



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 1976,  
as amended by supplemental deeds dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the period:**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

#### **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		

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)	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 2021-22, 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 visions of life and supported connections between individuals and groups.

## Achievements and activities

We continued to employ Patricia Gray as Executive Director, Mark Roques as RealityBites Director, and to use the services provided by Ben Clymo as required, for finances, administration and publicity. Trustees returned to meetings being held in-person, with two Trustees regularly joining via Zoom from further afield.

Financial support continued from a generous committed base of donors, but the number of regular givers has not increased. The lack of younger members of the support community upon whom we will rely for future management and administration continues to be a matter of concern.

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

### LIFEMATTERS

In September and October 2021, we co-hosted (with All of Life Redeemed) a series of three webinars with Dr Jonathan Chaplin about "Faith in Democracy", featuring a series of respondents and discussions. Recordings were released on YouTube. The following month (27<sup>th</sup> November), our conference "Unloosing the Chains of Injustice" was delivered online, featuring several high-profile speakers and receiving appreciative feedback from the 35 delegates who attended.

In May and June 2022, we ran a series of webinars on the theme "Feeding the Earth", at which a panel of international academic researchers spoke about such diverse topics as farming and



agroforestry, diet and dining, and economics and finance in the light of climate change and the Bible's command to steward the Earth's resources with care. Each of the eight talks was recorded and subsequently released on our YouTube channel. Although attendances at the talks were between 5 and 30 people, videos of the talks have enjoyed up to 130 views within the following year.

The 'Iron Sharpens Iron' events also 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 art, politics, ethics and philosophy, each one brought by a person actively engaged in shaping culture.

## REALITYBITES

The Slave Chronicles course developed last year continued to sell to a number of individuals and organisations. Mark's writing ministry continued, with monthly posts in the RealityBites blog and pieces in the Baptist Times and Youthscape magazine, as well as an article in the Australian Christian Teachers' Journal. These have regularly generated lively comments.

Work began on developing a new educational project, 'Playlets with Purpose', exploring worldviews with GCSE and A-level RE examination students, for which grant funding and individual donations have been sought, with work due to start shortly after the year end.

## FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

The FiSch blog continued to generate articles approximately every two weeks, written by Revd Dr Mike Wagenman, Dr Alicia Smith, Dr Mark Hutchinson and Dr Richard Gunton. Dr Georgina Bartlett (née Prineppi) left the blogging team after a final post on 30<sup>th</sup> August. Issues with our email subscription service resulted in a loss of subscribers by that route, but our social media following and blog readership / comments remained steady.

Some notable research outputs produced by this year include:

- Richard Gunton's paper "Valuing beyond economics: a pluralistic evaluation framework for participatory policy-making" in Ecological Economics (196:107420), drawing upon Reformational philosophy
- Richard Gunton's talk: "A general theory of objectivity", based on a paper co-authored with MD Stafleu and MJ Reiss, presented at the online Reformational Philosophy Conference 2021



- Trustee Steve Bishop's paper: "Abraham Kuyper and evolution" in Koers: Bulletin for Christian Scholarship 87:1
- Trustee Anne Burghgraef's chapter: "Social justice-informed psychotherapy with refugees and asylum seekers drawing upon Modal Aspect Theory by H. Dooyeweerd" for the Handbook of Social Justice in the Psychological Therapies (ed. Winter & Charura, Sage, 2022).

## **Finances and reserves policy**

In the 2021-22 period, the charity received income of £23,092 (2020-21: £16,091) and made expenditure of £37,596 (2020-21: £24,897), a net expenditure of £14,504 (2020-21: net expenditure of £8,806). The closing balance at the end of the period was £19,437 (2020-21: £33,941).

The trustees aim to hold free reserves of 9-12 months' expenditure. Free reserves at the end of the period were £19,237, below the window of £26,172 to £37,596 (based on this year's expenditure).

The Trustees had budgeted to reduce reserves this year by increasing activity. Although the reserves are now below the required level, this is in part due to the increased expenditure this year, which the Trustees recognise is not sustainable longer term, and are planning their future activities accordingly.

## **Declaration**

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

*Richard Gunton*

Richard Gunton, Acting Chair, 25<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> July 2022

**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:**

26/04/2023

**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.



 <b>CHARITY COMMISSION</b> FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name	No (if any)	<b>CC16a</b>	
	Thinking Faith Network	271987		
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
		01/08/2021		31/07/2022

## 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations - one-off	368	1,700	-	2,068	1,040
Donations - regular	13,095	1,200	-	14,295	10,227
Gift Aid	3,086	-	-	3,086	2,349
LifeMatters income	1,583	-	-	1,583	1,600
RealityBites income	1,141	-	-	1,141	875
FiSch income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	919	-	-	919	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>20,192</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,092</b>	<b>16,091</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>20,192</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,092</b>	<b>16,091</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salaries, fees and tax	31,546	2,700	-	34,246	18,658
Travel and expenses	189	-	-	189	-
Events and publicity	1,238	-	-	1,238	1,935
Resources development and costs	119	-	-	119	3,661
Office, telephone, insurance, fees	1,804	-	-	1,804	643
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>34,896</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,596</b>	<b>24,897</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>34,896</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,596</b>	<b>24,897</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 14,704</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 14,504</b>	<b>- 8,806</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>33,941</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,941</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>19,237</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,437</b>	<b>-</b>



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	CAF account	18,225	200	-
	PayPal	994	-	-
	Petty cash	18	-	-
			-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>19,237</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
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