

# Leeds Festival Chorus

Annual Report  
2024/25 Season

**Annual Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the  
Year ended 31 July 2025  
For  
LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

**Registered Charity 517127**

# **LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

## **Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 July 2025**

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**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2025**

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The charity is an unincorporated body governed by its constitution and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

**Trustees (Executive Committee)**

Elected Officers:

Elizabeth Palmer  
Andrew Smith  
James Moxon  
Fiona Kirkby

Administrative Secretary  
Treasurer  
Concerts Organiser  
Choir Coordinator

Other trustees in the year were as follows:

Will Clarke (resigned October 2024)  
Peter Coltman (appointed December 2024)  
Emma Elgie  
Chris Foren  
Margaret Mara (resigned March 2025)  
Judith Scott (resigned October 2024)  
Caroline Stanyard  
Ruth Swanwick (resigned October 2024)

**Appointment and recruitment of Trustees**

The executive committee works with the Artistic Advisor (the conductor) to run Leeds Festival Chorus in accordance with the Constitution. The full committee are elected on a three yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. All Chorus members are encouraged to consider standing.

**Legal and Administrative Information**

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission Number 517127.

The charity's address is:-

c/o Mrs E A Palmer  
1 Westdale Gardens  
Pudsey  
Leeds  
LS28 7HU

The charity's bankers are:-

CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue,  
Kings Hill, West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

The charity's independent examiner is:-

Andrew Wilkinson FCA  
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited  
Accountants and Business Advisors  
West Hill House  
Allerton Hill  
Chapel Allerton  
Leeds LS7 3QB

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)**

**Objects**

The objects of the charity are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public events.

**Review of Activities and Achievements**

The charity achieved its aims in the period under review by continuing to promote and deliver choral concerts. The closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment continued to have a significant effect on concerts. There seems no longer to be any significant effect of Covid on audience sizes. We have performed 5 concerts and 1 other event.

**Reserves Policy**

The charity's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient unrestricted net current assets (liquid reserves) are maintained to enable the charity to continue for at least the next twelve months in the event that there is an unpredicted and/or significant drop in income levels. The Trustees consider that the current level of liquid reserves (£49,153) is lower than 12 months worth of unrestricted ordinary expenditure (£56,833), but roughly equal to the expected expenditure of £48,000 to £52,000 in 2025/26. Accordingly the Trustees will continue to monitor the situation.

**Risk management**

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year when considering their plans and annual budgets. The charity has controls in place to control these risks and mitigate any impact they may have on the charity's future.

**Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

**Financial Review**

The reserves of the charity are both restricted and unrestricted in nature. As noted in the Reserves policy above, the Trustees are of the opinion that the levels of reserves may not be adequate in exceptional circumstances to meet future expenditure and to fulfil the charity's ongoing aims and objectives. There is a deficit on ordinary activities for the year of £2,607 (2024 surplus - £8,018) which has been deducted from reserves. The total reserves at the year end amount to £73,848 (2024 - £76,455) of which £8,757 (2024 - £10,060) are restricted.

On behalf of the Trustees

.....  
Elizabeth Palmer, Acting Chair

8 October 2025

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2025 which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Wilkinson FCA  
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited  
Accountants & Business Advisors  
West Hill House  
Allerton Hill  
Chapel Allerton  
Leeds  
LS7 3QB

8 October 2025

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year ended 31 July 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
				£	£
<b>Incoming resources:</b>					
Voluntary income	6	35,430	-	35,430	44,166
Activities for generating funds	8	16,641	-	16,641	10,366
Investment income	9	1,524	-	1,524	1,822
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10	1,934	-	1,934	2,122
<b>Total incoming resources:</b>		55,529	-	55,529	58,476
<b>Resources expended:</b>					
Costs of generating voluntary income	11	795	-	795	492
Fundraising & trading costs	12	50,723	-	50,723	42,135
Charitable activities	13	35	1,303	1,338	1,474
Governance costs	14	5,280	-	5,280	6,357
<b>Total resources expended</b>		56,833	1,303	58,136	50,458
<b>Net (outgoing) resources on ordinary activities for the year</b>		(1,304)	(1,303)	(2,607)	8,018
Exceptional item		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (outgoing) resources for the year</b>		(1,304)	(1,303)	(2,607)	8,018
Total charity funds brought forward		66,395	10,060	76,455	68,437
<b>Total charity funds carried forward</b>		65,091	8,757	73,848	76,455

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts.

