

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 515851

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1984-12-03

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

Contact

Address 68 Fence Avenue
Macclesfield
SK10 1LT

Phone 01625425939

Website www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, IN THE PRESERVATION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Activities: The objects of the society shall be to educate the public in the Arts and Sciences, and in particular the Art and Science of Music, in the promotion of concerts and other activities.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£41,686	£44,975	-	-
2024-08-31	£44,247	£38,074	-	-
2023-08-31	£44,201	£44,306	-	-
2022-08-31	£21,791	£28,729	-	-
2021-08-31	£10,826	£11,378	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Janet Lynne Evans	Chair	2019-10-07
Catherine Louise Evans		2022-10-10
Dr Anthony Bartley		2017-10-16
Ian Pickford		2018-10-01
Margaret Gartside		2018-10-01
Pamela Susan Upchurch		2015-01-15
Patricia Pinto		2018-10-01
Philip Gregory Edwards		2022-10-10
Sandra Boynton		2018-10-01
Shirley Jones		2018-10-01
Suzan Jeannette Moore		2019-10-07

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 515851

Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st September 2024

To 31st August 2025

Charity name: CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY

Charity registration number: 515851

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, IN THE PROMOTION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</p> <p>Membership of the choral society is open to any singer, subject to passing an audition by the Music Director. Rehearsals are then directed towards 4 public concerts per year. We believe that our activities benefit both singers and audience; for participants learning music, developing sight reading skill and vocal technique, and singing as a group.</p> <p>For our audience the enjoyment of hearing (and at Christmas participating in a variety of musical styles, often involving professional soloists and instrumentalists. Tickets are competitively priced to attract a wide audience with both concession and children's tickets available. All full time students and under 26 year olds benefit from a reduced membership subscription rate. In addition, any member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Membership Secretary.</p> <p>We also hold choral workshops, which are open to all singers, and offer the chance to learn a variety of choral works with famous and local conductors concluding with an informal sing through.</p> <p>The Community choir was established for new non auditioned singers to experience both singing and music sight reading and taking part in performances. Many of these singers then move on to join the main choir.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The trustees have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>In September 2024 we began our fourth choir year with Music Director Tom Newall and Accompanist Rachel Fright. Aably helped by Ian Pickford as deputy conductor when Tom is not available.</p> <p>Tom's choice of music has given us yet more new works to master and enjoy whilst including pieces from the standard repertoire. Tom and Rachel have developed a quality of excellence which has put Congleton on the map as one of the best choral societies in the area.</p> <p>Tom & Rachel led and accompanied our annual Singing Day with Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man, and over 100 singers. We also offered non-CCS singers the chance to join the choir for a performance of the work at our Spring Concert. And we gained a few new members.</p> <p>In November we gave a performance of Brahms' Requiem in the town hall with Rachel and Lauryna Sableviviute on 2 pianos and soloists.</p> <p>In December, for our Christmas Concert, we returned to the Town Hall with a brass quintet from Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra in a varied programme. This also included a piece by Rachel our accompanist.</p> <p>In January 2025 we started rehearsals for Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man. This was our first collaboration with Acceler8 Band and was hugely successful. It was a sellout concert with expenses and income shared with the band. We also sang a choral version of Sibelius' Finlandia.</p> <p>In May we moved to a new venue, Wellspring Methodist Church, mainly for free parking, as Cheshire East had imposed evening charges on town centre car parks. Our summer concert featured Haydn's Nelson Mass, Britten's Serenade for tenor, horn and strings and the Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo, a new composer to our repertoire. We were joined by the National Festival Orchestra and 4 soloists.</p> <p>In their 24/25 season the 45 members of Congleton Community Choir performed 4 free concerts for the local community.</p> <p>There were Sunday afternoon concerts in autumn and spring, and evening Christmas and summer concerts.</p> <p>In addition, the Community Choir joined the Choral Society in June to provide 2 hours of free entertainment from the bandstand in Congleton Park organized by the Friends of Congleton Park.</p> <p>The season ended with another free concert in Astbury Church with donations for church repairs.</p> <p>The society has also been active in the wider community. Planning is underway for the schools' project to be led by our Creative Producer, Joe Clarkson. And we have also</p>
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	<p>hosted 'Conductlings' at a rehearsal, encouraging young people at the beginning of their musical career.</p> <p>A generous bequest from a longstanding member of the choir is to be used to sponsor the next summer concert 'Songs from the Shows'.</p> <p>Meanwhile our new website continues to develop by the 'website' team, both to inform the choir but also to publicise our activities to the community.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	<p>The funds at 1st September 2024 were £33402.23 and at 31st August 2025, £30,114.03.</p> <p>Although keeping to our plan for 2 orchestral concerts and 2 with piano accompaniment a year, expenditure was nearly double that of our income for 4 concerts. Audience numbers are still varying but concert expenses are increasing. However, subscriptions from September 2024 to £180 per year have enabled us to have more flexibility when choosing venues and accompaniments for concerts.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	<p>As most of the society's energies are directed to the preparation and staging of four choral concerts each year and that we cannot rely solely on audience numbers to cover our costs, reserves should therefore reflect the amounts needed to provide these objectives. Based on costs over previous years the society believes that it is prudent to maintain reserves of €20,000, based on two orchestral and two keyboard concerts, which will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the Annual General Meeting.</p>
Amount of reserves held	£20,000
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	<p>Profit from Concerts and Singing Days.</p> <p>Fundraising such as raffles, carol singing, garden trail, socials.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	<p>Our reserves are held in an interest bearing savings account</p>

