

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 287882

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1983-09-28

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

Contact

Address 21 Jennings Road
St. Albans
AL1 4NU

Phone 01727831838

Email enquiries@stalbanschoralsociety.org

Website www.stalbanschoralsociety.org

Activities

Objects: (A) TO PROMOTE THE STUDY OF AND PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHORAL MUSIC BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS AND BY SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE SOCIETY SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE. (B) TO SUPPORT SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSE OR PURPOSES OR SUCH CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OR INSTITUTIONS AS THE SOCIETY SHLL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: The objects of the Society are:a) to promote the study and public education in the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society shall from time to time determine;b) to support such charitable purpose or purposes, or such charitable institution or institutions as the Society shall from time to time determine.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-15	£60,879	£59,499	-	-
2024-07-15	£55,088	£52,869	-	-
2023-07-15	£47,496	£50,156	-	-
2022-07-15	£45,185	£48,554	-	-
2021-07-15	£13,751	£12,367	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALISON SHIPPERLEE		
Clare Curtis		2025-03-27
Clive Flatau		2025-03-27
David Lee		2016-09-22
GARETH TRURAN		
Helen Mary Pitman		2021-09-14
Jonathan Humphries		2019-09-30
Julia Rouse		2023-09-21
Michelle Thompson		2025-03-27
Pamela Hester Firth		2021-09-14
Peter Aubusson		
SAM HENSMAN		
Sally Ripley		2017-09-21
Sarah Gooden		2024-04-22

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 287882

Accounts

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 287882

Report and Accounts for the year ended 15 July 2025

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the Society are:

- to promote the study of and public education in the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society shall from time to time determine; and
- to support such charitable purpose or purposes, or such charitable institution or institutions as the Society shall from time to time determine.

REPORT FOR THE 2024/25 SEASON

The Committee

The Society is managed by a committee in accordance with the Society's Rules. In season 2024/25, the members of the committee were:

Alison Shipperlee: Chair
Sally Ripley: Vice-chair
Frances Lightowler: General Secretary
Peter Aubusson: Treasurer
Clare Curtis: General Member (from 26/3/25)
Pam Firth: Alto Representative
Clive Flatau: General Member (from 26/3/25)
Sarah Gooden: Friends/Benefactors Secretary
Sam Hensman: Membership Secretary
Jonathan Humphries: Concert Manager
David Lee: Bass Representative
Helen Pitman: Soprano Representative
Julia Rouse: Ticket Secretary
Amy Sherman: Publicity Officer
Michelle Thompson: General Member (from 26/3/25)
Gareth Truran: Tenor Representative

All committee members were trustees of the Society. The Society's Music Director, George Vass, also attended committee meetings by invitation.

Season Overview

The Society celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2024/25 with a successful year of high-quality concerts. This was a momentous season in the history of the choir as it was the final one under the inspiring leadership of George Vass, who stood down as Music Director at the season's end after over 30 years in the role. The choir's continuing strong membership of 107 singers included eight new members and several returning members.

The details of our four concerts during 2024/25 are listed on page 3. The programme contained a wide range of music, including several well-known classics from the choral repertoire and various contemporary works. The autumn 2024 concert in St Albans Cathedral drew a large audience to hear J S Bach's Magnificat and Maurice Duruflé's Requiem. As usual, the Christmas concert blended traditional and contemporary seasonal music, including Chanticleer, composed by our former accompanist, Richard James Harvey, and Morten Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium. The first half of the April 2025 concert was conducted by George Vass's assistant and chorus master, Naomi Jones, and featured a suite of pieces by Bob Chilcott and Cecilia McDowall's evocative and dramatic work, Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo; in the second half of the concert, George Vass conducted the renowned Requiem by Gabriel

Fauré. George Vass's farewell concert, in June 2025, was a performance of Joseph Haydn's *The Creation* in which the choir was accompanied by The Blaze Ensemble.

The choir continued to fulfil its objectives of being inclusive, welcoming and sociable, while striving for a high standard of concert performances. Its musical progress and achievements are strongly attributable to the contributions of our team of professional musicians.

George Vass took up the role of Music Director in 1994 and his leadership over subsequent years transformed the choir. He substantially raised the level of musicianship and broadened the range of repertoire performed. George has been a major force in driving the choir's development and bringing the pleasure of music making to its members and audiences alike. The Committee and choir greatly appreciate George's enormous contribution to the Society.

Ed Kemp-Luck became the Society's accompanist in September 2024 and has contributed skilful support during rehearsals and accomplished performances during concerts. Naomi Jones was George Vass's assistant for the past three seasons and enhanced the choir's performances through her coaching and conducting in rehearsals and concerts. The committee thanks all three of the team for their services and dedication to the choir. The choir also greatly appreciates the excellent professional soloists and orchestral players who perform with us and enrich the quality of our concerts.

2024/25 Concert Programme

Four concerts were held during the season:

November 2024: *The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans*

with Orchestra Nova

Johann Sebastian Bach *Magnificat in D*

Francis Poulenc *Organ Concerto in G minor*

Maurice Duruflé *Requiem*

December 2024: *St Peter's Church, St Albans*

A Celebration of Christmas, including: **Richard James Harvey** *Chanticleer*, **Gustav Holst** Christmas Day, **Morten Lauridsen** *O Magnum Mysterium*, traditional and contemporary carols; and seasonal readings by members of St Albans Choral Society.

April 2025: *St Peter's Church, St Albans*

Bob Chilcott *Dances of Time*

Cecilia McDowall *Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo*

Gabriel Fauré *Requiem*

June 2025: *St Saviour's Church, St Albans*

with The Blaze Ensemble

Joseph Haydn *The Creation*

Community Activities

The Society endeavours to make a positive contribution to the local community. £2,142 was raised during the season at concerts and a Quiz Night for our two chosen charitable causes: £1,003 for the Hospice of St Francis and £1,139 for Centre 33, a local drop-in centre for homeless and socially or materially disadvantaged people.