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible assets	2		15,938		17,709
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Other debtors	3		345		318
Cash at bank and in hand		64,975		64,414	
		<u>65,320</u>		<u>64,732</u>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors & accrued expenses	4	<u>7,410</u>		<u>5,986</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			57,910		58,746
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>73,848</u>		<u>76,455</u>
Represented by:					
<b>FUNDS</b>					
<b>Restricted income funds:</b>					
Balance at 1 August 2024			10,060		6,079
<b>Net incoming resources for the year</b>			<u>(1,303)</u>		<u>3,981</u>
			8,757		10,060
<b>Unrestricted income funds:</b>					
Balance at 1 August 2024		66,395		62,358	
<b>Net incoming resources for the year</b>		<u>(1,304)</u>		<u>4,037</u>	
			65,091		66,395
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	5		<u>73,848</u>		<u>76,455</u>

Approved by the Trustees

.....  
Elizabeth Palmer, Acting Chair

For and on behalf of the Trustees

8 October 2025

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts.

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the Year ended 31 July 2025**

**1. Accounting Policies**

**General**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

**Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

**Incoming Resources**

All income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), when it becomes receivable.

**Resources Expended**

All resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis, in the period in which they are incurred.

**Grants Payable**

Grants payable are included in the SOFA when agreed by the Trustees.

**Funds Structure Policy**

Funds comprise unrestricted income funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives, and restricted funds which are dealt with and presented in accordance with the terms attaching to each separate restricted fund.

**Tangible Assets**

Tangible assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of Acquisition. A wear and tear allowance is provided at 10% on a reducing balance basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and reflects the wish of the trustees to account for losses/damage etc. to its music library.

**2. Tangible Assets**

	<b>Music Library</b> £
At valuation	
At 1 August 2024	17,709
Additions in the year	-
Wear and tear provision (10%)	(1,771)
At 31 July 2025	15,938

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)**

<b>3.</b>	<b>Other debtors</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
			£	£
	Prepayments		345	318
			<u>345</u>	<u>318</u>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Creditors</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
			£	£
	Accrued expenses		7,410	5,986
			<u>7,410</u>	<u>5,986</u>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Funds</b>			
		<b>2024</b>	<b>Movement</b>	<b>2025</b>
		£	£	£
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
	Music Library	17,709	(1,771)	15,938
	General Fund	48,686	467	49,153
		<u>66,395</u>	<u>(1,304)</u>	<u>65,091</u>
	 <b>Restricted Funds</b>			
	Chorus Master Scholarship Monies	1,303	(1,303)	-
	Music to my Ears	4,608	-	4,608
	Future Developments Fund	4,149	-	4,149
		<u>10,060</u>	<u>(1,303)</u>	<u>8,757</u>
	 <b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	 <u>76,455</u>	 <u>(2,607)</u>	 <u>73,848</u>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Voluntary Income</b>			
		<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
			£	£
	Members' subscriptions		21,094	21,903
	Friends' subscriptions		1,389	1,034
	Tax refund on covenanted subscriptions		5,216	6,410
	Fundraising and social group		3,531	4,354
	Grants, donations and sponsorship	7	3,200	8,771
	Legacies	7	1,000	1,694
			<u>35,430</u>	<u>44,166</u>

