Trustees' Report for the First Financial Period
19 September 2025 to 31 July 2026

The Trustees present their first report and financial statement for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Barnt Green Choral covering the initial financial period from 19 September 2025 to 31 July 2026.

1. REFERENCE DETAILS

- **Charity Name:** Barnt Green Choral
- **Registered Charity Number:** 1215032
- **Principal Address:** 24 Firs Close, Marlbrook, Bromsgrove, B60 1DR
- **Trustees During the Period**:
  - Peter Bould (Chair of Trustees) - full period
  - Isabel Hyde - full period
  - Rosalind Wright - to 31 March 2026
  - Simon Charles - from 20 November 2025
  - Cherry Allsop - from 20 November 2025
  - Andrew Maund - from 20 November 2025
  - Margaret Maybee - from 20 November 2025
  - Rosemary Parker - from 20 November 2025
  - Melwyn Pereira - from 20 November 2025
  - Jonathan Treml - from 20 November 2025
- **Bankers:** Barclays Bank plc, 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

- **Governing Document:** The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by a constitution registered with the Charity Commission on 19 September 2025. It operates under the Association model, meaning its wider singing membership holds voting rights alongside the trustees.

- **Charitable Transition & Merger:** The CIO was established to modernise the structural framework of the former unincorporated association, Barnt Green Choral Society (Registered Charity No. 515334) which commenced operations in 1951. On 30 November 2025, all operational activities, assets, and funds of the predecessor association were formally merged with and transferred to this CIO, allowing the choir to continue seamlessly its 75-year tradition of successfully providing choral singing charitable services to the people of North Worcestershire. The merger of the CIO and the former unincorporated association is formally recorded in the Charity Commission's 'Register of Mergers'.

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- **Trustee Appointment & Induction:** Trustees are elected by the membership in accordance with the CIO constitution. New trustees are provided with a copy of the constitution, recent financial updates, and relevant regulatory guidance from the Charity Commission.

  The CIO constitution also allows, by majority vote, existing trustees to appoint new trustees. In this circumstance the new trustees are formally ratified/re-elected at the next general meeting by the membership.

- **Risk Management and Policies:** The trustees have established robust policies to ensure sound governance. These include:
  - Financial reserves policy and procedures
  - Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures
  - Internal risk management policy and procedures
  - Risk management
  - Safeguarding policy and procedures
  - Safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries
  - Serious incident reporting policy and procedures
  - GDPR policy

3. CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY, ACTIVITIES, AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

- **Charitable Objective:** The charitable objective of the CIO, as stated in its constitution is: 'to promote, improve, develop, and maintain, public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts, and by such other ways as the trustees shall determine from time to time'.

- **Strategy and Activities:** Barnt Green Choral enables singers to discover the joy of learning and experiencing music. We welcome anyone, whatever their musical ability or experience. There are no auditions. Our main purpose is to provide a means for ordinary folk to sing to the best of their ability and to develop at their own

pace. Some of our members have never sung before, but have a yearning to do so. Others have decades of experience at the highest levels of amateur choral singing.

Our only strategy is to sing to the best of our collective ability - and it delivers impressive results! We tackle some of the most difficult music ever written, and the choir rises to the challenge with impressive performances. An independent music reviewer said of one of our concerts "amateur choral singing is thriving following the performance of Barnt Green Choral. For a local choir to take on pieces of such intricacy and complexity and to achieve such a high standard of performance is a real credit to the skill of the conductor and all the singers". And on top of all that we all have a great deal of fun, jollity, and friendship. We warmly welcome all new members and hope that they will thrive and enjoy the experience.

- **Public Benefit Statement:** The trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The choir delivers public benefit in North Worcestershire by providing accessible cultural services, keeping participation costs reasonable, and hosting live public musical performances at community venues such as the Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove, local schools, and local churches. This makes high-quality live choral arts accessible to the general public.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- **Membership and Rehearsals:**
  During our 2025/2026 season we have welcomed 20 new members, and now have a mixed-voice four-part choir comprising 74 singers. Under the guidance of our professional Director of Music, we hold two-hour weekly rehearsals during school term time, which not only provide invaluable musical education and training but also are jolly, fun-packed occasions which lift everyone's spirit and provide strong social cohesion.

- **Performances:** The CIO successfully maintained the choir's tradition of preparing and delivering public musical performances:

  December 2025: The choir's annual Christmas Concert was, as usual, held at St Andrew's Church, Barnt Green. We were joined by the choir of St Andrew's School, Barnt Green, and accompanied by an organist and an instrumental quartet. A variety of Christmas songs and carols were performed to a capacity audience. The audience also participated in various community carols. After the concert everyone was invited to a reception in the Parish Hall where a large quantity of mince pies was consumed.

  December 2025: In support of the local community, Barnt Green Choral provided the choir at the annual Waseley Hills Crematorium Memorial Service. This non-denominational religious service provides solace and comfort to families bereaved during the previous twelve months. Many of the congregation afterwards expressed thanks for the peace they received from the music.