Financial Review

The Society's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are on pages 7 and 8. The financial result for season 2024/25 was a surplus of £1,380 (2023/24: a surplus of £2,219). The result for the season was better than the budgeted deficit of c. £3,000, principally due to stronger than expected concert ticket revenue and a good level of membership and subscription income. The fulfilment of our programme for the 2024/25 season was materially assisted by a grant of £2,000 received during financial year 2023/24 from The Williams Church Music Trust. A further grant of £2,500 from the Trust, towards the costs of our 2025/26 programme, has also been received since the financial year-end. The Society is very appreciative of these grants and the support we have received from the Trust over many years.

The balance at the end of our financial year 2024/25 was £35,395 (2024: £34,015). Our financial strategy is to maintain a solid level of assets as a safeguard against the risk of unforeseen events or challenging circumstances and bearing in mind that our annual concert cost commitments are over £30,000. The level of our assets places us in a relatively resilient position to withstand occasional seasons when we might have adverse results.

As reported previously, in early 2020 we planned to build up a designated Future Fund of reserves, to underpin the choir's continued development. A key objective of this fund was to help ensure that we can continue to perform high-quality concerts in St Albans Cathedral as part of each season's programme. The full launch of this initiative was postponed due to the pandemic. However, some donations to establish the fund were received; these are retained within the Society's overall assets. No further donations were received during 2024/25. The fund stands at £1,445 (including the associated gift aid which was reclaimed on donations to the fund).

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR THE 2025/26 SEASON

Our activities and concert programme for the coming season have been planned with a view to maintaining our solid financial position. We expect to incur further increases to our operating costs, most notably for professional fees and the hire charges for our rehearsal and concert venues. We will therefore be looking to enhance our income from subscriptions and concert ticket sales in order to sustain a healthy financial situation during 2025/26.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The principal risk to the Society is promoting a programme of rehearsals and concerts which might produce a financial result that is substantially worse than expected. We endeavour to manage this risk through considered planning of our concert programme, detailed budgeting, closely controlling our costs and actively publicising our concerts and selling tickets.

The policy of the Committee for many years has been that we should retain a prudent level of reserves sufficient to meet the Society's contractual liabilities based on conservative assumptions about our commitments for rehearsal and concert costs for the next two seasons and possible situations in which we might receive severely reduced, or no, revenue or insurance payments. This policy and our supporting practices have stood us in good stead in recent years. We will continue to manage the financial risks and uncertainties through the same well-established process.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing the objects of the Society, the trustees believe that the choir conforms to the requirements of the Charity Commission to provide public benefit through:

- welcoming members of all adult ages and from a wide range of backgrounds and musical capabilities;
- enabling its members to participate in a creative, fulfilling, educational and sociable activity and providing opportunities for them to develop their singing technique, musical skills and knowledge of the choral repertoire;
- promoting public concerts which provide its audiences with enjoyable and stimulating cultural experiences through the high quality of the performances and the interesting range of music featured;
- commissioning and performing new choral works which extend the musical repertoire available for choirs;
- providing opportunities for school children to participate in choral singing at some of its concerts, thus broadening the musical experience of the pupils; and
- performing on certain occasions to raise funds for other charitable causes.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Society is affiliated to Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies, which represents and supports amateur vocal, instrumental and promoting societies throughout the United Kingdom.

St Albans Choral Society is very grateful for the support of The Williams Church Music Trust.

Further information about St Albans Choral Society may be found at our website:

www.stalbanschoralsociety.org

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY (CHARITY NO. 287882)**

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 15 July 2025, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- 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 Society and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 respects, the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Independent Examiner

Date

Ruth Falkus
6 Walnut Drive,
Wendover
Bucks
HP22 6RT

19 August 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 15 JULY 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Income		
Members' subscriptions	24,045	23,205
Friends, Benefactors and other donations	1,045	1,005
HMRC gift aid tax repayment	4,871	4,606
Concert tickets and other concert revenue (see page 8)	20,007	17,440
Grants from The Williams Church Music Trust	0	2,000
Music and folders hire/purchase	1,969	3,103
Singing lesson room hire – participants' payments	432	636
Social events	6,709	1,228
Sundries	426	420
Bank interest – COIF deposit account	1,375	1,445
	60,879	55,088
Expenditure		
Accompanist's rehearsal fees	(4,810)	(5,530)
Répétiteur's rehearsal fees	(405)	(405)
Music Director's and Assistant Conductor's rehearsal fees	(7,113)	(7,295)
Concert expenditure (see page 8):		
Music Director's and Assistant Conductor's fees	(3,325)	(2,900)
Other concert costs	(28,676)	(25,990)
Rehearsal venue hire	(3,463)	(3,444)
Singing lesson room hire	(378)	(672)
Music and folders hire/purchase	(2,143)	(3,350)
Making Music subscription, insurance and PRS payment	(1,195)	(776)
Music commission fees	(0)	(400)
Website	(124)	(248)
Social events	(6,758)	(1,354)
Music Director recruitment	(482)	(0)
Sundries	(627)	(505)
	(59,499)	(52,869)
Surplus for the year	1,380	2,219

BALANCE SHEET

As at:	15 July 2025		15 July 2024	
Assets	£	£	£	£
NatWest Bank current account	1,652		4,147	
NatWest Bank deposit account	2,500		0	
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	31,243		29,868	
Year-end balance		35,395		34,015
Represented by:				
Accumulated funds				
Opening balance	34,015		31,796	
Surplus for the year	1,380		2,219	
Year-end balance		35,395		34,015
of which:				
Grant received for the subsequent season	0		2,000	
Future Fund (see page 4)	1,445		1,445	
Other funds	33,950		30,570	

CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2024/25		2023/24	
	£	£	£	£
Autumn				
Income	9,816		9,839	
Expenditure	(18,218)		(14,797)	
(Deficit)		(8,402)		(4,958)
Christmas				
Income	2,865		2,349	
Expenditure	(2,147)		(2,057)	
Surplus		718		292
Spring				
Income	4,144		2,440	
Expenditure	(3,737)		(9,757)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		407		(7,317)
Summer				
Income	3,182		2,812	
Expenditure	(7,899)		(2,279)	
(Deficit)/Surplus		(4,717)		533
Total				
Income	20,007		17,440	
Expenditure (*)	(32,001)		(28,890)	
(Deficit)		(11,994)		(11,450)

*of which Music Director's and Assistant Conductor's fees were £3,325 in 2024/25 and £2,900 in 2023/24.

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England & Wales - Charity number 287882

Accounts

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 287882

Report and Accounts for the year ended 15 July 2024

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the Society are:

- to promote the study of and public education in the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society shall from time to time determine; and
- to support such charitable purpose or purposes, or such charitable institution or institutions as the Society shall from time to time determine.

REPORT FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON

The Committee

The Society is managed by a committee in accordance with the Society's Rules. In season 2023/24, the members of the committee were:

Alison Shipperlee: Chair
Sally Ripley: Vice-chair
Frances Lightowler: General Secretary
Peter Aubusson: Treasurer
Pam Firth: Alto Representative
Sarah Gooden: Friends/Benefactors Secretary (from 8/2/24)
Sam Hensman: Membership Secretary
Jonathan Humphries: Concert Manager
David Lee: Bass Representative
Helen Pitman: Soprano Representative
Julia Rouse: Ticket Secretary
Amy Sherman: Publicity Officer
Gareth Truran: Tenor Representative

All committee members were trustees of the Society. The Society's Music Director, George Vass, also attends committee meetings by invitation.

Ken Young, who had been Chair since September 2020, stood down from the role at the September 2023 AGM. The Society greatly appreciates Ken's leadership of the Society through the very challenging period when activities were restricted by Covid regulations, safety protocols and the effects of the pandemic on membership and concert audiences.

Season Overview

The Society had another successful year performing a varied programme of music to a high standard. The choir's membership remained strong with 107 singers, including 14 new members who joined during the 2023/24 season.

Our four concerts featured a wide range of choral music, the details of which are on page 3. The programme included choral works from the last four centuries: established classics of the repertoire, less familiar works by leading composers and several contemporary pieces. The Autumn 2023 concert of Handel's Messiah in St Albans Cathedral attracted a very substantial audience. Our Christmas concert comprised a varied selection of seasonal music, including contemporary works by James MacMillan and James Francis Brown. We had to make a late change of venue for the April 2024 concert due to a major failure of the heating system at the original venue. We appreciated the opportunity to perform Vivaldi's Gloria and works by Finzi, James Francis Brown and Cecilia McDowall at St George's School, Harpenden. Our summer concert of music was conducted by our Music Director's assistant and chorus master, Naomi

Jones; it featured various choral works including Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* and the organ work, Franck's *Chorale in A minor*, performed by our accompanist, Richard Harvey.

The choir maintained a high standard of concert performance, benefitting from the strength of its team of professional musicians. George Vass has been Music Director of the Society since 1994 and over that time his leadership and inspiration has raised the musical quality of the choir considerably and driven the Society's continued development. George has notified the committee that he wishes to relinquish the role of Music Director in summer 2025. Consequently, the committee is undertaking a recruitment process with a view to appointing a successor to take over the role for the 2025/26 season. Richard Harvey, who has been our accompanist for over 20 years, retired from this role at the end of the 2023/24 season. Richard has provided skilful support during rehearsals and featured as an accomplished organist in many of our concerts. The choir greatly appreciates his considerable contribution to the choir. Naomi Jones, who took up the position of assistant conductor in autumn 2022, has benefitted the choir's performances through her coaching and conducting. The committee thanks all three of the team for their services and dedication to the choir. We also greatly appreciate the excellent professional soloists and orchestral players who perform with us and enhance the quality of our concerts.

2023/24 Concert Programme

Four concerts were held during the season:

November 2023: *The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans*
with Orchestra Nova
George Frederick Handel *Messiah*

December 2023: *Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans*
A Celebration of Christmas, including: O Radiant Dawn **James MacMillan**; Hertfordshire Carols **James Francis Brown**; Jesu Dormi **Mark David Boden**; traditional and contemporary carols; and seasonal readings by members of St Albans Choral Society.

April 2024: *The Chapel of St George's School, Harpenden*
with Orchestra Nova
Gerald Finzi *In Terra Pax*
James Francis Brown *The Heavens and the Heart*
Cecilia McDowall *Bird of Time*
Antonio Vivaldi *Gloria in D, RV589*

June 2024: *St Peter's Church, St Albans*
with organ accompaniment and solo played by Richard Harvey
Edvard Grieg *Ave maris stella*
Gioachino Rossini *O Salutaris Hostia*
Sarah Frances Jenkins *Ave verum corpus* (World premiere)
César Franck *Chorale in A minor*
Felix Mendelssohn *Hear my Prayer*
Morten Lauridsen *Lux Aeterna*

Community Activities

The Society endeavours to make a positive contribution to the local community. £2,948 was raised during the season for our two chosen charitable causes: £1,557 for the Hospice of St Francis and £1,391 for Centre 33, a local drop-in centre for homeless and socially or materially disadvantaged people.

