



ThinkingFaithNetwork

Registered charity #271987

Formerly West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies (incorporating International Association for Reformed Faith and Action – United Kingdom (founded 1976)), also known as WYSOCS

Governed by declaration of trust executed 19th July 1976,
as amended by supplemental deeds dated 11th January 2006 and 16th January 2016

Trustees' Annual Report for the period:

1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020

Trustees

Cal Bailey

Chair

Steve Bishop

Anne Burghgraef-Roques

Sareen Galbraith

Justin Gill

Richard Gunton

Secretary

(appointed 12th October 2019)

David Hanson

Natasha Hardicre

Trustees assent to a Christian doctrinal statement and appoint new members to the trustee body, which shall not exceed ten in number. The selection of new trustees is made from the pool of the charity's supporters and attendees at events put on by the charity, with regard to the needs of the charity, age and gender representation, and the expertise required.

Staff and volunteers

Mark Roques (RealityBites Director)

Richard Gunton (FiSch Coordinator)

Ben Clymo (Operations, Finance and Communication)

Bank

CAF Bank, 20 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent

Solicitor

Wrigley's, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds



Objectives

The Charity's Objectives, as summarised in its trust deed, are the advancement of education and opportunity for learning in a wide range of subjects from a Christian perspective, and the furtherance of the gospel in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, particularly with the regard to the promotion of God-centred living through faith in Jesus Christ.

In pursuit of these objectives in 2019-20, Thinking Faith Network has carried out activities in each of its three strands: LifeMatters, RealityBites and Faith-in-Scholarship.

In planning their activities, the trustees had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit, and it is their constant priority to ensure that public benefit is served by the charity. The trustees take care that access to events is, as far as possible, not restricted by physical or financial barriers. Only the Business Conference has charged fees for attendance, and even there we had a low-cost option. More significantly, our work is about communicating life-enriching and justice-enabling truths, patterns and rituals which have widened our vision of life and therefore – amongst other things – supported our connections and thus our health in lockdown.

Achievements and activities

The year from 1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020 was complicated by our having no Director in post and by the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We became (semi-)proficient in handling Zoom conferences to cope with the latter problem, but we felt handicapped by lacking a Director.

Trustees' meetings have been attended by most of the Board, but one has been noticeably absent throughout the year, a matter which is being addressed. Richard Gunton was elected to the Trustee Board on 12th October 2019 and both he and Steve Bishop attend meetings usually by internet connection, even before that became normal for everyone.

Financial support has been generous, but the number of regular givers has not increased. We are also aware of the lack of younger members of the support community upon whom we will rely for future management and administration. This is a matter of concern.

We have continued to employ Mark Roques and to use the services provided by Ben Clymo as required.

Activities have been carried on in all three streams of Thinking Faith Network's life, as follows:



LIFEMATTERS

We held our annual Faith in Business conference on 9th October 2019, in collaboration with Bradford Cathedral. Thirty-two participants registered to explore “Business and the Kingdom: The Big Picture”. Matthew Frost and Cal Bailey each presented a paper, and we are grateful to them and to the leaders of the workshops. The format was found more satisfactory than the earlier pattern with a longer list of speakers. We are greatly indebted to the Cathedral, for their support, and to Karen Williams who managed the event.

A series of discussion events under the title, “Iron Sharpens Iron”, began in September 2019, to explore issues of reformational faith in a more informal environment. The first two were convened at Dale Villas (Bun Tan – Secularism; David Hanson – Kuyper and the Public Square). Subsequent meetings have been Zoomed (Paulo Ribeiro – Serving God in Engineering, from Brazil; Elaine Storkey – Identity Politics, from Cambridge).

Between May and July, a mentoring course (by Zoom) was run by Mark and David for two school leavers, pre-university. One will read philosophy and the other art history. The course was supported (brilliantly) by some invited guest teachers. We are grateful to Maarten Verkerk (member of the Dutch Senate), Prof. Roy Clouser, Cal Bailey, Gareth Jones, Richard Russell and Martin & Kate Rose.

REALITYBITES

Mark ran another course at Dale Villas on ‘Evangelism without the Cringe Factor’ from February 2020 and has had further articles on his methods published by (mainly) the Baptist Times. He continued conversations with the Emmanuel Schools Foundation and with Chris Curtis (who introduced him to the London Diocesan Schools Workers).

He has continued to mentor an MA student on the subject of using hospitality in street evangelism with students and they hope to rework the material as a Grove booklet in due course.

From the c.100 people who have taken his ‘Evangelism’ courses, feedback showed that something ‘very basic’ was needed (they know little about worldviews). He has therefore begun working intensively with Anne Burghgraef, and with Peter and Patricia Gray, to produce a 20-unit online course using the lens of slavery and trafficking to set up conversation about Jesus and materialism. Patricia was contracted to provide support for this project.



FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

Richard Gunton continued to coordinate the FiSch Blog and to maintain (and build) links with The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, Church Scientific, The Templeton Foundation and Michael Reiss. The Blog has appeared fortnightly through most of this year but new contributors are needed.

With Steve Bishop and others, he has developed a series of webinars under the 'All-of-Life-Redeemed' banner, and David Hanson was asked to join the two of them in exploring ways of enabling Thinking Faith Network (FiSch in particular) to work with them in some form of organisational unity.

Finances and reserves policy

In the 2019-20 period, the charity received income of £18,401 (2018-19: £23,485) and made expenditure of £18,190 (2018-19: £17,096), a surplus of £211 (2018-19: £6,389). The closing balance at the end of the period was £42,747 (2018-19: £42,536).

The trustees aim to hold free reserves of 9-12 months' expenditure. Free reserves at the end of the period were £42,747, above the window of £13,643 to £18,190 (based on this year's expenditure).

The Trustees recognise that they cannot continually hold reserves above the level specified in their reserves policy. They have recently increased the paid hours of the RealityBites Director, and in the coming year anticipate additional expenditure on a freelance project manager and designer to work with Mark to deliver a new online course. With that in mind, they will continue to monitor reserves through the next year to ensure that they are brought down to the required level.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Noel Caladine Bailey
Chair

David Hanson
Trustee



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees /
members of**

Thinking Faith Network

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st July 2020

Charity no

271987

Set out on pages

7-8

**Responsibilities and basis
of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2020.

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Charles Taylor

Date:

19/03/2021

Name:

CHARLES TAYLOR

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

Address:

99 SOUTHWAY

HORSFORTH

LEEDS LS18 5RW




Section B Disclosure

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 details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name Thinking Faith Network	No (if any) 271987	CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts		
	For the period from 01/08/2019	To 31/07/2020	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations - one-off	40	-	-	40	687
Donations - regular	10,545	1,200	-	11,745	13,553
Gift Aid	2,750	-	-	2,750	3,322
LifeMatters income	1,905	-	-	1,905	3,483
RealityBites income	1,960	-	-	1,960	2,440
FISch income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,201	1,200	-	18,401	23,485
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,201	1,200	-	18,401	23,485
A3 Payments					
Salaries, fees and tax	12,033	1,200	-	13,233	11,433
Travel and expenses	115	-	-	115	225
Events and publicity	2,680	-	-	2,680	4,296
Resources	442	-	-	442	471
Office, telephone, insurance, fees	1,721	-	-	1,721	672
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	16,990	1,200	-	18,190	17,096
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	16,990	1,200	-	18,190	17,096
Net of receipts/(payments)	211	-	-	211	6,389
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,536	-	-	42,536	-
Cash funds this year end	42,747	-	-	42,747	-



Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF account	42,538	-	-
	PayPal	191	-	-
	Petty cash	18	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	42,747	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval