



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From 1/8/2024  
To 31/7/2025**

**Period start date  
Period end date**

**Charity name: Altrincham Choral Society**

**Charity registration number: 500729**

### **Objectives and Activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The purposes of the society are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

<p>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>	<p>Para 1.17 and 1.19</p>	<p>In pursuing the objectives of the Society as regards the public benefit, the choir aims to impact people's lives in two ways. Firstly Singing Members participate in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational and social activity, providing regular rehearsals and performances in four concerts each year, with the opportunity to develop vocal technique and extend knowledge of choral repertoire supported by the inspiring leadership of respected and professional musicians. The Committee of Trustees is conscious that the choir's activities should be both affordable and open to all who successfully apply to be a Member. Full-time students and under 21s benefit from a reduced membership subscription rate, with reduced subscription arrangements available to any member with financial difficulties. (this can be privately discussed with the Membership Secretary, to be agreed in confidence by the Committee.) Secondly, for audiences, the choir presents exciting, innovative and high-quality performances at varied established local venues, offering a positive and educational cultural experience aiming to extend musical knowledge through diverse repertoire. Pricing of concert tickets is carefully considered to promote attendance by a wide audience. Tickets are competitively but affordably priced with significant concessions for accompanied children and are available through a variety of sources - venue box offices, online, via the choir website or in person via members of the Society.</p> <p>In support of the Society's objectives the choir has regular Open Rehearsals and an annual Singing Day which offer opportunities for enthusiastic members of the public to experience how rehearsals operate and to sing a variety of repertoire. The choir also takes opportunities to sing in community events where possible and to support a local charity each year.</p>
<p>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p>	<p>Para 1.18</p>	<p>The committee (Trustees) have complied with the duty in section 4 of the charities act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity.</p>

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>All 108 members of the Choir support the aims of the society by giving their time and efforts to the rehearsals and public performances.</p> <p>Over the course of the year 30-40 members of the society and their friends and family volunteer their time to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals and concerts in the following roles;</p> <p>Main Committee - Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Minutes Secretary, 4 Voice Reps, Fundraiser, Membership Secretary, Concert Manager.</p> <p>Music Sub Committee - including choice of programmes, contracting of soloists and instrumentalists, liaising with local venues.</p> <p>Librarians - sourcing and hiring music for performances.</p> <p>Publicity Team including design and production of programmes, tickets and posters alongside management of social media and ticket sales.</p> <p>Other roles include Fire Officers, First Aid Officers, concert door ticket sales, coach organisers, presentation of flowers to soloists, looking after guests, serving interval refreshments.</p>
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	

<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>Para 1.20</p>	<p>Concerts 2024/25 Season</p> <p>"Ain't Misbehavin" 16th November 2024, St Peter's Church, Hale. Embracing the style of the 1920's Music Hall, with songs from Cole Porter to Gershwin, alongside music to lift the spirit by Hess, Rutter (Feel the Spirit) and Gjeilo, accompanied by the wonderful Sospiri Wind Quintet, trumpet soloist Seb Williams and mezzo-soprano Sophie Clarke</p> <p>A Christmas Concert 24th December 2024 at St George's Church, Altrincham. This new larger venue provided the opportunity for a wider audience to join in with a programme of traditional carols and hear new favourites by John Williams and Rutter amongst others. Donations for mince pies and fruit punch raised money for the local Hope Centre Charity.</p> <p>"Let us go in Peace" 25th March 2025, back at St George's Church, Altrincham. A varied programme of quietly powerful and reflective music in the spirit of peace across the world, with guest accompanist Kathleen Hesford. Tracey Smurthwaite added colour and contrast with her beautiful flute playing.</p> <p>"Make a Joyful Noise" July 5th 2025, St Mary's Church, Sale. Choral Gems by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Eric Whitacre, Saint-Saens and John Rutter amongst others – enhanced by solos from mezzo soprano returning guest Sophie Clarke. This concert benefitted from the support of Jean Oglesby CBE.</p> <p>28th July 2025 - 45 members of the choir travelled to Durham Cathedral to perform a short lunchtime concert in this magnificent building experiencing the amazing acoustics. This was well received by supporting family members and also a large audience of cathedral visitors.</p>
--	------------------	--

