
Senbla Concert	1,500	0
Compton Verney Concerts	1,500	0
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>
2. Debtors		
Trade & sundry debtors	<u>0</u>	<u>2,079</u>
3. Investments		
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
4. Creditors		
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.