

AXMINSTER AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 AUGUST 2024 TO 31 JULY 2025

The object of the Society as stated in its constitution is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in appreciation of the art and science of music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the committee may determine. The Society was originally established in 1985. Since its inception it has been based in the Minster Church, Axminster, by agreement with the Parochial Church Council.

This has been a very mixed year. It started by being plunged into the consequences of the decision – at very short notice – by the Minster to proceed with some reordering. This took away all the space where the choir has always stored its chairs and staging. Alongside having to agree where things could go in the interim we had to start planning, and agreeing with the Minster authorities, the long term arrangements which have finally resulted in our new cupboards at the back of the Minster. To add to the challenges, two leading members of the committee had to leave quite close together and at very short notice, the Treasurer because of her sudden illness, and the Secretary to care for her husband following his serious illness. We are very grateful to those who stood in to cover those roles pending recruitment of replacements.

Celebrating the fortieth anniversary year

During 2024 the committee decided that it wanted to celebrate the choir's 40th anniversary in 2025. In addition to the music which had already been selected we arranged some special activities, encompassing both current members and others who had sung with the Society many years ago. This resulted in a special leaflet advertising the year's concerts to be distributed widely throughout the area, and two social events. The first was a buffet dinner for current members, the second a tea party for long standing members and former members who had been singing with the choir in many cases for over thirty years. Finally, the committee decided that the website needed to be refreshed. A member of the choir who is also a marketing professional is taking on the job of creating and maintaining a brand new site. We plan that she will train volunteers from the membership to help with maintenance.

Music matters

Since the last AGM, the choir has performed four concerts, all of which have been warmly received if the reviews and individual comments are anything to go by. A Mozart programme in the autumn featured his well-known *Requiem* alongside his *Solemn Vespers* with its famous setting of *Laudate Dominum*. Following that, there was just enough time to prepare the repertoire for a Christmas concert, which featured Pergolesi's (or Durante's) setting of the *Magnificat* alongside some shorter choral favourites. Our anniversary year began in April 2025 with a performance of Haydn's Oratorio *Creation* – a fitting way to start our 40th anniversary year and a work that has been performed in every decade of the choir's history. A full summer concert followed, featuring Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's now little-performed *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* alongside *From the Bavarian Highlands* by Sir Edward Elgar. In all these concerts the choir sang their hearts out, coping well with some challenging repertoire and supported by excellent professional soloists.

It has been heartening to see the arrival of several new singers over the course of the past year who, we hope, have felt welcomed and supported. There is no doubt that the Society faces its challenges, as do all organisations of this sort. Nevertheless, we can feel satisfied with having over the year presented a varied programme of enjoyable and well supported concerts, meeting our public educational aims.

Looking forward

The programme for 2025-26 will continue to present audiences with a wide range of music, starting in November with a concert featuring two modern British composers, Sir John Rutter and Bob Chilcott. Our anniversary year will conclude with a Come and Sing *Messiah* in Seaton. The spring concert in 2026 will include Vivaldi's famous *Gloria* as well as CPE Bach's *Magnificat*.

The trustees would like to express their thanks to all those who have worked so hard to make this a successful year for the Society. Most of all we thank our Music Director, Assistant Music Director and our accompanist. We are fortunate to have such talented people at our musical helm.

Presented on behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael King
ADCS Chairman 2023-25

INCOME

TOTAL INCOME	£26,616.18	£21,331.13
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£27,805.49	£21,389.71

P Hazell
Hon Auditor

25/09/2025

date

Keates Farmhouse
Broom Lane
Tytherleigh
EX13 7AZ



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Axminster & District Choral Society

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 July 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

900458

Set out on page

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 July 2025

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Paul Hazell

Date:

18th MAY 2026

Name:

PAUL HAZELL

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (RETIRED)

Address:

KEATES FARMHOUSE BROOK LANE

TYTHERLEIGH AXMINSTER

DEVON EX13 7AZ

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL ACCOUNTS : 1 August 2024 - 31 July 2025

INCOME		2024-25	2023-24	EXPENDITURE		2024-25	2023-24
non-concert activities				Honoraria			
Subs		£6,950.00	£6,244.00	Music Director		£4,323.93	£3,397.28
Gift Aid		£1,875.00	£1,731.19	Accompanist		£3,168.50	£2,914.30
Sponsors/Ads/Patrons		£3,800.00	£3,025.00				
Friends		£550.00	£550.00	Concerts			
				Autumn		£6,147.87	£4,944.56
concerts				Christmas Concert		£1,219.45	£3,344.86
Autumn Concert: tickets, programme sales, drinks sales		£2,682.88	£2,400.05	Spring Concert		£5,877.77	£1,503.50
Christmas concert: tickets, programme sales, drinks sales		£1,503.34	£36.15 (1)	Summer Concert		£1,503.50	£1,508.59
Spring Concert: tickets, programme sales, drinks sales		£1,978.73	£1,484.29	future concerts		£602.50	
Summer concert tickets: tickets, programme sales, drinks sales		£1,164.51	£1,539.73	last year concert - delayed cheque		£160.00	
				fundraising performance			£147.96
(1) "Informal performance" - no tickets; drinks sales				Non-concert			
				Music Library Sub		£80.00	£275.19
				Premises Hire		£745.00	£740.00
Other				Making Music membership, PHS & Insurance		£596.19	£440.78
Donations		£2,590.00	£2,005.00	Misc		£13.68	£590.00
misc inc sale of folders, music etc		£165.00	£104.00	Gifts & donations		£75.00	£285.64
Bank interest		£156.92	£206.56	40+ club prizes		£135.00	£250.00 (2)
40+ plus club		£620.00		web site		£473.58	£335.55
Refife		£1,089.80	£956.00	music hire and purchase		£566.90	£125.00
40th anniversary meal		£1,490.00		40th anniversary events		£1,896.34	
other fundraising (trumpet performance, dog show etc)			£1,029.16	admn		£200.18	£90.00
				subs refund			
				(2) 100 club stopped in 2024 replaced by 40+ club.			
TOTAL INCOME		£26,616.18	£21,331.13	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£27,805.49	£21,389.71
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		-£1,189.31					
BANK ACCOUNTS				Auditor's Report			
				I certify that the attached accounts are in agreement with the books and records presented to me.			
				Auditor's Name			
				P Hazel			
				Hon Auditor			
				Keates Farmhouse			
				Broom Lane			
				Tytherleigh			
				EX13 7AZ			
				date			
				25/09/2025			
				TOTAL			
				£18,116.90			

14/10/25
CHRISTIAN
Inchen Kuo