

Chair's Report

AGM - 13th October 2025

It is both a pleasure and an honour to stand here this evening and reflect on another year in the life of King's Lynn Festival Chorus — my first as Chair.

Looking back, it has been a year filled with variety, challenge, and great satisfaction. From the sublime *Fauré Requiem* paired with the energy of Rutter's *Feel the Spirit*, to the beautiful harp accompaniment in *A Ceremony of Carols*, and from Rutter and Britten in the spring to our finale with *Carmina Burana* and *The Rio Grande* — which I think most of us grew to love!

There are so many people I would like to thank for their support throughout my first year as Chair — your encouragement and dedication have been invaluable to both me and the chorus.

First, to our Music Director, **Ben**, whose inspiration, guidance, expertise, and friendship continue to lift the choir to new heights. His vision, patience, and ability to bring out the very best in us make all the difference to our music-making. Thank you, Ben, for everything you do — it is truly appreciated.

We are also deeply grateful to our accompanist, **Joe**, whose commitment and skill are second to none. Week after week, Joe's reliability and superb keyboard playing provide the foundation and support we all rely on. We are very fortunate to have both Ben and Joe leading and supporting us.

To the **committee**, my heartfelt thanks for your hard work, support, and—above all—friendship. You have kept everything running smoothly behind the scenes and kept me sane in the process!

Special thanks go to **Penny**, whose calm efficiency in managing the music and unwavering support to both me and the chorus have been invaluable. Your friendship and help have meant so much — thank you, Penny.

To **Helen and Gill**, thank you for ensuring that we are seen, heard, and remembered — quietly and efficiently coordinating our publicity with such dedication.

And finally, to all of **you**, the members of King's Lynn Festival Chorus — my warmest thanks. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and friendship are at the heart of everything we do. The way you support one another, turn up week after week with good humour, and give your all in rehearsals and performances makes this choir not just a musical group but a true community. It is an absolute privilege and a joy to sing alongside you.

Of course, being part of a choir brings its challenges, particularly with the continuing rise in costs for venues, musicians, and other essentials. Nevertheless, our commitment to excellence and to performing with high-calibre musicians and orchestras remains central to our identity. By maintaining these standards and delivering concerts that inspire both singers and audiences, we help to ensure a strong and sustainable future for the choir. Every ticket sold and every contribution of support plays an important part in enabling us to continue making music of the highest quality.

Looking ahead, the coming year promises to be an exciting one, filled with new musical opportunities and collaborations. With a varied programme already taking shape, we aim to continue challenging ourselves artistically while building on the strengths that define the chorus — commitment, quality, and community. I am confident that, with Ben's leadership, the dedication of the committee, and the enthusiasm of every member, we will continue to grow in confidence and reputation. Together, we will ensure that King's Lynn Festival Chorus remains a vibrant and inspiring part of the region's musical life.

Michelle Marple

Chair, King's Lynn Festival Chorus

King's Lynn Festival Chorus
Income and Expenditure
Year Ended 31st August 2025

	General Funds 2024-25 £	Restricted Funds 2024-25	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24 £
Income				
Subscriptions	17,990		17,990	16,950
Gift aid	4,115		4,115	6,413
Hire / sale of music	2,137		2,137	1,957
General Donations	521		521	3,516
Donation for piano	2,400		2,400	0
Concert income	21,961		21,961	14,081
100 Club	2,520		2,520	0
Bank interest	297		297	263
SMP fund	0		0	8,500
Grants	0		0	200
Come and Sing	0		0	2,376
MK Memorial Concert	1,001		1,001	0
Friends of KLFC	200		200	0
Other income	318		318	680
	53,460	0	53,460	54,938
Expenditure				
MD / Accompanists	15,435		15,435	13,874
Rehearsal rooms	1,295		1,295	2,667
Purchase / hire of music	1,244		1,244	1,320
Insurance / Making Music	700		700	675
Website / Zoom subs	398		398	330
100 Club prizes	202		202	0
Come and Sing	0		0	2,376
MK Memorial Concert	1,001		1,001	0
Purchase of piano	2,895		2,895	0
Other expenditure	422		422	222
Concert expenses:				
Musicians	24,235		24,235	6,304
MD / Assistant MD	3,060		3,060	2,790
Printing / Publicity	2,215		2,215	2,062
PRS fees	590		590	0
Other costs	1,259		1,259	989
Venue hire	1,930		1,930	1,802
Instrument hire	1,400		1,400	1,350
Box Office	2,215		2,215	994
	60,495	0	60,495	37,756
Surplus / (Deficit)	(7,035)	0	(7,035)	17,182
Reserves				
Balance 1st September 2024	29,370	1,708	31,078	12,188
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(7,035)		(7,035)	17,182
Balance 31st August 2025	22,336	1,708	24,044	29,370
Represented by				
NatWest bank	21,863	1,708	23,571	28,418
Payments received in advance			0	(370)
Payments made in advance			0	1,152
Equals card	273		273	70
Cash float	200		200	100
	22,336	1,708	24,044	29,370

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of King's Lynn Festival Chorus ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 20/12/2025

Jonathan M Beart
Rectory Cottage, St Andrew's Lane
Congham, PE32 1DU