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Society

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Congleton Choral Society
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	515851
Charity's principal address	68 Fence Avenue Macclesfield SK10 1LT

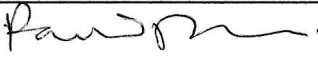
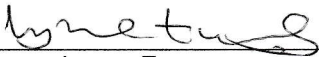
Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Lynne Evans	Chair	
2	Tony Bartley	Vice Chair	
3	Cathy Evans	Secretary	
4	Pam Upchurch	Treasurer	
5	Phil Edwards	Membership Secretary	
6	Margaret Gartside	Librarian	
7	Sandie Boynton	Publicity	
8	Patti Pinto	Wardrobe	
9	Tony Bartley	Concert Co-ordinator	
10	Suzan Moore	Soprano rep	
11	Shirley Jones	Alto rep	
12	Ian Pickford	Tenor/Bass rep	
13			

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Pamela Upchurch	Lynne Evans
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair

Date 1st Dec 25.

Congleton Choral Society**Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2025**

	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS
Concert Income		Concert expenses	
Autumn Concert	£1,993.94	Autumn Concert	£3,955.73
Christmas Concert	£2,523.43	Christmas Concert	£2,810.78
Spring Concert	£3,550.59	Spring Concert	£3,622.45
Summer Concert	£1,331.84	Summer Concert	£7,199.67
	£9,399.80		£17,588.63
Bank interest		Running Costs	
Skipton Buiding Society	£534.32	NFMS subscription/Insurance	£566.00
		Musical Director	£7,210.00
Subscriptions	£14,623.00	Accompanist	£4,865.00
Fundraising	£710.00	Hall Hire	£1,919.25
HMRC Gift Aid	£3,393.52	Website	£176.04
Music loans and sales	£1,079.00		
Sale of uniforms	£40.00	Deposits	£487.20
Donations	£2,236.00	Music Hire and purchase	£2,123.05
Community Choir	£7,508.90	Uniform	£84.00
Armed Man Singing Day 24	£1,741.11	Sundries	£719.67
Coleridge Singing Day 25	£420.80	Community Choir	£8,003.39
		Armed Man Singing Day 24	£1,232.42
	£32,286.65		
Total Income	£41,686.45	Total Expenditure	£44,974.65
		Loss for Year	-£3,288.20
Total	£41,686.45	Total	£41,686.45

Reserves brought forward **£33,402.23** Reserves carried forward **£30,114.03**

Represented by:-

Opening balances at 1st September 2024

Co-op	Current account	£3,337.61
Co-op	Membership account	£8,435.22
Co-op	Community choir account	£6,929.32
Virgin	Charities account	£14,700.08