Financial Review

The Society's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are on page 7. The financial result for season 2023/24 was a surplus of £2,219 (2022/23: a deficit of £2,660). The result for the season was better than budgeted principally due to increased membership and subscription income, and healthy concert ticket income. The outcome also benefitted from a grant of £2,000 received from The Williams Church Music Trust towards the cost of our programme for the 2024/25 season. The Society greatly appreciates the support provided by the Trust over many years.

The year-end balance was £34,015 (2023: £31,796). Our strategy over previous seasons to build and maintain a solid level of assets, as a safeguard against possible challenging circumstances, has placed us in a relatively resilient position to withstand occasional seasons with adverse results.

As reported previously, in early 2020 we planned to build up a designated Future Fund of reserves, to underpin the choir's continued development. A key objective of this fund was to help ensure that we can continue to perform high-quality concerts in St Albans Cathedral as part of each season's programme. The full launch of this initiative was postponed due to the pandemic. However, some donations to establish the fund were received; these are retained within the Society's overall assets. No further donations were received during 2023/24. The fund stands at £1,445 (including the associated gift aid which has been reclaimed on donations to the fund).

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR THE 2024/25 SEASON

Our activities and concert programme for the coming season have been planned with a view to maintaining our solid financial position. We expect to incur further increases to our operating costs, most notably for professional fees and the hire charges for our rehearsal and concert venues. We also expect to incur some one-off costs associated with the recruitment of a new Music Director. Consequently, we forecast to incur a moderate deficit during 2024/25. We will therefore be looking to enhance our income from subscriptions and concert ticket sales.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The principal risk to the Society is promoting a programme of rehearsals and concerts which might produce a financial result that is substantially worse than expected. We endeavour to manage this risk through considered planning of our concert programme, detailed budgeting, closely controlling our costs and actively publicising our concerts and selling tickets.

The policy of the Committee for many years has been that we should retain a prudent level of reserves sufficient to meet the Society's contractual liabilities based on conservative assumptions about our commitments for rehearsal and concert costs for the next two seasons and possible situations in which we might receive no revenue or insurance payments. This policy and our supporting practices stood us in good stead in recent years. We will continue to manage the financial risks and uncertainties through the same well-established process.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing the objects of the Society, the trustees believe that the choir conforms to the requirements of the Charity Commission to provide public benefit through:

- welcoming members of all adult ages and from a wide range of backgrounds and musical capabilities;
- enabling its members to participate in a creative, fulfilling, educational and sociable activity and providing opportunities for them to develop their singing technique, musical skills and knowledge of the choral repertoire;
- promoting public concerts which provide its audiences with enjoyable and stimulating cultural experiences through the high quality of the performances and the interesting range of music featured;
- commissioning and performing new choral works which extend the musical repertoire available for choirs;
- providing opportunities for school children to participate in choral singing at some of its concerts, thus broadening the musical experience of the pupils; and
- performing on certain occasions to raise funds for other charitable causes.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Society is affiliated to Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies, which represents and supports amateur vocal, instrumental and promoting societies throughout the United Kingdom.

St Albans Choral Society is grateful for the support of The Williams Church Music Trust.

Further information about St Albans Choral Society may be found at our website:

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY (CHARITY NO. 287882)**

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 15 July 2024, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- 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 Society and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 respects, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Independent Examiner

Date

Ruth Falkus ACMA
6 Walnut Drive,
Wendover
Bucks
HP22 6RT

19 August 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 15 JULY 2024

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Members' subscriptions	23,205		19,685	
Friends, Benefactors and other donations	1,005		555	
HMRC gift aid tax repayment	4,606		4,190	
Concert tickets and other concert revenue (see page 8)	17,440		14,126	
Grants from The Williams Church Music Trust	2,000		2,500	
Music and folders hire/purchase	3,103		2,500	
Singing lesson room hire – participants' payments	636		1,301	
Social events	1,228		1,192	
Sundries	420		660	
Bank interest – COIF deposit account	1,445		787	
		55,088		47,496
Expenditure				
Accompanist's rehearsal fees	(5,530)		(5,049)	
Répétiteur's rehearsal fees	(405)		(375)	
Music Director's and Assistant Conductor's rehearsal fees	(7,295)		(6,720)	
Concert expenditure (see page 8):				
Music Director's and Assistant Conductor's fees	(2,900)		(3,275)	
Other concert costs	(25,990)		(23,421)	
Rehearsal venue hire	(3,444)		(2,792)	
Singing lesson room hire	(672)		(1,407)	
Music and folders hire/purchase	(3,350)		(2,668)	
Making Music subscription, insurance and PRS payment	(776)		(705)	
Music commission fees	(400)		(2,000)	
Website	(248)		(0)	
Social events	(1,354)		(1,238)	
Sundries	(505)		(506)	
		(52,869)		(50,156)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		2,219		(2,660)

BALANCE SHEET

As at:	15 July 2024		15 July 2023	
Assets	£	£	£	£
NatWest Bank current account	4,147		11,373	
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	29,868		20,423	
Year-end balance		34,015		31,796
Represented by:				
Accumulated funds				
Opening balance	31,796		34,456	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	2,219		(2,660)	
Year-end balance		34,015		31,796
of which:				
Grant received for the subsequent season	2,000		2,500	
Future Fund (see page 4)	1,445		1,445	
Other funds	30,570		27,851	

CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
Autumn				
Income (a)	9,839		0	
Expenditure (a)	(14,797)		(1,606)	
(Deficit)		(4,958)		(1,606)
Christmas				
Income	2,349		2,570	
Expenditure	(2,057)		(2,312)	
Surplus		292		258
February 2023				
Income			1,201	
Expenditure			(1,598)	
(Deficit)				(397)
Spring				
Income	2,440		8,707	
Expenditure	(9,757)		(16,054)	
(Deficit)		(7,317)		(7,347)
Summer				
Income	2,812		1,648	
Expenditure	(2,279)		(5,126)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		533		(3,478)
Total				
Income	17,440		14,126	
Expenditure (b)	(28,890)		(26,696)	
(Deficit)		(11,450)		(12,570)

Notes:

- (a) the Autumn 2022 concert was held in conjunction with Bushey Symphony Orchestra (BSO), who administered the income and expenditure for the concert. Consequently, St Albans Choral Society (SACS) received no income for this concert but the overall deficit on the concert was shared equally between BSO and SACS; 50% of the deficit was paid by SACS to BSO and is shown as expenditure.
- (b) of which Music Director's and Assistant Conductor's fees were £2,900 in 2023/24 and £3,275 in 2022/23.

