

Royston Choral Society

Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting 29.09.26

The accounts for the year to July 2026 have been circulated, together with the Independent Examiner's report.

We've enjoyed another successful year, financially as well as musically. We are enormously grateful to Carole, who spends huge chunks of her life filling in mostly successful applications for grants for our concerts. Writing these applications and following them up, sometimes by attending interviews with the granting bodies, is a particular skill, and we are fortunate to have Carole on our committee.

There is no doubt that our increased numbers have eased the pressure on our finances. With a larger number of members contributing through subscriptions, we know we can cover our core costs with a little over to contribute to the costs of our concerts. The change in the gift aid rules has also helped; we can now claim the whole subscription under the gift aid scheme, adding significantly to our income. We are always happy to accept donations, however large or small. The combination of all these things, along with the valuable contribution from the 100 Club (spaces are still available!) mean that we are able, most years, to mount two concerts of our four with instrumental accompaniment, whether that be full orchestra or a smaller group. We can never break even on these concerts, because the capacity of the church doesn't make possible enough revenue to cover the costs, so we do rely on other sources of funds to be able to perform large pieces.

Although we always have enough library copies for everyone, we continue to source music for our members who prefer to buy their own copies, taking the discounts we're able to receive for choir funds. We also hire out our own music library through Gerontius, generating a little income each year.

We enter this new season in good financial order, though what it will look like after our ambitious 2026/27 programme is another matter entirely!

I would like to record my thanks to Cathy for undertaking the examination again, and to you all for helping to make my job easier by submitting your subs without having to be reminded too often. Please remember that any challenges in meeting subs can be discussed confidentially with me, and we will work something out. We never turn anyone away because of difficulty in affording the subscription.

I propose that we adopt the financial accounts for the year to 31st July 2026.