



**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. Aply 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

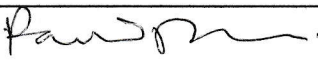
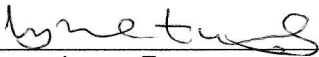
Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

	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)

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