£33,402.23

Represented by:-

Closing balances at 31st August 2025

Co-op	Current account	£2,748.98
Co-op	Membership account	£4,567.74
Co-op	Community Choir account	£7,562.91
Skipton B S	Charities account	£15,234.40

£30,114.03

Auditor's report

I have examined the receipts, books and accounts of Congleton Choral Society for the year ending 31st August 2025. I hereby verify that in my opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis using historical cost convention, give a true and fair view of the financial affairs as at 31st August, 2025.

Signed by: -



Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)

Signed by: -



John Tudor (Auditor)

Congleton Choral Society**Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2025**

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Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)

Signed by: -



John Tudor (Auditor)

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 515851

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From September 1st 2023 To August 31st 2024

Charity name: Congleton Choral Society

Charity registration number: 515851

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, IN THE PROMOTION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</p> <p>Membership of the choral society is open to any singer, subject to passing an audition by the Music Director. Rehearsals are then directed towards 4 public concerts per year. We believe that our activities benefit both singers and audience; for participants learning music, developing sight reading skill and vocal technique, and singing as a group.</p> <p>For our audience the enjoyment of hearing (and at Christmas participating in) a variety of musical styles, often involving professional soloists and instrumentalists. Tickets are competitively priced to attract a wide audience with both concession and children's tickets available. All full time students and under 26 year olds benefit from a reduced membership subscription rate. In addition, any member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Membership Secretary. We also hold choral workshops, which are open to all singers, and offer the chance to learn a variety of choral works with famous and local conductors concluding with an informal sing through. The Community choir was established for new non auditioned singers to experience both singing and music sight reading and taking part in performances. Many of these singers then move on to join the main choir.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The trustees have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

In September 2023 we began our third choir year with Music Director Tom Newall and with Rachel Fright now as accompanist we have the start of a period of stability for the Choral Society. Tom's choice of music with the agreement of the planning group, continue to be both challenging and inspiring.

Tom & Rachel led and accompanied our annual Singing Day with Puccini's youthful Gloria. This was held in our usual rehearsal venue, Trinity Methodist Church, with over 100 singers. We also offered non-CCS singers the chance to join the choir for a performance of the work at our Spring Concert. And we gained a couple of new members.

In November we gave a performance of Rossini's Petit Messe Solenelle and a Palestrina piece in the town hall with Rachel on piano, Tom Pieczora on harmonium and four operatic soloists. We trialled running an identical programme with Salford Choral Society, allowing members to sing in both concerts if they wished which was very successful.

In December, our Christmas Concert was held in the Daneside Theatre as the Town Hall was unavailable. This was an 'interesting' experience with different acoustics, lighting and staging. There was only room for our digital piano in a corner and Tom had to stand halfway up the central aisle of the audience for us to be able to see him. Expenditure was kept to a minimum, because of the cost of the venue, but we had a sizeable audience and made a small profit.

We had another booking from Foden's Brass Band to sing with them at various hotels on Christmas Eve, which raised a sizeable sum which went towards choir funds.

In January 2024 we started rehearsals for Puccini's Gloria and Elgar's The Music Makers to be accompanied by the National Festival Orchestra. In them we have found an orchestral partner of high quality but at affordable rates.

The new Mayor's ceremonial service this time was held in the Town Hall with musical contributions from her family and the choir. We performed the Music Makers and our efforts were very much appreciated by the town.

Our summer concert featured Bob Chilcott's Songs My Heart has Taught Me and Creation Song which we sang with the composer at our 2022 Singing Day. Followed loosely by a theme of the environment, there was lots of new and challenging music and a warm reaction by the audience to pieces they had never heard before.

The community choir has flourished in number and in vocal strength across the 2023/24 season. They sang at the cricket club at Christmas, collaborated with Biddulph Male Voice choir for a joint concert at the town hall and gave a summer concert at St Mary's Astbury alongside their regular one at Trinity.