March 2026: The choir's major annual concert was performed at the Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove's pre-eminent concert venue. An audience of approaching 300 people heard the choir perform '*The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace'* by Karl Jenkins and '*Song of the Universal'* by Ola Gjeilo - both accompanied by a 30-piece concert orchestra. The orchestra also performed a number of individual pieces. Feedback received from the audience was highly complementary.

June 2026: To demonstrate its versatility, the choir sang '*Zimbe! Come Sing the Songs of Africa'* by Alexander L'Estrange at its summer concert at Routh Hall, Bromsgrove. This infectious and joyous music reflects how singing plays a part in everyday Africa. We were joined for this concert by the choirs of Lickey End First School and Bromsgrove Prep School, all accompanied by a jazz quintet from Bromsgrove School. As a matter of policy we are now seeking to include other local choirs in our summer concerts. This widens the charitable benefit we provide and enables the choir to tackle a wider variety of music.

- **Volunteer Contributions:** Beyond the singing members, the choir relies on volunteer work from its trustees, members, and supporters to provide logistical support. Such work includes (but is not limited to) general administrative duties, music librarian duties, setting up concert and rehearsal venues, managing and providing refreshment services, managing the weekly raffle, concert ticketing, concert stewarding, first aid team, fundraising, photography, and the preparation and distribution of advertising material. The trustees are immensely grateful to all the volunteers who undertake this work which enables the choir to sing effectively and ensures operational expenses are kept to a minimum.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

- **Financial Overview:** This trustees' report relates to the first financial period of the CIO which commenced on 19 September 2025 - the date when the choir was registered with the Charity Commission as a CIO. At its registration, the date 31 July was established as the financial year end to enable the choir's financial year to coincide with its singing season. As a result, the period covered by this report is 10 months and 12 days rather than the normal 12 months. For future years the CIO's financial year will commence on 1 August and close on 31 July.

  Because this report covers the choir's first financial period there is no prior financial period. Hence the 'prior year' comparatives in the accounts are shown as zero.

  Although the CIO came into being on 19 September 2025 it was initially non-operational. The assets of the former unincorporated association, Barnt Green Choral Society (Registered Charity No. 515334) were transferred to the CIO on 30 November 2025, and at that point the CIO became fully operational and the former unincorporated association was closed.

The financial accounts for the reporting period are set out on the following page and are prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis. Because receipts are less than £25,000 pa, there is no requirement for an Independent Examiner's report. Income is primarily derived from member subscriptions, donations, and concert ticket sales. Expenditure relates to general overheads, the costs of providing weekly rehearsals (e.g. fees for Director of Music, Accompanist, sheet music purchase or hire, room hire), and costs for the delivery of concerts (e.g. venue hire, marketing, fees for Director of Music, instrumentalists' fees, guest soloists' fees, performing rights' fees etc).

Financial Statement for the Period 19 September 2025 to 31 July 2026

BARNT GREEN CHORAL (Charity No: 1215032)

Receipts & Payments for the Period 19 September 2025 to 31 July 2026

RECEIPTS	19 Sep 25 to 31 July 26		Prior Period
	£	£	£
Core Receipts:			
Membership Fees	1465		
Donations	1016		
Gift Aid	0	2481	0
Concert Receipts:			
Christmas Concert	1347		
Spring Concert	4262		
Summer Concert	2708	8316	0
Other Receipts:			
Weekly Raffle	279		
Weekly Refreshments	477		
Fundraising	100		
Hiring out of Music	98		
Bank Interest	106	1060	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS		11858	0

PAYMENTS	19 Sep 25 to 31 July 26		Prior Period
	£	£	£
Rehearsal Payments:			
Rehearsal Room Hire	1794		
Director of Music Fees	3060		
Accompanist Fees	1725	6579	0
Concert Payments:			
Christmas Concert	1012		
Spring Concert	5448		
Summer Concert	1845	8305	0
Other Payments:			
Accountancy	250		
Website	140		
Insurance & Perf'g Rights	407		
Hire of Music	121		
Stationery & Copying	253		
Sundry Costs	190	1361	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS		16245	0

STATEMENT OF FUNDS	
	£
Bank Balance at 19 September 2025	0
Transfer of Assets from Barnt Green Choral Society (Charity No 515334) on 30 November 2025	18204
Receipts during the reporting Period	11858
Payments During the Reporting Period	-16245
Bank Balance at 31 July 2026	13816

- **Reserves Policy:** In line with the formal Financial Reserves Policy, the trustees aim to hold a level of free reserves sufficient to cover the advance upfront costs of future concert productions and basic administrative overheads. This structure ensures the charity remains resilient against unexpected fluctuations in ticket sales or membership take-up.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they approved this trustees' report at their meeting on 2nd September 2026.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Peter W Bould, Chair of Trustees
2 September 2026