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)**

<b>7. Grants, donations, sponsorship, patrons and legacies</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	1,290	600
Carol Sponsorship	-	630
Ticket Donations	-	909
Anonymous donation re Future Development Fund	-	5,000
J Apps	-	150
Olav Arnold Charitable Trust	-	1,000
M Beer	300	300
J Moody	300	-
Liz Arnold	1,000	-
Anon	10	-
L Davies	-	92
I Hall	-	30
Janet Taylor in memory of Steve Taylor	300	-
E Walker	-	60
	<u>3,200</u>	<u>8,771</u>
Legacies		
J Usher	-	1,694
Olav Arnold	1,000	-
	<u>4,200</u>	<u>10,465</u>
<b>8. Activities for generating funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Concerts and recitals	<u>16,641</u>	<u>10,366</u>
<b>9. Investment income</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Bank interest received	<u>1,524</u>	<u>1,822</u>
<b>10. Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Library income	<u>1,934</u>	<u>2,122</u>

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)**

<b>11. Costs of generating voluntary income</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Publicity programmes, brochures and advertising	795	492
<b>12. Fundraising &amp; trading costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Hire of music	741	997
Concert costs	24,844	17,378
Rehearsal costs	25,138	23,760
	50,723	42,135
<b>13. Charitable activities</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Donations	35	1,474
<b>14. Governance costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Subscriptions and insurance	902	788
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's fee	1,492	1,440
Sundry expenses	245	462
Away day for Future Developments	-	851
Website costs and design	16	-
Library expenses	755	684
Music wear and tear allowance	1,771	1,968
Bank charges	99	164
	5,280	6,357
<b>15. Trustees Remuneration</b>		
No Trustees or any persons connected with them have received remuneration (2024 – nil).		
<b>16. Trustees Expenses</b>		
Three trustees (2024 – three) have been reimbursed £997 (2024 - £916) for out of pocket expenses.		
<b>17. Staff Costs and Emoluments</b>		
There were no employees with emoluments in the year (2024 – nil).		
<b>18. Cost of Independent Examination</b>		
Preparation of accounts and associated costs were £1,492 (2024 - £1,440).		

# Publicity and Marketing Report 2024-2025

*Elizabeth Palmer, Chair of Marketing Group September 2025*

The Marketing Team continues to play a vital role in supporting the work of Leeds Festival Chorus. Our members are currently: Andrew Smith, Christine Hamill, Emma Elgie, Elizabeth Palmer, Mac Burnell, Mary Magorrian, Richard Wilcocks, and Sally Brown. We are also grateful for the technical expertise of Irene Hall, who looks after the website and email systems.

Our primary objectives continue to be:

- publicising and promoting our concerts and events,
- the public profile of the Chorus,
- communicating and engaging with Chorus members,
- attracting new members.

## Reaching audiences

In 2024-2025, we promoted our concerts in Beverley and Leeds, resulting in the sale of around 620 tickets, excluding Patrons, comps, and donated tickets.

- A Choral Soirée (Beverley) - 103
- Carols at Christmas - 231
- Messiah - 194
- A Choral Journey - 92

Christmas is still our best-selling concert which is unsurprising. It remains challenging to promote concerts with lesser-known repertoire and those outside of Leeds, so we will continue to look for ways of framing these concerts to give potential audiences an idea of the experience they'll receive.

Word-of-mouth (often through Chorus members) remains our biggest driver of sales. Thank you to everyone who has invited people to attend our concerts, distributed flyers, and shared our social media posts. It does pay off!

We trialled collecting audience feedback after the *Messiah* concert. It was incredibly positive, including these quotes:

*"Quality was professional and in fact, better than many professional Messiah's we've seen."*

*"The most uplifting and inspiring performance of Messiah that we have ever attended"*

We are also aiming to include more detail on our webpages about our events, including information on accessibility, parking, and timings. We hope this will encourage and enable more people to attend.

### **Building our profile**

We continue raising our profile through:

- social media promotion on Facebook and Instagram,
- production and distribution of brochures and flyers,
- regular email marketing to our mailing list, which we continue to grow by asking audience members to sign-up,
- articles published in the Yorkshire Bylines,
- contact with other local music groups and organisations, including Opera North and Leeds International Concert Series.