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 287882

Accounts

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 287882

Report and Accounts for the year ended 15 July 2023

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the Society are:

- to promote the study of and public education in the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society shall from time to time determine; and
- to support such charitable purpose or purposes, or such charitable institution or institutions as the Society shall from time to time determine.

REPORT FOR THE SEASON 2022/23

The Committee

The Society is managed by a committee in accordance with the Society's Rules. In season 2022/23, the members of the committee were:

Ken Young: Chair
Sally Ripley: Vice-chair
Lynne Cockbill: General Secretary
Peter Aubusson: Treasurer
Pam Firth: Alto Representative
Sam Hensman: Membership Secretary
Jonathan Humphries: General Member
David Lee: Bass Representative
Frances Lightowler: General Member
Helen Pitman: Soprano Representative
Alison Shipperlee: Ticket Secretary
Gareth Truran: Tenor Representative

All committee members were trustees of the Society. The Society's Music Director, George Vass, also attends committee meetings by invitation.

Season Overview

The Society had another successful year performing a varied programme of music to a high standard at five concerts. The choir's membership remained strong with 100 singers, including 10 new members who joined during the 2022/23 season.

Our five concerts featured a wide range of choral music, the details of which are on page 3. The programme included choral works from the last four centuries: established classics of the repertoire, less familiar works by leading composers and several contemporary pieces. The Autumn 2022 concert, in conjunction with the Bushey Symphony Orchestra, featured music by Ralph Vaughan Williams in the 150th anniversary year of his birth. Our Christmas concert comprised a varied selection of seasonal music, including the premiere performance of a new carol. In February 2023 a concert of well-known hymns and church anthems by British composers was conducted by Naomi Jones, the choir's assistant conductor. The April 2023 concert in St Albans Cathedral featured works by Mozart, including his ever-popular Requiem. Our summer concert of music by contemporary British composers presented John Rutter's Requiem and works by Bob Chilcott and Cecilia McDowall.

Since the pandemic, audience sizes at many of our concerts have been lower than previous levels. Although this trend continued for several of our 2022/23 concerts it was encouraging that we had a substantial audience at our April concert and ticket sales for our joint concert with Bushey Symphony Orchestra were stronger than expected.

The choir's continued success is heavily attributable to our team of professional musicians. George Vass has been Music Director of the Society since 1994 and under his leadership the musical standard of the choir has been raised considerably; he has driven its development through his wide-ranging musical skills and experience. Richard Harvey, our accompanist, provides invaluable support during rehearsals and features in many of our concerts as an accomplished organist. Naomi Jones took up the position of assistant conductor in autumn 2022 and the choir has benefitted from her choral coaching and conducting expertise. The committee thanks all three of them for their contributions and dedication to the choir. Our concerts are considerably enhanced by the excellent professional soloists and orchestral players with whom we perform. We also thank the four singing teachers who provide individual singing lessons to about 25 members during our Thursday evening rehearsals.

2022/23 Concert Programme

Five concerts were held during the season:

November 2022: *Grange Academy, Bushey*

with Bushey Symphony Orchestra

Ralph Vaughan Williams Anniversary Concert

Ralph Vaughan Williams Cantata "In Windsor Forest"

Ralph Vaughan Williams Toward the Unknown Region

Ralph Vaughan Williams Serenade to Music

plus several orchestral works

December 2022: *Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans*

A Celebration of Christmas, including: Ave Rex – **William Mathias**; A Babe is Born – **Sarah Francis Jenkins** (world premiere); traditional and contemporary carols; and seasonal readings by members of St Albans Choral Society.

February 2023: *Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans*

Conductor Naomi Jones

Hymns & Anthems

William Byrd *Ave verum corpus*

Herbert Howells *Like as the hart*

Thomas Tallis *If ye love me*

Charles Villiers Stanford *How beauteous are their feet*

Ralph Vaughan Williams *O taste and see; O how amiable*

John Stainer *God so loved the world*

Henry Purcell *Remember not, Lord our offences*

plus popular hymns for audience choir and organ

April 2023: *The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans*

with Orchestra Nova

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Misericordias Domini*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Ave verum corpus*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Requiem in D minor*

June 2023: *St Saviour's Church, St Albans*

With Orchestra Nova Ensemble

Bob Chilcott *Canticles of light*

Cecilia McDowall *Ad lucem – A Canticle of Light*

John Rutter *Requiem*

Community Activities

The Society endeavours to make a positive contribution to the local community. £1,672 was raised through a number of events during the season for our two chosen charitable causes: £545 for the Hospice of St Francis and £1,126 for Centre 33, a local drop-in centre for homeless and socially or materially disadvantaged people.

Financial Review

The Society's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are on page 7. The financial result for season 2022/23 was a deficit of £2,660 (2021/22: a deficit of £3,369). This outcome benefitted from a grant of £2,500 received from The Williams Church Music Trust towards the cost of our programme for the 2023/24 season. The Society greatly appreciates the support provided by the Trust over many years.

The year-end balance was £31,796 (2022: £34,456). Our strategy over previous seasons to build and maintain a solid level of assets, as a safeguard against challenging circumstances, has placed us in a relatively resilient position to withstand occasional seasons with adverse results.

