



## 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 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

#### **Trustees**

Richard Gunton	Chair
Steve Bishop	
Anne Burghgraef-Roques	
Sareen Galbraith	to February 2025
David Hanson	
Mark Roques	
Alicia Smith	

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 2024-25 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, Thinking Faith Network has advanced in its mission to promote whole-life learning in a wide range of areas by drawing on the riches of the Christian Reformational tradition. The reports below indicate some of the many ways in which we have done this for a diverse range of groups, and encouraging signs that deserve future investment.

Financial support continued from a generous committed base of donors. This has more than covered current operational costs, and so the Trustees are seeking to employ the services of a freelance Publicity Manager to help the Charity gain greater impact in pursuing its objectives.

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.

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

### LIFEMATTERS

The ongoing series of 'Iron Sharpens Iron' (ISI) events have brought international audiences (including Americans, Canadians, Dutch, Kenyans and New Zealanders as well as British) to hear about and explore applications of Christian faith in various areas of public life. A highlight was our series of four talks and responses in March about the nature and significance of the current White House administration. Between 30 and 40 people joined each session, and the recordings placed



on YouTube have collectively been watched over 900 times. Other talks have also attracted substantial audiences, but a crucial aspect of ISI events is maintaining a community that now serves as the heart of the Thinking Faith Network.

## REALITYBITES

Operating through the voluntary work of its Honorary Director Mark Roques, RealityBites has reached diverse audiences through online media as well as in-person discussion groups. In November, Mark spoke on 'James Bond and Rat Worship' to 60 youthworkers at the National Youth Ministry conference in Birmingham. He also spoke at the Christian Schools Trust conference in February. Another exciting output this year has been an evangelistic booklet *You Are Here*, for publication through Amazon. Together with Steve Bishop, Mark also completed a book, *Faithful Followers of Jesus in a Fallen World* to build understanding of a Christian perspective on history. Seven stories from this book have been published in the Baptist Times. The RealityBites blog continued with monthly posts, and Mark is mentoring three people.

## FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

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

- Richard Gunton's open-access paper, "Sustainability beyond the triple bottom line: towards transformative change in food systems" with Jan van der Stoep, Yoseph Araya and Henk Jochemsen in *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* (8:1483942).
- Steve Bishop's papers: two in *Koers-Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* including "Abraham Kuyper and Natural Theology" with David Kristanto, one in *Journal for Christian Scholarship* surveying literature on Abraham Kuyper, and one in *Foundations: "The "Christian" mysticism of Meister Eckhart and Teresa of Ávila"* with Mark Roques.

Seven blog posts were published this year, with several focusing on generative artificial intelligence, including one by a new guest contributor.



## Finances and reserves policy

In the 2024-25 period, the charity received income of £9,564 (2023-24: £13,094) and made expenditure of £2,232 (2023-24: £2,856), a net income of £7,332 (2023-24: net income of £10,238). The closing balance at the end of the period was £23,471 (2023-24: £16,139).

The trustees aim to hold free reserves of 9-12 months' expenditure. Free reserves at the end of the period were £19,878. Noting that these reserves are above the level required based on recent expenditure, the Trustees are now seeking to appoint a freelance worker to assist in effective promotion of Thinking Faith Network's resources and to reach younger audiences.

## Declaration

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

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

Richard Gunton, Chair, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026



**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 2025

**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 31/07/2025.

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:**

04/01/2026

**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 FOR ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>Charity Name</b> Thinking Faith Network		<b>No (if any)</b> 271987		<b>CC16a</b>
	<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
	<b>For the period from</b> 01/08/2024	<b>Period start date</b> 01/08/2024	<b>To</b>	<b>Period end date</b> 31/07/2025	
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>					
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b> to the nearest £	<b>Restricted funds</b> to the nearest £	<b>Endowment funds</b> to the nearest £	<b>Total funds</b> to the nearest £	<b>Last year</b> to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations - one-off	120	-	-	120	180
Donations - regular	6,645	-	-	6,645	8,180
Gift Aid	2,109	-	-	2,109	1,280
LifeMatters income	606	-	-	606	290
RealityBites income	46	-	-	46	45
FiSch income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	38	-	-	38	3,119
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>9,564</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,564</b>	<b>13,094</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>9,564</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,564</b>	<b>13,094</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staffing costs	640	-	-	640	729
Travel and expenses	66	-	-	66	8
Events and publicity	837	136	-	973	787
Resources development and costs	-	201	-	201	914
Office, telephone, insurance, fees	352	-	-	352	418
Redundancy costs	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>2,856</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>1,895</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>2,856</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,332</b>	<b>10,238</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>12,209</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,139</b>	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>19,878</b>	<b>3,593</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,471</b>	-



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	CAF account	19,801	3,593	-
	PayPal	77	-	-
	Petty cash	-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>19,878</b>	<b>3,593</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
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		20/03/26