We would like to experiment with more innovative social media in the coming year, and plan to explore how we can make more use of video and audio to reach wider audiences. However, time to experiment with different formats remains the largest challenge in this area.

### **Communicating with members and Friends**

Communication with Chorus members remains a priority. We continue to distribute the weekly email with updates, and the launch of the new members' area in late 2024 now provides a central hub of information.

We also write and distribute the quarterly newsletter for the Friends of LFC. Thank you to Sally Brown who does a great job of thinking of content ideas and writing the newsletter.

### **How you can help**

There are lots of ways you can support the Marketing Team, including:

- following our social media accounts and sharing our posts,
  - Facebook (/LeedsFestivalChorus), Instagram (@leedsfestivalchorus), X (@LFChorus)
- distributing flyers for concerts
- inviting friends and family as audience members, or to try out a rehearsal
- letting us know about any ideas you have for places to advertise or people we should be in contact with.

You're welcome to get in touch with a member of the team, or email [marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk](mailto:marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk).

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Marketing Team for their commitment, ideas and attention to detail throughout the year. Publicity is a large task, so it is a real benefit to have a good team of people working hard at it.

## LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS – ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIBRARIAN, 2024-25

### Scores for LFC rehearsals and concerts

About 3,600 scores were issued for our rehearsals and performances during the year ended July 2025. About 2,200 of these were hired copies, the remainder being owned by the Chorus. Our own scores included three pieces printed for the Christmas concert: two arrangements by Simon Wright – *A Christmas Wassail* and *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* – and Phyllida Barker's carol *Hush, My Little Baby*. The printing costs of all those three (£415) were very generously met by Simon, and we are extremely grateful for that. The number of non-returns was only seven (0.2% of 3,600). Where possible and reasonable the cost to the Chorus of these non-returns has been recovered.

Leeds Music Library was again by far the major provider of hire copies. Other hires during the year were from Ampleforth College (again at no charge through Simon's good offices, so with grateful thanks), Bach Choir (London), Cantores (Cirencester), Community & Youth Music Library (London), Dumfries Choral Society, Inverness Choral Society, Lea Singers (St Albans), Leeds Guild of Singers, London Philharmonic Choir and Wimbleton Choral Society.

Thanks are also due to those who have helped at busy times during the year, or when I have not been available, in issuing, moving and/or sorting scores.

### Hiring out scores to other choirs

This task has been carried out entirely by Will Clarke, and I am extremely grateful to him for doing so. Will soon has to give up this role owing to other pressures, and a replacement is needed. Members are asked to consider whether they could help in this important task of bringing in income.

Will reports on the last year as follows:

In the year to the end of July, we hired out 39 sets of scores for a total net income of £1,355. We sent 1,739 scores from our library to groups across the country, from the Jersey Festival Choir to the St Andrews Chorus. This is on a par with the previous year, when we arranged 32 hires of 1,300 scores. The average value of each hire was £35, with the highest being £248.

The largest earners were substantial single works like *Israel in Egypt* or Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*. These scores are hired on a higher per-copy-per month rate, are sung by larger choirs who need more copies, and take longer to learn and perform resulting in longer hire periods.

It is worth noting that a small proportion of the library accounts for most of the revenue. Poulenc, Vaughan Williams and Handel are requested consistently and account for almost half our hire income. MacMillan's *O Radiant Dawn* was requested five times last year - the most of any single work - and has been requested 11 times for the 2025 Christmas term. This means that we need to keep a close eye on the condition of such frequently requested works so that we can maintain both proper standards for hiring out and our potential future income. The current clean-up project (see below) is an important part of this.

## **Clean-up project**

This project to erase the pencil markings from our most-used scores continued throughout the year. Some 600 scores were improved in this way by a total of 16 members. I am grateful to all 16, with Avril Brown and Peter Bloodworth again heading the pack. Every single contribution is welcomed, small or large. The task continues in the 2025-26 season, and further volunteers are always +very welcome, usually without deadlines!