As reported previously, in early 2020 we planned to build up a designated Future Fund of reserves, to underpin the choir's continued development. A key objective of this fund was to help ensure that we can continue to perform high-quality concerts in St Albans Cathedral as part of each season's programme. The full launch of this initiative was postponed due to the pandemic. However, some donations to establish the fund were received; these are retained within the Society's overall assets. No further donations were received during 2022/23. The fund stands at £1,445 (including the associated gift aid which has been reclaimed on donations to the fund).

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON

Our activities and concert programme for the season ahead have been planned with a view to maintaining our solid financial position. Nevertheless, we know that inflationary pressures will increase many of our operating costs, including the hire charges for our rehearsal and concert venues. Consequently, we forecast to incur a further modest deficit during 2023/24. In response to this we will be focusing on augmenting our income, particularly through subscription income and improved concert ticket revenue.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The principal risk to the Society is promoting a programme of rehearsals and concerts which might produce a financial result that is substantially worse than expected. We endeavour to manage this risk through considered planning of our concert programme, detailed budgeting, closely controlling our costs and actively publicising our concerts and selling tickets.

The policy of the Committee for many years has been that we should retain a prudent level of reserves sufficient to meet the Society's contractual liabilities based on conservative assumptions about our commitments for rehearsal and concert costs for the next two seasons and possible situations in which we might receive no revenue or insurance payments. This policy and our supporting practices stood us in good stead for dealing with the financial risks and uncertainties associated with Covid, some of which are ongoing. We will continue to manage the financial risks under the current circumstances through the same well-established process.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing the objects of the Society, the trustees believe that the choir conforms to the requirements of the Charity Commission to provide public benefit through:

- welcoming members of all adult ages and from a wide range of backgrounds and musical capabilities;
- enabling its members to participate in a creative, fulfilling, educational and sociable activity and providing opportunities for them to develop their singing technique, musical skills and knowledge of the choral repertoire;
- promoting public concerts which provide its audiences with enjoyable and stimulating cultural experiences through the high quality of the performances and the interesting range of music featured;
- commissioning and performing new choral works which extend the musical repertoire available for choirs;
- providing opportunities for local school children to participate in choral singing at some of its concerts, thus broadening the musical experience of the pupils;
- performing for residents of local senior living establishments; and
- performing on certain occasions to raise funds for other charitable causes.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Society is affiliated to Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies, which represents and supports amateur vocal, instrumental and promoting societies throughout the United Kingdom.

St Albans Choral Society is grateful for the support of The Williams Church Music Trust.

Further information about St Albans Choral Society may be found at our website: www.choralsociety.com

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY (CHARITY NO. 287882)**

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 15 July 2023, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- 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 Society and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 respects, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Independent Examiner

Date

Ruth Falkus ACMA
6 Walnut Drive,
Wendover
Bucks
HP22 6RT

15 August 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 15 JULY 2023

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions	19,685		19,850	
Friends and other donations	555		1,628	
Grants from The Williams Church Music Trust	2,500		2,500	
Bank interest – COIF deposit account	787		76	
HMRC gift aid tax repayment	4,190		3,619	
Music and folders hire/purchase	2,500		3,016	
Social events	1,192		1,335	
Singing lesson room hire – participants' payments	1,301		970	
Sundries	660		697	
Concert income (see page 8)	14,126		11,494	
		47,496		45,185
Expenditure				
Music Director's fees	(6,720)		(6,355)	
Assistant Conductor's fees	(0)		(333)	
Accompanist's fees	(5,049)		(4,885)	
Répétiteur's fees	(375)		(375)	
Rehearsal venue hire	(2,792)		(2,775)	
Singing lesson room hire	(1,407)		(1,269)	
Music and folders hire/purchase	(2,668)		(2,641)	
Making Music subscription, insurance and PRS payment	(705)		(622)	
Website	(0)		(126)	
Social events	(1,238)		(1,331)	
Music commission fee	(2,000)		(0)	
Sundries	(506)		(1,615)	
Concert expenditure (see page 8)	(26,696)		(26,227)	
		(50,156)		(48,554)
(Deficit) for the year		(2,660)		(3,369)

BALANCE SHEET

As at:	15 July 2023		15 July 2022	
Assets	£	£	£	£
NatWest Bank current account	11,373		4,820	
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	20,423		29,636	
Year-end balance		31,796		34,456
Represented by:				
Accumulated funds				
Opening balance	34,456		37,825	
(Deficit) for the year	(2,660)		(3,369)	
Year-end balance		31,796		34,456
of which:				
Grant received for the subsequent season	2,500		2,500	
Future Fund (see page 4)	1,445		1,445	
Other funds	27,851		30,511	

CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
Autumn				
Income *	0		2,106	
Expenditure *	(1,606)		(6,304)	
(Deficit)		(1,606)		(4,198)
Christmas				
Income	2,570		1,683	
Expenditure	(2,312)		(2,352)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		258		(669)
February				
Income	1,201			
Expenditure	(1,598)			
(Deficit)		(397)		
Spring				
Income	8,707		5,533	
Expenditure	(16,054)		(14,423)	
(Deficit)		(7,347)		(8,890)
Summer				
Income	1,648		2,172	
Expenditure	(5,126)		(3,148)	
(Deficit)		(3,478)		(976)
Total				
Income	14,126		11,494	
Expenditure	(26,696)		(26,227)	
(Deficit)		(12,570)		(14,733)

* Note: the Autumn 2022 concert was held in conjunction with Bushey Symphony Orchestra (BSO), who administered the income and expenditure for the concert; consequently, St Albans Choral Society (SACS) received no income for this concert but the overall deficit on the concert was shared equally between BSO and SACS and 50% of the deficit was paid by SACS to BSO and is shown as expenditure.