Our website is now using the Making Music platform. It is so much more informative and Phil has ably helped members to make the most of its resources.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	<p>The funds at 1st September 2023 were £27,229.56 and at 31st August 2024, £33,402.23. £2000 of this was due to the increase in membership.</p> <p>Although keeping to our plan for 2 orchestral concerts and 2 with piano accompaniment a year, expenditure was double that of our income for 4 concerts. Audience numbers are still varying but concert expenses are increasing.</p> <p>We hope the increase in subscriptions from September 2024 to £180 per year will enable us to have more flexibility when choosing venues and accompaniments for concerts.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	<p>As most of the society's energies are directed to the preparation and staging of four choral concerts each year and that we cannot rely solely on audience numbers to cover our costs, reserves should therefore reflect the amounts needed to provide these objectives. Based on costs over previous years the society believes that it is prudent to maintain reserves of €20,000, based on two orchestral and two keyboard concerts, which will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the Annual General Meeting.</p>
Amount of reserves held	£20,000
Details of fund materially in deficit	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	

Additional information (optional)

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	<p>Members subscriptions Profit from Concerts and Singing Days. Fundraising such as raffles, carol singing, garden trail, socials.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	<p>We had moved our bank accounts from HSBC to the Co-operative bank in 2022 and this year we also moved our reserves from Virgin Money to the Skipton Building Society to gain a better rate of interest.</p>
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Society

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Congleton Choral Society
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	515851
Charity's principal address	68 Fence Avenue Macclesfield SK10 1LT

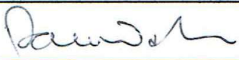
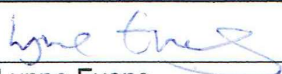
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lynne Evans	Chair		
2	Tony Bartley	Vice Chair		
3	Cathy Evans	Secretary		
4	Pam Upchurch	Treasurer		
5	Phil Edwards	Membership Secretary		
6	Margaret Gartside	Librarian		
7	Sandie Boynton	Publicity		
8	Patti Pinto	Wardrobe		
9	Kirsty Edwards	Concert Co-ordinator		
10	Suzan Moore	Soprano rep		
11	Shirley Jones	Alto rep		
12	Ian Pickford	Tenor/Bass rep		

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Pamela Upchurch	Lynne Evans
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair

Date 27.11.24

Congleton Choral Society **Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2024**

		RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS
<u>Concert Income</u>			<u>Concert expenses</u>		
Autumn Concert	£1,603.89		Autumn Concert	£2,955.20	
Christmas Concert	£1,676.50		Christmas Concert	£1,102.68	
Spring Concert	£2,767.48		Spring Concert	£7,556.41	
Summer Concert	£1,524.53		Summer Concert	£2,410.48	
		£7,572.40			£14,024.77
<u>Bank interest</u>			<u>Running Costs</u>		
Virgin Money	£37.73		NFMS subscription/Insuran	£543.00	
Skipton Buiding Society	£0.00		Musical Director	£5,915.00	
			Accompanist	£3,656.00	
<u>Subscriptions</u>	£15,640.30		Hall Hire	£1,680.00	
			Website	£181.60	
<u>Fundraising</u>	£1,375.40				£11,975.60
<u>HMRC Gift Aid</u>	£3,814.49		<u>Deposits</u>	£613.50	
<u>Music loans and sales</u>	£885.10		<u>Music Hire and purchase</u>	£3,047.50	
<u>Sale of uniforms</u>	£149.00		<u>Uniform</u>	£168.00	
<u>Donations</u>	£3,010.15		<u>Sundries</u>	£308.49	
<u>Community Choir</u>	£10,085.00		<u>Community Choir</u>	£7,028.43	
<u>Puccini Singing Day 23</u>	£837.07		<u>Puccini Singing Day 23</u>	£903.83	
<u>Armed Man Singing Day 24</u>	£840.71		<u>Armed Man Singing Day 24</u>	£4.56	
		£36,674.95			£12,074.31
Total Income	£44,247.35		Total Expenditure	£38,074.68	
			Profit for Year	£6,172.67	
Total	£44,247.35		Total	£44,247.35	
Reserves brought forward	£27,229.56		Reserves carried forward	£33,402.23	
Represented by:- <u>Opening balances at 1st September 2023</u>			Represented by:- <u>Closing balances at 31st August 2024</u>		
Co-op Current account	£701.49		Co-op Current account	£3,337.61	
Co-op Membership account	£8,505.03		Co-op Membership account	£8,435.22	
Co-op Community choir account	£3,361.69		Co-op Community Choir account	£6,929.32	
Virgin Charities account	£14,661.35		Skipton B S Charities account	£14,700.08	
		£27,229.56			£33,402.23