## **Further thanks**

As ever, I am grateful to the many members who sign the sign-up sheets legibly, on the correct line, and return scores promptly. The latter is particularly important when I have to return hired scores within deadlines which are often tight in order to minimise costs. Do please continue.

Mike Croft  
Librarian

## CHOIR MEMBERSHIP

We started this new season with 107 members. Over the course of this past year the following have left the choir.

Sopranos	Altos	Tenor	Bass
Sonja Langfeld	Debbie Clarke	Kurt Langfeld	Michael Clark
	Siân Lomax		Desmond Quinn

Although not with us for long Sonja and Kurt very quickly became involved in all parts of choir life – Leeds’s loss is Sydney’s gain – hope they are enjoying all the sunshine! Debbie Clarke and Michael Clark were both long standing and committed members of the choir – in addition Michael was a past treasurer. Desmond was part of the programme suggestion group and Siân an active member of FRASC. I hope those who are still in Leeds will support the choir by coming to concerts.

## RECRUITMENT

It has been good to see some new younger people joining the choir this year and I hope that this trend will continue.

Our open evening last season was on September 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a wild and windy night and we had a rather select group attending – only 6 people in all. Two had attended the ‘Come and Sing’. However over the year we have had approaches from 12 potential members and of the 9 who came forward for audition and 8 were successful. We hope that they enjoy singing with LFC. Their names are below.

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Chloe Adam	Andrea Dykxhoorn		Trevor ApSimon
Becky Clark	Lucy O’Hanlon		Loz Barker
Ellie Klouda			Charlie Terry

## CONCERTS

October 2024 Beverley	85/109	78%
December 2024 Leeds	87/107	81%
April 2025 Leeds	88/108.	81%
July 2025 Leeds	65/111	58%

Concert participation has been steady except for the July concert, which despite a slight increase in membership, showed a big decrease. Scheduled later than many of our summer concerts it clashed with holidays for many members.

## REHEARSALS and VENUES

Rehearsals have been held as usual in St.Chad's and St. Columba's churches. When there were problems with St Chad's we appreciated being able to use the Parish Centre. We have had 46 rehearsals this year in these two locations.

## AND FINALLY

I am always grateful for the support I receive from choir members – it would be very difficult to do my job without it particularly this season which I have had a number of medical issues! I thank also Simon and Rebecca. They are both helpful and courteous – we are all very privileged to work with them.

*Fiona Kirkby - LFC Choir Co-ordinator*

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## Friends Report September 2025

The Friends are a group of people who have been members of the Chorus or are relations/friends of present and past members. They support us largely through attending our concerts and provide a small income to the Chorus.

Level	Number	Subs Rate	Comments
Honorary	1	0	Previous Friends' Coordinator
Complimentary	2	0	Those who have recently left the Chorus are offered Complimentary 'Friendship' for twelve months
One	13	£12-20	Those unable to attend concerts for reasons of age, distance or infirmity
Two Single	9	£35	Usually attend concerts and take advantage of benefits
Two Double	6	£60	As above
Totals	31	£659	31 total members in 24/25

In addition, many Friends donated extra amounting to a total of £340.

The way the Friends have been managed has undergone some changes this year, with the Publicity Committee taking over responsibility for the newsletters, but the collection of subs moving to Finance. This is the first period where it's happening this way, so we'll be able to report on how it went once this year's subscription period is completed.

We have also simplified the Friends subscription model, so it better reflects what we are able to offer at the moment. Instead of two tiers of membership, from September 2025 there will be one Friends subscription of £25 per Friend which includes a regular newsletter, invitations to sit in on rehearsals, and invitations to social events hosted by the Chorus.

We are working on refining this system so that I can send out packs to departing choir members, giving them a year's free Friends membership. I have requested that I be sent contact details for this when a member leaves & am waiting for confirmation that this meets with member privacy.

I took over the newsletters in the spring of last year and have begun including profiles on members of the chorus marking special events, such as long anniversaries with the chorus, where we've been able to highlight past concerts that the Friends may remember. I've also included short interviews with soloists, and photographs and accounts of activities the chorus does outside our concerts. Some of these have been shared with the chorus and have had hugely positive feedback. This year we have Simon's anniversary to cover & I am expanding the profiles to include one of the new members discussing what her first year with the chorus was like.