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 287882

Accounts

ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 287882

Report and Accounts for the year ended 15 July 2022

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the Society are:

- to promote the study of and public education in the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society shall from time to time determine; and
- to support such charitable purpose or purposes, or such charitable institution or institutions as the Society shall from time to time determine.

REPORT FOR THE SEASON 2021/22

The Committee

The Society is managed by a committee in accordance with the Society's Rules. In season 2021/22, the members of the committee were:

Ken Young: Chair
Sally Ripley: Vice-chair
Lynne Cockbill: General Secretary
Peter Aubusson: Treasurer
Pam Firth: Alto Representative
Sam Hensman: Membership Secretary
Alistair Holt-Thomas: General Member (until 12/1/22)
Jonathan Humphries: General Member
David Lee: Bass Representative
Frances Lightowler: General Member
Helen Pitman: Soprano Representative
James Shipp: Concert/Rehearsal Manager
Alison Shipperlee: Ticket Secretary
Debbie Switalska: Marketing Officer
Gareth Truran: Tenor Representative

All committee members, except James Shipp, were trustees of the Society. The Society's Music Director, George Vass, also attends committee meetings by invitation.

Season Overview

After the severe disruption to the Society's activities during 2020/21 due to Covid, it was pleasing to be able to resume rehearsals and concerts in 2021/22. Various new procedures were adopted in recognition of the continuing risks associated with Covid. It was very encouraging that a high proportion of our members returned to rehearsals in September 2021. Over the course of the season other members returned and we were pleased to welcome nine new members. The choir's membership therefore remained close to its pre-Covid level with 106 members paying subscriptions during 2021/22.

Our four concerts featured the usual variety of choral music, the details of which are on pages 3 and 4. We performed a mixture of well-known classics from the choral repertoire, some lesser-known works and several newly composed pieces.

The main work at our Autumn 2021 concert was Rossini's Petite messe solennelle; in the first half of the programme we performed three Bruckner motets conducted by our assistant conductor, Augustina Kapoti. Our Christmas concert included a varied selection of seasonal music, including the premiere of The Hertfordshire Carols by James Francis Brown; this suite of three carols was generously commissioned by Claire Heard, a former choir member, for her friends in the Society and in loving memory of her mother, Mary

Browne, a regular attender at the choir's concerts. Our April 2022 concert in St Albans Cathedral featured Haydn's Nelson Mass and Richard Blackford's Pieta, co-commissioned by the Society. Our Summer concert celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams with a programme of English music, including three works by Vaughan Williams.

Musically, the season was very successful despite challenges resulting from the Covid hiatus. In the early months, rehearsals were subject to Covid protocols such as pre-rehearsal testing and social distancing. Attendance levels at rehearsals were affected by members needing to isolate due to Covid. During the 2020/21 season, when choirs were forbidden to meet, a programme of online rehearsals had helped members to maintain their singing capabilities. Nevertheless, voices and singing skills needed to be revived when live rehearsals restarted. The choir acquitted itself well at all our concerts and its performances at the April and Summer concerts were very warmly appreciated by audience members.

A further legacy of Covid was that audiences at concerts were significantly depleted from previous levels. In the first half of the season this was partly due to the need to maintain socially distanced seating. To this end we held two separate performances of our Christmas concert on the same day. Throughout the year, audience sizes appeared to be affected by a reduced propensity amongst some previous concert goers to resume attendance at live music events.

The Society was especially appreciative of the efforts of our professional musicians during this difficult season. George Vass, our Music Director, provided valuable advice in addition to continuing to drive the musical standard and development of the choir. The committee thanks George Vass and our accompanist, Richard Harvey, for their contributions and high level of dedication to the choir. In December 2021, our assistant conductor, Augustina Kapoti, resigned to pursue international career opportunities; her contribution over the previous two years was much appreciated. We also thank the four singing teachers who provide individual singing lessons to about 30 members during our Thursday evening rehearsals.

2021/22 Concert Programme

Four concerts were held during the season:

November 2021: *St Saviour's Church, St Albans*

Conductor: Augustina Kapoti

Anton Bruckner *Latin Motets: Locus Iste; Ave Maria; Christus factus est pro nobis*

Conductor: George Vass

Gioachino Rossini *Petite messe solennelle*

December 2021: *Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans*

A Celebration of Christmas including: Carol of the bells - **Peter Wilhousky**; Christmas Day - **Gustav Holst**; The Hertfordshire Carols - **James Francis Brown**; traditional and contemporary carols; and seasonal readings by members of St Albans Choral Society.

April 2022: *The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans*

with Orchestra Nova

Richard Blackford *Pietà*

Joseph Haydn *Missa in Angustis "Nelson Mass"*

June 2022: *St Saviour's Church, St Albans*

Ralph Vaughan Williams Five Mystical Songs; Te Deum in G; O taste and see

Gerald Finzi Lo, the full final sacrifice, Op 26

Herbert Howells Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks

John Ireland Greater love hath no man

Edward Elgar Great is the Lord, Op 67

Community Activities

The Society is committed to contributing to the local community, although the opportunities for this were limited during 2021/22. Nevertheless, £2,090 was raised for three charitable causes: £242 for the Hospice of St Francis by carol singing at St Albans Station; £1,026 at our Christmas concert for Centre 33, a local drop-in centre for homeless and socially or materially disadvantaged people; and £822 at our Summer concert for Youth Talk, which provides free, confidential counselling to 13-25 year olds in the St Albans area. Our previous programme of visits by members of the choir to perform in residential care homes, which had to cease as a result of the pandemic, was not able to resume during 2021/22.