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>The planned concert programme was fulfilled and the repertoire successfully performed.</p> <p>The Committee continued to look at a range of options to find ongoing patrons and sponsorship to support the choir's activities.</p> <p>The Choir sustained a membership of over 100 throughout the year, but continues to actively seek Tenor and Bass voices to ensure a balanced choir and ensure a wide range of choral repertoire is accessible for performance.</p>
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Investment performance against objectives</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Other</p>		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Overall, the Society had a small surplus of around £2000 on income of £40,000. The expenditure included approximately £1,500 from the Florence Matthews fund, deployed in accordance with the terms of that bequest. The reserves held are approximately equal to a year's operating costs.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held in accordance with the terms of the Society's Reserves Policy. That policy requires a minimum of 50% of annual General Fund expenditure to be held in Unrestricted Reserves. Reserves ensure that all current and future financial commitments can be met from existing funds. In turn, this ensures that in the unlikely event of winding up the charity, the Trustees will bear no financial liability.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The Society had Current Unrestricted Assets of £35,000 at 31/07/2025.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The Trustees remain confident that the charity will continue as a going concern.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The two main sources of revenue are membership subscription and ticket sales, In addition the Society occasionally bene
--	-----------	---

<p>Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>The Society does not rely significantly on revenue from investment returns. The Society's funds are held across 3 bank accounts, providing a modest level of interest, and appropriate access terms.</p>
<p>A description of the principal risks facing the charity</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>The cost of staging high-calibre concerts is increasing at least as fast as the cost of living. The Society works hard to sustain or grow its membership level to secure increasing subscription income, whilst keeping rises to the subscription fee modest.</p> <p>Likewise, ticket pricing is kept under constant review to optimize revenue. The Society has started using one new local concert venue with a larger audience capacity, hence potentially increasing ticket revenue.</p> <p>Future plans include an intent to increase fundraising revenue.</p>
<p>Other</p>		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Officers and Ordinary Committee Members are elected by and out of the Society's membership at the AGM and shall normally be Trustees.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Altrincham Choral Society
Other name the charity uses	

Registered charity number	500729
Charity's principal address	15 Brunswick Road Manchester M20 4QB

### 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	Andrew McWilliam	Chair	Wef Oct 2024 AGM (previously Vice Chair, Bass Voice Rep and Trustee)	
2	Neil Brougham	Vice Chair	Wef Oct 2024 AGM	
3	Imogen Gornall	Secretary		
4	Eleanor Reeves	Minutes Secretary / Voice Rep (Altos)		
5	Stephen Campbell	Treasurer		
6	Julia Williamson	Membership Secretary		
7	Anthony Robinson	Concert Manager		
8	Kath Whyte	Librarian		
9	Melanie Owen	Voice Rep (Sopranos)		
10	Julian Mustoe	Voice Rep (Tenors)		
11	Timothy Lowe	Voice Rep (Basses)	Wef Oct 2024 AGM	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				



**Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others**

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

**Additional information (optional)**

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

**Type of adviser      Name      Address**


**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Exemptions from disclosure**

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

**Other optional information**

--



## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

A. J. McWilliam

Full name(s)