As a member of the Publicity Committee, I have been developing a relationship with Yorkshire Bylines, which published my first newsletter with features on the soloists for the *Messiah*, reaching 438 online viewers, plus hardcopy and downloads. I hope to continue this relationship so that we can use it for further publicity.

**Sally M. Brown**

## Concert Organisers Report for AGM 15/10/25

Last year was another difficult one for concert planning due to the continued uncertainties re the Town Hall re-opening. We are now aware that the earliest we are likely to be able to get in, to be part of a concert, will be Autumn 2026 but there is a possibility of another 6 month delay from the contractors which would mean early 2027 or even later depending on what happens in the next 12 months.

We started the 2024/5 season with a very enjoyable, if rather cold, trip to **Beverley** in October for '**A Choral Soirée**' featuring **Durufilé Requiem** with a first half of motets and other short pieces from **Durufilé, Messiaen** and **Poulenc**. Sadly tickets proved very difficult to sell due to a competing concert in Beverley on the same evening, but despite that the concert went well and feedback was good.

The **Christmas Concert** at St.Edmund's included contributions from Seb Williman on trumpet. This proved a popular concert again with a near sell out generating a modest and much needed surplus.

Our planned trip to sing carols in the Cellarium at Fountains Abbey on 21/12/24 was sadly cancelled at short notice due to safety concerns caused by high winds. They are fully booked this year but we are aiming to try again at Christmas next year.

We were hoping to have joined the Cambridge University Symphony Chorus in March to sing Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony but sadly the negotiations proved difficult and couldn't be concluded satisfactorily in time to fit this into our existing calendar.

In April we sang **Handel's Messiah** with a small orchestra selected from the ranks of the York Guildhall Orchestra and four young soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music. I hope you will agree that the extra expense of hiring the orchestra was worthwhile. The audience feedback was excellent and with a near sell out of tickets we managed to keep losses to a manageable level.

For our Summer Concert '**Elgar, Schubert & Barber – Choral journeys**' on 12th July at St.Edmund's we had another late change of soloist, eventually being joined by Jane Burnell who had sung soprano in the Messiah for us in April. We benefitted from a small grant from the Elgar Society and sang a varied and challenging programme including Elgar's set of six songs '**From the Bavarian Highlands**', along with **Bartok's Four Slovak Folk Songs**, the magnificent, modernistic quirkiness of **Ligeti's** a cappella '**Night and Morning**' - bells, cock-a-doodle-do's, kazoos and all, the evocative battle cry and biblical narrative of **Schubert's 'Song of Miriam'** and the peaceful serenity of **Barber's 'Agnus dei'**. Audience numbers were down, perhaps more to do with the timing of the concert in school holidays, but there were many appreciative comments from them about the programme itself.

Most recently in September we had another successful **Heritage Open Day Come and Sing** event at St.George's Church, learning and singing '**Choruses from Brahms' German Requiem**' with Simon leading rehearsals and conducting and Martin Pickard and Tony Kraus playing the piano duet. After a few last minute dropouts due to inclement weather and illness we had 46 visiting singers and 48 from LFC who worked hard in rehearsals and gave an informal performance to a small but enthusiastic audience. We had this message from Meryll, our HOD co-ordinator at the Leeds Civic Trust – '*Your event was obviously very popular and I have to say all the singers looked full of joy – it was very uplifting to watch and listen.*'

**Looking ahead** we have an exciting and varied range of concerts for you with a mixture of old favourites and lots of new music to keep you on your toes!

We will be joined by organist Lee Ward, percussionist Janet Fulton and harpist Megan Humphries for our **Autumn Concert** in November at St.Edmund's, featuring **Bernstein - 'Chichester Psalms'** with Alexander Wright – treble, along with **Kodaly – 'Missa Brevis'**, **Bach – Lobet den Herrn** for chorus and '**Toccata and Fugue in D minor**' for organ, and Megan will play the **Britten 'Suite for Harp'**.