Financial Review

The Society's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are on pages 7 and 8. The financial result for season 2021/22 was a deficit of £3,369 (2020/21: a surplus of £1,384). This outcome benefitted from the strong membership level and the resulting subscription income of £19,850. Our income was supplemented by a £3,619 receipt from HMRC for gift aid claimed on subscriptions and donations. We also received a grant of £2,500 from The Williams Church Music Trust towards the cost of our programme for the 2022/23 season. The Society greatly appreciates the support provided by the Trust over many years. Our four concerts produced a total deficit of £14,733. This deficit was larger than in many previous seasons principally due to reduced audience sizes and the consequent lower ticket income.

The year-end balance was £34,456 (2021: £37,825). Our strategy over previous seasons to build and maintain a solid level of assets, as a safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, placed us in a relatively resilient position to withstand the recent and ongoing situation and uncertainties.

As reported previously, in early 2020 we planned to build up a designated Future Fund of reserves, to underpin the choir's continued development. A key objective of this fund was to help ensure that we can continue to perform high-quality concerts in St Albans Cathedral as part of each season's programme. The full launch of this initiative was postponed due to the pandemic. However, some donations to establish the fund were received; these are retained within the Society's overall assets. No further donations were received during 2021/22. The fund stands at £1,445 (including the associated gift aid which has been reclaimed on donations to the fund).

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON

Our activities and concert programme for the season ahead have been planned with a view to maintaining our solid financial position. Nevertheless, inflationary pressures are expected to increase various aspects of our operating costs. Consequently, we forecast to incur a further modest deficit during 2022/23. Our objective is to keep the increase in our costs to a minimum while augmenting our income wherever possible. A key uncertainty is the outlook for audience sizes and ticket revenue at concerts.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The principal risk to the Society is promoting a programme of rehearsals and concerts which might produce a financial result that is substantially worse than expected. We endeavour to manage this risk through considered planning of our concert programme, detailed budgeting, closely controlling our costs and actively publicising our concerts and selling tickets.

The policy of the Committee for many years has been that we should retain a prudent level of reserves sufficient to meet the Society's contractual liabilities based on conservative assumptions about our commitments for rehearsal and concert costs for the next two seasons and possible situations in which we might receive no revenue or insurance payments. This policy and our supporting practices stood us in good stead for dealing with the financial risks and uncertainties associated with Covid, some of which are ongoing. We will continue to manage the financial risks under the current circumstances through the same well-established process.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing the objects of the Society, the trustees believe that the choir conforms to the requirements of the Charity Commission to provide public benefit through:

- welcoming members of all adult ages and from a wide range of backgrounds and musical capabilities;
- enabling its members to participate in a creative, fulfilling, educational and sociable activity and providing opportunities for them to develop their singing technique, musical skills and knowledge of the choral repertoire;
- promoting public concerts which provide its audiences with enjoyable and stimulating cultural experiences through the high quality of the performances and the interesting range of music featured;
- commissioning and performing new choral works which extend the musical repertoire available for choirs;
- providing opportunities for local school children to participate in choral singing at some of its concerts, thus broadening the musical experience of the pupils;
- performing for residents of local senior living establishments; and
- performing on certain occasions to raise funds for other charitable causes.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Society is affiliated to Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies.

Further information about St Albans Choral Society may be found at our website: www.choralsociety.com

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS CHORAL SOCIETY (CHARITY NO. 287882)**

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 15 July 2022, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- 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 Society and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 respects, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Independent Examiner

Date

Ruth Falkus ACMA
6 Walnut Drive,
Wendover
Bucks
HP22 6RT

18 August 2022

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 15 JULY 2022

	2021/22		2020/21	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions	19,850		0	
Future Fund donations	0		250	
Friends and other donations	1,628		8,310	
Grant from The Williams Church Music Trust	2,500		0	
Bank interest – COIF deposit account	76		7	
HMRC gift aid tax repayment	3,619		2,005	
Music and folders hire/purchase	3,016		1,397	
Social events	1,335		0	
Singing lesson room hire – participants' payments	970		0	
Sundries	697		1,782	
Concert income	11,494		0	
		45,185		13,751
Expenditure				
Music Director's fees	(6,355)		(2,750)	
Assistant Conductor's fees	(333)		(4,870)	
Accompanist's fees	(4,885)		(735)	
Répétiteur's fees	(375)		(0)	
Rehearsal venue hire	(2,775)		(828)	
Singing lesson room hire	(1,269)		(0)	
Music and folders hire/purchase	(2,641)		(786)	
Making Music subscription, insurance and PRS payment	(622)		(677)	
Website	(126)		(36)	
Social events	(1,331)		(0)	
Sundries	(1,615)		(1,685)	
Concert expenditure	(26,227)		(0)	
		(48,554)		(12,367)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(3,369)		1,384

BALANCE SHEET

As at:	15 July 2022		15 July 2021	
Assets	£	£	£	£
NatWest Bank current account	4,820		8,265	
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	29,636		29,560	
Year-end balance		34,456		37,825

Represented by:

Accumulated funds

Opening balance	37,825		36,441	
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(3,369)		1,384	
Year-end balance		34,456		37,825
of which:				
Grant received for the subsequent season	2,500		0	
Future Fund (see page 4)	1,445		1,445	
Other funds	30,511		36,380	

NOTE: CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2021/22		2020/21	
	£	£	£	£
Autumn				
Income	2,106		0	
Expenditure	(6,304)		0	
(Deficit)		(4,198)		0
Christmas				
Income	1,683		0	
Expenditure	(2,352)		0	
(Deficit)		(669)		0
Spring				
Income	5,533		0	
Expenditure	(14,423)		0	
(Deficit)		(8,890)		0
Summer				
Income	2,172		0	
Expenditure	(3,148)		0	
(Deficit)		(976)		0
Total				
Income	11,494		0	
Expenditure	(26,227)		0	
(Deficit)		(14,733)		0