



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 2023 to 31st July 2024

Trustees

Richard Gunton	Chair
Steve Bishop	
Anne Burghgraef-Roques	
Sareen Galbraith	
David Hanson	
Mark Roques	(from September 2023)
Alicia Smith	(from September 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

Mark Roques (Honorary RealityBites Director)
Richard Gunton (Honorary FiSch Coordinator)
Ben Clymo (Operations, Finance and Communication)

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 regard to the promotion of God-centred living through faith in Jesus Christ.

In pursuit of these objectives, in 2023-24 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 people's visions of life and supported connections between individuals and groups.

Achievements and activities

This year began a new phase in the life of the Charity as it began to function without any paid employees, the posts of Executive Director and RealityBites Director having been made redundant at the end of July 2023.

Trustee meetings continued to be held online (via Zoom), and we continued to use the services provided by Ben Clymo as required for finances, administration and publicity.

Financial support continued from a generous committed base of donors. The number of regular givers has slightly decreased, but the absence of salary costs allowed the Charity to return 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 activity in this strand was the ongoing monthly series of 'Iron Sharpens Iron' (ISI) events. These brought international audiences to hear about and explore applications of Christian faith in various areas of public life. Average attendance was around 20 people, but one recording placed on YouTube was watched around 70 times. We plan to increase our online presence through recordings of future ISI events.

REALITYBITES

This year we released our 'Windows on Worldviews' videos on YouTube. Intended for GCSE and A-level RE students and their teachers, these resources have seen a limited impact so far (120–180 views for each main video). The Trustees are pursuing various methods to increase their impact.

Mark Roques delivered an assembly and conference at Thames Christian School in London and spoke on UCB Radio.

The RealityBites blog continued with approximately monthly posts, and Mark also published three pieces in the Baptist Times and one in *RE Today* magazine. There is evidence of non-Christians engaging with the blog.

FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

The FiSch blog continued to generate articles, written by Dr Alicia Smith, Dr Mark Hutchinson, Dr Richard Gunton and a number of guest contributors. Its impact can be judged by number of followers on Facebook, which grew from 350 to around 370. Blogging slowed down in the second half of the year; we plan to rectify this by inviting more guest contributions.

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

- Richard Gunton's chapter, "Preventing Unintended Harm from Socio-Ecological Interactions" in: *Engineering and Ecosystems: Seeking Synergies Toward a Nature-Positive World* (ed. Bakshi, B).
- Steve Bishop's papers:
 - 2023. Why we should read Vollenhoven today. *Ethics in Conversation* 27 (5) (November).
 - 2024. "Creation" in *T&T Clark Handbook of Neo-Calvinism*. (eds. Sutanto, NG & Brock, C).
 - 2024. Everything Matters: Gordon Spykman—A Neo-Calvinist Theologian. *Pro Rege* 52(3): 1-15.
 - 2024 Jenö Sebestyén: A Hungarian Kuyper. *Findings* 6. (March).
 - 2024. Auguste Lecerf—A French neo-Calvinist. *Neocalviniana* 1(1).
 - 2024. Abraham Kuyper: Inspiration, Revelation, and Scripture. *Foundations* 86 (July): 15–37.



Finances and reserves policy

In the 2023-24 period, the charity received income of £13,094 (2022-23: £32,466) and made expenditure of £2,856 (2022-23: £46,002), a net income of £10,238 (2022-23: net expenditure of £13,536). The closing balance at the end of the period was £16,139 (2022-23: £5,901).

The trustees aim to hold free reserves of 9-12 months' expenditure. Free reserves at the end of the period were £12,209. These reserves are above the level required based on the next year's budget, and the Trustees now plan to invest more in promotion of Thinking Faith Network's online resources and in production of new material to appeal to younger audiences.

Declaration

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. M. Gunton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard Gunton, Acting Chair, 11th February 2025



**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 2024

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 31/07/2024.

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:

30/12/2024

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 Thinking Faith Network		No (if any) 271987		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from 01/08/2023	Period start date 01/08/2023	To 31/07/2024	Period end date 31/07/2024	

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	180	-	-	180	481
Donations - regular	6,980	1,200	-	8,180	13,315
Gift Aid	1,280	-	-	1,280	3,563
LifeMatters income	290	-	-	290	1,266
RealityBites income	45	-	-	45	13,577
FiSch income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	17	3,102	-	3,119	264
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,792	4,302	-	13,094	32,466
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,792	4,302	-	13,094	32,466
A3 Payments					
Salaries, fees and tax	729	-	-	729	28,010
Travel and expenses	8	-	-	8	74
Events and publicity	775	12	-	787	1,605
Resources development and costs	-	914	-	914	7,464
Office, telephone, insurance, fees	418	-	-	418	617
Redundancy costs	-	-	-	-	8,232
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,930	926	-	2,856	46,002
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,930	926	-	2,856	46,002
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,862	3,376	-	10,238	- 13,536
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,347	554	-	5,901	-
Cash funds this year end	12,209	3,930	-	16,139	-



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	11,751	3,930	-
	PayPal	458	-	-
	Petty cash	-	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	12,209	3,930	-
	(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
	<i>R. M. Gunton</i>	Richard Gunton		11/02/25