Auditor's report

I have examined the receipts, books and accounts of Congleton Choral Society for the year ending 31st August 2024. I hereby verify that in my opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis using historical cost convention, give a true and fair view of the financial affairs as at 31st August, 2024.

Signed by: -



Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)

Signed by: -



John Tudor (Auditor)

Congleton Choral Society **Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2024**

		RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS
<u>Concert Income</u>			<u>Concert expenses</u>		
Autumn Concert	£1,603.89		Autumn Concert	£2,955.20	

Congleton Choral Society **Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2024**

		RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS
<u>Concert Income</u>			<u>Concert expenses</u>		
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Virgin Money	£37.73		NFMS subscription/Insuran	£543.00	
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<u>HMRC Gift Aid</u>	£3,814.49		<u>Deposits</u>	£613.50	
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		£36,674.95			£12,074.31
Total Income	£44,247.35		Total Expenditure	£38,074.68	
			Profit for Year	£6,172.67	
Total	£44,247.35		Total	£44,247.35	
Reserves brought forward	£27,229.56		Reserves carried forward	£33,402.23	
Represented by:- <u>Opening balances at 1st September 2023</u>			Represented by:- <u>Closing balances at 31st August 2024</u>		
Co-op Current account	£701.49		Co-op Current account	£3,337.61	
Co-op Membership account	£8,505.03		Co-op Membership account	£8,435.22	
Co-op Community choir account	£3,361.69		Co-op Community Choir account	£6,929.32	
Virgin Charities account	£14,661.35		Skipton B S Charities account	£14,700.08	
		£27,229.56			£33,402.23

Auditor's report

I have examined the receipts, books and accounts of Congleton Choral Society for the year ending 31st August 2024. I hereby verify that in my opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis using historical cost convention, give a true and fair view of the financial affairs as at 31st August, 2024.

Signed by: -



Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)

Signed by: -



John Tudor (Auditor)

Congleton Choral Society **Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2024**

		RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS
<u>Concert Income</u>			<u>Concert expenses</u>		
Autumn Concert	£1,603.89		Autumn Concert	£2,955.20	

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 515851

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **September 1st 2022** To **August 31st 2023**

Charity name: Congleton Choral Society

Charity registration number: 515851

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, IN THE PROMOTION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</p> <p>Membership of the choral society is open to any singer, subject to passing an audition by the Music Director. Rehearsals are then directed towards 4 public concerts per year. We believe that our activities benefit both singers and audience; for participants learning music, developing sight reading skill and vocal technique, and singing as a group.</p> <p>For our audience the enjoyment of hearing (and at Christmas participating in) a variety of musical styles, often involving professional soloists and instrumentalists. Tickets are competitively priced to attract a wide audience with both concession and children's tickets available. All full time students and under 26 year olds benefit from a reduced membership subscription rate. In addition, any member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Membership Secretary.</p> <p>We also hold choral workshops, which are open to all singers, and offer the chance to learn a variety of choral works with famous and local conductors concluding with an informal sing through.</p> <p>The Community choir was established for new non auditioned singers to experience both singing and music sight reading and taking part in performances. Many of these singers then move on to join the main choir.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The trustees have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

In September 2022 we started our second choir year with Music Director Tom Newall. Tom's choice of music with the agreement of the planning group, continue to be both challenging and inspiring.