Our **Christmas Concert** programme for December, also at St.Edmund's, is taking shape with the music interspersed with seasonal readings and tenor solos from Dan Marles.

In March we have a concert for voices and brass at St.Edmund's '**A Spring Fanfare**' with choral works by **Gabrieli, Lotti, Croce, Purcell, Bruckner, Schütz, Parry and Finzi** interspersed with pieces for brass by Gabrieli and Viadana.

In June we will be joining forces with the **Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus** at Sheffield City Hall to sing **Mendelssohn's *Elijah***, with the **Halle Orchestra** and Matthew Hamilton conducting.

Beyond that our schedule will be very much dependent on developments at the Town Hall and we will keep you informed as soon as we know anything more.

My personal thanks go to all those who have helped this year with every aspect of concert planning and production, and in particular to Siân whose attention to detail ensures that all the plans we put into place are fine-tuned and run as smoothly as possible.

James Moxon  
Concert Organiser  
29/09/25

## FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FRASC) REPORT October 2025

FRASC's activities has changed somewhat in the last couple of years, with the current focus on supporting the choir through pop-up bars and raffles, with occasional bigger fund raisers and social events. This year we have raised approximately £3,800.

We kicked off with the traditional post-rehearsal **Christmas Bring and Buy sale**. With post-sale purchases inside and outside the chorus, we made around £1,200. Thanks to everyone who baked, bottled and donated lovely Christmas gifts, with special thanks to Fiona Kirkby for her Christmas puddings (always a long list of requests for these!) and Simon for his ginormous side of home-smoked salmon. Shout outs also for the 2nd hand bookshop (Andrew Smith), sales and bar teams, and those that set up their own stalls. In some cases, stall holders generously donated all their proceeds, which was very much appreciated (thank you John Dickinson, Irene and David Hall and Julia Tomlinson amongst others!).

There will be a repeat performance this year on Wednesday 26th November, so please dust down your mixing bowls and jam pans and get your baking and making hats on.....and if you have friends or family that would like a stall, let me know.

Other fundraising and social activities have quietly continued through the year. The FRASC **weekly raffle** so efficiently managed by Margaret Whaley raises a considerable sum. We held an extra raffle at the Christmas concert, which raised an amazing £600, helped considerably by the excellent range of prizes including no less than two hampers.

**Wine evenings** (pop-up bars) after rehearsals at St Chad's have continued with some this year hosted by people celebrating milestone birthdays or chorus membership anniversaries. Celebrating these has proved very popular with everyone! It would be great if more people could help us with these pop-up bars, so if you think two or three of you could band together and run a wine evening, please let me or any of FRASC know. It's very easy and a great way to meet other chorus members. The next wine evening will be following the AGM on 15th October.

FRASC and an excellent team of “clapping section” volunteers also run the **interval bar at the St Edmund’s concerts**, allowing us to raise between £200 and £600 each time.

In April, we re-instigated our “**Walk and Tea**” series, with a very well attended walk around the **Roundhay Park geology trail** (I even managed to show off some fossil finds from one of the exposures!) before a scrumptious afternoon tea of scones (thank you Fiona!) and cakes.

As I mentioned in last year’s report, FRASC’s activities have been somewhat limited. This is because active FRASC members are comparatively few in number and partly because we perceive there to be limited interest from the choir in social events outside rehearsals. If this isn’t the case and you have some great ideas for social events (or fundraisers) and would be happy to help us organise them, then please let us know.

In any case, we would love for more people to join the team. Our occasional meetings are usually fun (nothing to do with the chat, drinks and good food, of course!). If you would like to join us, helping to raise funds for the chorus and maybe get back to organising social events, then please have a chat with me or anyone in FRASC: Fiona Kirkby (executive chef), Margaret Whaley (long-suffering treasurer), Heather Newton and Julie Tomkins.

Harriet Carlyle  
FRASC Chair