



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 2020 to 31st July 2021

Trustees

Cal Bailey	Chair	(to January 2023)
Steve Bishop		
Anne Burghgraef-Roques		
Sareen Galbraith		
Justin Gill		
Richard Gunton	Secretary	(Chair from January 2023)
David Hanson		
Natasha Hardicre		(to March 2021)

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

Patricia Gray (Executive Director, from 1 July 2021)	Mark Roques (RealityBites Director)
Ben Clymo (Operations, Finance and Communication)	Richard Gunton (FiSch Coordinator)

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 2020-21, 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. 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 during COVID lockdown periods.

Achievements and activities

The year from 1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021 was relatively quiet owing to the effects of COVID lockdowns, and not having a Director. Nevertheless, we reached new audiences through our online activities, and towards the end of the year we appointed an Executive Director.

We continued to employ Mark Roques and to use the services provided by Ben Clymo as required, for administration and publicity. Trustees' meetings have mostly been held via Zoom.

Financial support continued from a generous committed base of donors, 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.

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

LIFEMATTERS

The "Iron Sharpens Iron" events continued on a monthly basis, bringing an international audience together to hear about and explore applications of Reformational Christian faith in diverse areas of society. Topics included political leadership for the common good, care for refugees, and art.



REALITYBITES

A major project was the development of a course called Slave Chronicles, intended for use in RE lessons. This was started with the services of Patricia Gray, who has experience of creating educational resources for secular audiences.

Mark Roques maintained the RealityBites blog, which regularly generates appreciative comments online. He also continued mentoring an MA student on the subject of hospitality in street evangelism, and developed a postcard to help start conversations about the meaning of life.

FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

After a 6-month break, the FiSch blog resumed in February with the arrival of a new writer, Rev. Dr Mike Wagenman, based in Canada. Mike joined the team of Dr Richard Gunton, Dr Alicia Smith, Dr Mark Hutchinson and Georgina Prineppi, enabling blog posts to appear at least fortnightly. We have around 65 subscribers and 310 followers of the Facebook page where the blog posts also appear. Mike also has a role with The Kirby Laing Institute for Public Theology in Cambridge, and will help build our links with that organisation.

Finances and reserves policy

In the 2020-21 period, the charity received income of £16,091 (2019-20: £18,401) and made expenditure of £24,897 (2019-20: £18,190), a loss of £8,806 (2019-20: surplus of £211). The closing balance at the end of the period was £33,941 (2019-20: £42,747).

The trustees aim to hold free reserves of 9-12 months' expenditure. Free reserves at the end of the period were £33,941, above the window of £18,673 to £24,897 (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 now taken on an Executive Director to lead the charity forward, which will increase expenditure for next year and see reserves reducing to the required window.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Richard Gunton

Richard Gunton, Acting Chair, 6th March 2023



**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	31 st July 2021	Charity no	271987
Set out on pages	6-7		
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2020.</p> <p>As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>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.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>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,:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>		
Signed:	<i>Charles Taylor</i>	Date:	19/04/2022
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	No (if any)	CC16a
	Thinking Faith Network	271987	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/08/2020		31/07/2021

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	1,040	-	-	1,040	40
Donations - regular	8,927	1,300	-	10,227	11,745
Gift Aid	2,349	-	-	2,349	2,750
LifeMatters income	1,600	-	-	1,600	1,905
RealityBites income	875	-	-	875	1,960
FiSch income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	14,791	1,300	-	16,091	18,401
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	14,791	1,300	-	16,091	18,401
A3 Payments					
Salaries, fees and tax	17,358	1,300	-	18,658	13,233
Travel and expenses	-	-	-	-	115
Events and publicity	1,935	-	-	1,935	2,680
Resources development and costs	3,661	-	-	3,661	442
Office, telephone, insurance, fees	643	-	-	643	1,721
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	23,597	1,300	-	24,897	18,190
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	23,597	1,300	-	24,897	18,190
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 8,806	-	-	- 8,806	211
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,747	-	-	42,747	-
Cash funds this year end	33,941	-	-	33,941	-



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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF account	33,892	-	-
	PayPal	31	-	-
	Petty cash	18	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	33,941	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	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
	<i>Richard Gunton</i>	Richard Gunton		06/03/23