Our season began, however with great sadness, at the loss of our wonderful accompanist, Andrew Green. It was a privilege to be invited by his wife Linda to sing at his service of thanksgiving following his funeral. Despite these sad times, we made a fantastic start musically to our season, and a wonderful singing day with Bob Chilcott on two new pieces which we will incorporate into our 2023/24 season.

November saw a collaboration with the Junior Choir from King's School, Macclesfield for our performance of Carmina Burana and we raised the roof of the town hall with two pianos and percussion. Audience numbers were slowly increasing since the pandemic but this was a sell out concert.

In December, we presented our first live Christmas Concert since covid and it was lovely to have a brass quintet along with Tom Pieczora on organ to bring the music to life, especially Cecilia McDowell's 'A Winter's Night' which we had live streamed the year before.

We had a booking from Foden's Brass Band to sing at various hotels on Christmas Eve, which raised a sizeable sum which went towards choir funds.

In January 2023 we started rehearsals for our most ambitious project yet featuring Handel's Dixit Dominus and Bach's Magnificat accompanied by the superb Baroque in the North.

During Andrew's illness we had been supported by various accompanists and during this time were able to appoint Rachel Fright to the role which she took up permanently later in the year.

We were once again invited to sing at the mayor's ceremonial service and it was a pleasure to play our role as community members of the town of Congleton.

Our summer concert entitled 'Music to make the Soul Sing' was in memory of Andrew Green. This was a programme I think we all enjoyed rehearsing and the choir gave an emotional but uplifting performance, in celebration of everything Andrew brought to his various musical communities.

Also in July, we received funding to deliver a day singing workshop at Mossley Primary School, where Tom and Rachel worked on a number of songs on the subject of the 'environment' with a performance for the rest of the school and their parents at the end of the day. Our commitment to securing the future of choral music is strong, and plans are in place to secure funding to continue this work.

We are so lucky to have Ian Pickford as our Assistant Music Director, who does a fantastic job of deputising for rehearsals, and of course conducting some pieces in performance.

The community choir has flourished in number and in vocal strength across the 2023/24 season. Each concert we have given has been well attended with a variety of music for all tastes, and many solo turns from our members making for a very enjoyable evening each time. We were delighted to sing for the mayor at his civic reception in May, but also at the coronation party in the park and this has seen the start of some future collaborations and bookings.

Although keeping to our plan for 2 orchestral concerts and 2 with piano accompaniment a year, we made an overall loss on concerts of nearly £8000. Audience numbers are still varying but concert expenses are increasing.

The committee worked hard this year to update our systems and made changes to support this.

We agreed to increase subscriptions from September 2024 to £180 per year. We hope this will give us more flexibility when choosing venues and accompaniments for concerts. As the year progressed we also increased our choir membership.

Fundraising is slowly being raised from pre pandemic levels. With the hard work and enthusiasm of some members who opened their gardens for a garden trail in May very sizeable funds were added.

Earlier in the year we had decided to move our website to the Making Music platform. Nick Sharman and Phil Edwards have continued to progress this change. Our new website is so much more informative and Phil has ably helped members to make the most of its resources.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	The funds at 1 st September 2022 £27,334.88. at 31 st August 2023 £27,229.56. The pandemic has still affected expected audience numbers and the cost of living affected concert expenses. It was decided at the AGM to increase the membership fee from £156 to £180 from 1 st September 2024.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	As most of the society's energies are directed to the preparation and staging of four choral concerts each year and that we cannot rely solely on audience numbers to cover our costs, reserves should therefore reflect the amounts needed to provide these objectives. Based on costs over previous years the society believes that it is prudent to maintain reserves of €20,000, based on two orchestral and two keyboard concerts, which will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the Annual General Meeting
Amount of reserves held	£20,000
Details of fund materially in deficit	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	

Additional information (optional)

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Members subscriptions Profit from Concerts and Singing Days. Fundraising such as raffles, carol singing, garden trail, socials.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Following the decision of our bank (HSBC) to charge for the running of a current account plus other charges, the Society has moved accounts to the Co-operative bank which offers free banking and has a branch in Macclesfield.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Society

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Congleton Choral Society
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	515851
Charity's principal address	68 Fence Avenue Macclesfield SK10 1LT

