



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 2022 to 31st July 2023

Trustees

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

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 – to July 2023)
Mark Roques (RealityBites Director to March 2023, Honorary RealityBites Director from April 2023)
Richard Gunton (Honorary FiSch Coordinator)
Ben Clymo (Operations, Finance and Communication)
Mark Kelly (Communication – March to July 2023)

Bank

CAF Bank, 20 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA



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 2022-23, 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 and Mark Roques as RealityBites Director, and to use the services provided by Ben Clymo as required for finances, administration and publicity. The posts of Executive Director and RealityBites Director were made redundant at the end of July owing to financial necessity. Trustee meetings transitioned to being held online (via Zoom) when Cal Bailey resigned as Chair in January and was replaced by Richard Gunton.

Financial support continued from a generous committed base of donors. The number of regular givers has slightly decreased, but the decision not to recruit a new Director is expected to return the Charity to having a net surplus. 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. This is being addressed in the Trustees' deliberations.

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

LIFEMATTERS

Our main event was a day conference in Leeds on 5th November 2022: 'C.S. Lewis: a Visionary for our Time?' This drew around 30 delegates to hear a speaker from the USA. The autumn also saw a 6-part course on 'Eco-warriors, Tree Worship and Creation Care', where a small group explored Christian responses to ecological crises. Three 'Iron Sharpens Iron' events were held in the first part



of the year, bringing international audiences to hear about and explore applications of Christian faith in various areas of public life.

REALITYBITES

The RealityBites blog continued with approximately monthly posts. Mark Roques also delivered talks to a range of audiences including schools, churches, a chaplaincy group, and people from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds at a drop-in centre in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds. His writing ministry also continued, with monthly posts in the RealityBites blog and pieces in the Baptist Times and Premier Christianity website.

The Slave Chronicles course developed last year was sold to a number of individuals and organisations. The creative phase of the grant-funded educational project 'Playlets with Purpose' was brought to a successful conclusion, producing a set of twelve 'Windows on Worldviews' videos, written by Mark Roques, for GCSE and A-level RE students and their teachers to explore contemporary worldviews. This project employed two actors for filming under Peter Gray as director (pro bono) and Patricia Gray as producer.

FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

The FiSch blog continued to generate articles every two weeks on average, written by Rev. Dr Michael Wagenman, Dr Alicia Smith, Dr Mark Hutchinson and Dr Richard Gunton. Our impact can be judged by number of followers on Facebook, which reached around 350.

Some notable research outputs produced by FiSch and Thinking Faith Network team members include:

- Richard Gunton's paper "What is enlightened agriculture? A multi-normative approach to the nature and values of food production systems" in *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* (7: 181), using Reformational ideas.
- Richard Gunton's chapter, "The Significance of Dooyeweerd's Work for the Natural Sciences" in *Discovering Dooyeweerd*, pp. 259-271 (Paideia Press)
- Steve Bishop's papers: "Abraham Kuyper and some of his Critics" in *Journal for Christian Scholarship* (58) and "Kuyperania 2022" in *Koers: Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* (88).



Finances and reserves policy

In the 2022-23 period, the charity received income of £32,466 (2021-22: £23,092) and made expenditure of £46,002 (2021-22: £37,596), a net expenditure of £13,536 (2021-22: net expenditure of £14,504). The closing balance at the end of the period was £5,901 (2021-22: £19,437).

The trustees aim to hold free reserves of 9-12 months' expenditure. Free reserves at the end of the period were £5,347. With significantly reduced expenditure budgeted for next year, including the cessation of payroll expenditure, although these reserves are below the aimed-for figure based on this year's expenditure, they are quite sufficient for the budgeted expenditure next year.

Declaration

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

Richard Gunton

Richard Gunton, Acting Chair, 12th April 2024



**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 2023

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 31/07/2023.

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:

13/01/2024

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
	01/08/2022		31/07/2023

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	481	-	-	481	2,068
Donations - regular	12,115	1,200	-	13,315	14,295
Gift Aid	3,563	-	-	3,563	3,086
LifeMatters income	1,266	-	-	1,266	1,583
RealityBites income	39	13,538	-	13,577	1,141
FiSch income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	264	-	-	264	919
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,728	14,738	-	32,466	23,092
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,728	14,738	-	32,466	23,092
A3 Payments					
Salaries, fees and tax	20,734	7,276	-	28,010	34,246
Travel and expenses	74	-	-	74	189
Events and publicity	1,605	-	-	1,605	1,238
Resources development and costs	356	7,108	-	7,464	119
Office, telephone, insurance, fees	617	-	-	617	1,804
Redundancy costs	8,232	-	-	8,232	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	31,618	14,384	-	46,002	37,596
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	31,618	14,384	-	46,002	37,596
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,890	354	-	- 13,536	- 14,504
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,237	200	-	19,437	-
Cash funds this year end	5,347	554	-	5,901	-



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	5,119	554	-
	PayPal	228	-	-
	Petty cash	-	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	5,347	554	-
	(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
	Richard Gunton	Richard Gunton		12/04/24