Andrew John McWilliam

Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

**ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2024-25**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>This year £</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>This year £</b>	<b>Last year</b>
<b>CONCERTS</b>			<b>CONCERTS</b>		
Autumn	3,593.19	5,558.00	Autumn	5,224.82	8,662.08
Xmas	2,355.00	2,698.00	Xmas	2,281.31	2,824.22
Spring	3,193.15	3,957.50	Spring	2,660.55	3,814.64
Summer	3,126.20	7,959.55	Summer	4,921.95	21,754.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,267.54</b>	<b>20,173.05</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,088.63</b>	<b>37,055.36</b>
<b>OTHER</b>			<b>OTHER</b>		
Come & Sing	2,298.00	1,496.00	Come & Sing	1,849.67	1,880.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,298.00</b>	<b>1,496.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,849.67</b>	<b>1,880.19</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>			<b>REHEARSALS</b>		
Subscriptions (less tickets)	12,880.00	13,600.00	Venue	5,018.00	5,072.00
Gift Aid	3,329.66	2,531.57	Conductor	4,522.00	5,031.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,209.66</b>	<b>16,131.57</b>	Deputy conductor	1,268.00	1,147.00
			Accompanist	4,476.00	4,536.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>15,284.00</b>	<b>15,786.00</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
<b>Donations and sponsors</b>			Music purchase	141.08	320.53
Donations	62.09	463.00	Music library	93.58	96.64
Sponsors	5,000.00	13,000.00	General admin	1,424.21	1,367.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,062.09</b>	<b>13,463.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,658.87</b>	<b>1,784.72</b>
Music sales	86.06	310.50	<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
Music library	340.57	747.90	Book	0.00	489.25
Book	32.00	328.00	Miscellaneous	0.00	454.94
Charity fundraising	475.96	158.26	Bequest (Durham Concert)	2,791.00	0.00
Bequest (Durham Concert)	1,376.50	0.00	SR Anniversary 23-24	0.00	1,760.72
SR Anniversary 23-24	0.00	1,390.00	Passed on to charity	689.73	158.26
Admin	16.47	20.19	Other year costs	0.00	0.00
Bank interest	1,095.92	751.38	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,480.73</b>	<b>2,863.17</b>
Misc income	226.29	425.82			
Other year inc	0.00	0.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,649.77</b>	<b>4,132.05</b>			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>39,487.06</b>	<b>55,395.67</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>37,361.90</b>	<b>59,369.44</b>

**ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY  
END OF YEAR BALANCE SHEET 2024-25**

At end of: <b>2023/24</b>		At end of: <b>2024/25</b>
£		£
	<b>Current Assets at year end</b>	
7,398.08	Barclays Bank Community account	773.13
2,448.13	Barclays Bank Business Premium	9,025.30
43,000.00	United Trust bank	44,018.75
	1,009.96 Prepayments (next year's events already paid for)	1,348.15
53,856.17	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	55,165.33
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
	Prepayments for singing day Oct 2025	598.00
	Refunds to be paid from Durham trip (Bequest)	323.00
-1,737.00	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	-921.00
52,119.17	<b>Net Assets</b>	54,244.33
56,092.94	Net balance at start of year	52,119.17
-3,973.77	Surplus or deficit for this year	2,125.16
52,119.17	Net balance at year end	54,244.33
	<b><u>Location of holdings</u></b>	
20,640.41	Held in Florence Matthews bequest	19,225.91
31,478.76	Held in general fund	35,018.42
52,119.17	Total holdings	54,244.33

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on

and are signed on their behalf by



~~(Hon Treasurer)~~

Chair

13/10/2025

## **ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

### **Notes to the Accounts 2024-5**

#### **1. Sponsors**

£5000 was received from Jean Oglesby. This was applied at her request to Concert costs throughout the 24-25 season

#### **2. Florence Matthews Bequest**

Originally £56,000 was left to the Society in the Will of Florence Matthews. The Will stated that it was given to the Society 'for its general charitable purposes'. The Society has decided to treat this money as a designated fund, to be used for activities, projects, and initiatives outside the routine activities of the Society, but within its charitable purposes.

In 2024-5 £1414.50 was used to subsidise the cost of a lunchtime concert in Durham cathedral on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Choir members paid their own travel and accommodation.



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Altrincham Choral Society

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

**500729**

**Set out on pages**

1-2

*(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)*

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 7/ 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 and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

**Date:**

30 Jan 2026

**Name:**

Andrew Biggs

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

Former Chartered Accountant (now retired)

**Address:**

47 Wearside Drive, Durham DH1 1LE

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.**