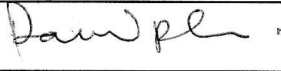
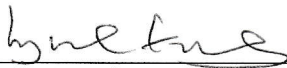
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lynne Evans	Chair		
2	Tony Bartley	Vice Chair		
3	Cathy Evans	Secretary		
4	Pam Upchurch	Treasurer		
5	Phil Edwards	Membership Secretary		
6	Margaret Gartside	Librarian		
7	Sandie Boynton	Publicity		
8	Patti Pinto	Wardrobe		
9	Kirsty Edwards	Concert Co-ordinator		
10	Suzan Moore	Soprano rep		
11	Shirley Jones	Alto rep		
12	Ian Pickford	Tenor/Bass rep		

Declarations



The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Pam Upchurch	Lynne Evans
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair



Date

22/1/2023

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
<u>Opening balances at 1st September 2022</u>		<u>Running Costs</u>	
HSBC Current account	£689.99	Making Music sub/insurance	£508.00
HSBC Membership account	£4,904.56	Music Director	£6,005.00
Co-op Community Choir account	£2,154.00	Accompanist	£3,595.00
Virgin Charities account	£19,586.33	Hall hire	£1,480.00
		Website	£191.76
	£27,334.88		£11,779.76
<u>Concert Income</u>		<u>Concert Expenses</u>	
Summer Concert 2022	£16.00	Autumn Concert 2022	£6,343.69
Autumn Concert 2022	£3,025.55	Xmas Concert 2022	£2,727.12
Xmas Concert 2022	£2,057.70	Spring Concert 2023	£8,005.29
Spring Concert 2023	£2,539.88	Summer Concert 2023	£1,573.50
Summer Concert 2023	£3,355.51		
	£10,994.64		£18,649.60
<u>Bank Interest</u>		<u>Bank charges</u>	
Virgin Charities account	£75.02	HSBC current account	£22.80
HSBC membership account	£5.70	Co-op current account	£0.64
<u>Subscriptions</u>	£13,809.00	<u>Subscription refund</u>	£156.00
<u>Fundraising</u>	£2,767.30	<u>Fundraising expenses</u>	£52.50
<u>HMRC Gift Aid</u>	£3,108.46	<u>Deposits</u>	£454.70
<u>Music loan and sales</u>	£774.00	<u>Music hire and purchase</u>	£2,346.42
<u>Sale of Uniform</u>	£235.00	<u>Uniform</u>	£450.00
<u>Donations</u>	£1,552.51	<u>Sundries</u>	£1,051.48
<u>Community Choir</u>	£7,678.00	<u>Community Choir</u>	£6,566.55
<u>Chilcott Singing Day</u>	£2,321.26	<u>Chilcott Singing Day 2022</u>	£2,775.76
<u>Puccini Singing Day 2023</u>	£880.00		
		<u>Closing balances at 31st August 2023</u>	
		Co-op Current account	£701.49
		Co-op Membership account	£8,505.03
		Co-op Community Choir account	£3,361.69
		Virgin Charities account	£14,661.35
			£27,229.56
	£71,535.77	Total	£71,535.77
Income	£44,200.89	Expenditure	£44,306.21
		Loss for the Year	-£105.32
Signed by: -		Signed by: -	
			
Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)		John Tudor (Auditor)	

Auditor's report

I have examined the receipts, books and accounts of Congleton Choral Society for the year ending 31st August 2023. I hereby verify that in my opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis using historical cost convention, give a true and fair view of the financial affairs as at 31st August, 2023.

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<u>Opening balances at 1st September 2022</u>		<u>Running Costs</u>	
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		Co-op Membership account	£8,505.03
		Co-op Community Choir account	£3,361.69
		Virgin Charities account	£14,661.35
			£27,229.56
	£71,535.77	Total	£71,535.77
Income	£44,200.89	Expenditure	£44,306.21
		Loss for the Year	-£105.32
Signed by: -		Signed by: -	
			
Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)		John Tudor (Auditor)	

Auditor's report

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