

Chair's Report

Our annual conference in 2023 was on the theme of hospitality with the title Take off Your Shoes and I was very conscious of stepping into the shoes that Owen Griffiths was taking off as chair. Owen did such a fantastic job as our chair that they have been big shoes to fill. I want to start this report by offering my deep-felt thanks to Owen for all he has done (and continues to do) for BIAPT.

In stepping into those shoes, I also wish to thank our Administrator Eve for all that she does to support us as an association and also my fellow trustees for their work over the past year, especially David Beedon who has been serving as Conference Secretary and working tirelessly as we have worked towards putting on our first in person conference in five years.

I wish to register a note of thanks to two trustees who have decided to stand down this year. The Revd Dr Lucy Dallas has stepped down to focus on her role as chair of the TEI Forum. Dr Saiyiddah Zaidi, having served as a trustee for a number of years will not be renewing her term of office. I want to make a personal statement of gratitude for the encouragement and challenge which she has brought to BIAPT in her time as a trustee both in writing for the journal, giving papers at conference and contributing to discussions at trustee meetings.

I also wish to thank Karen O'Donnell who, until very recently served as our vice chair. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Karen has been unable to continue as vice-chair so BIAPT is in the peculiar position of not currently having a future chair in training. Having consulted with fellow trustees, we feel the best way forward is to seek a volunteer from among the members to take on this role and I am open to a conversation with anyone who would be interested in working alongside me for a year before taking on the role of chair.

BIAPT has been through some substantial changes in recent years and is doing more now than it ever has. Inevitably this makes greater demands on the members of the committee and other volunteers. One of the ways we have sought to manage this increase in workload last year was to create more sub-committees along the same lines as our Conference Team. We have added the Practical Theology Hub Editorial Board and the Communications Team. Each of these teams depends on the voluntary efforts of BIAPT members who are not trustees and I wish, on behalf of the entire BIAPT community, to express our gratitude for their invaluable contribution to the work. We continue to welcome volunteers from members

who feel they can contribute to these teams. We have recently added a Community Engagement team for those exploring local learning and could do with more members for that team.

Events

We had hoped that our conference last year would be in person and ultimately trustees took the difficult decision that it was just too much of a financial risk to meet in person. Planning 2024's conference we have faced a similar dilemma and are hoping to either just break even or make a slight loss on the 2024 conference.

We had gathered a significant community of new conference attenders by being online with 164 booked in to the main summer conference online in 2023 and deciding to be in person only in 2024 has inevitably restricted who can attend. Members may wish to reflect on how we gather for future events.

In 2023, people attended the conference from across the world, including an intrepid group of Canadian Practical Theologians who gathered as a SIG alongside our mid-morning conference slot for SIGs, some of them joining at a local time of 2am or 5am – that was commitment! We heard from our opening panel of the Revd Dr Susie Snyder, the Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah (now bishop of Edmonton) and Dr Ray Gaston on the nature of hospitality. The Revd Katie Tupling re-imagined what the world and the church would be like if it was led exclusively by those with disabilities. This was a challenging and powerful image, flagging up the multiple layers of barriers to hospitality for many in our places of worship and work. Finally, for our keynotes, Professor Michael Barnes, offered a gallery full of images of hospitality including a captivating exploration of Carravaggio's *Emmaus Supper* which emphasised how hospitality is a sacred duty and the act of transferring power to the other.

We had a new feature in our conference in 2023 in the form of our Hospitality Stories. A chance to share short reflections on the nature of hospitality from a variety of perspectives. Jen Johnson told us about how she found and received hospitality when she had expected to be offering it in Byker, Newcastle and shared the joy of seeing “where the seeds for the longed for better world are being sown.” Amy Quinn-Graham mapped places she had experienced hospitality or a lack of it, broadening our understanding of where places of hospitality might be and how being excluded, being put behind a screen gives a sense of lack of welcome. Saiyyidah Zaidi reflected on her own shoes and feet, opening up new ways of understanding the levels of hospitality which we can offer and receive.

Yet the main summer conference is no longer the only event in the BIAPT calendar.

The Student Conference in 2024 was online and was organised with great skill by Cody Crawshaw, our Doctoral Student Representative on Committee. 39 students attended of who 11 gave short papers along the two keynote speakers who were Professor Esther McIntosh then Zoe Strong and Paula Duncan. We also decided that in future we will offer some drop-in zooms for those in postgraduate research in Practical Theology which simply give students a chance to connect with others in their field and discuss how their research is going. Watch this space!

Our Mission SIG ran a successful in-person event at Ripon College Cuddesdon in May with 25 participants exploring “Mission without Borders?” Discipleship as (Un)learning with speakers Dr Sam Ewell and the Revd Hasna Khatun.

The Practical Theology Hub ran its first online event in February 2024 with 63 people hearing papers from the Revd Luke Larnier, Prof. Jung Mo Sung and the Revd Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, PhD on the topic of The Future of Neo-Liberalism.

This mixed pattern of online and in person events is proving a good pattern for enabling participation. If you would be interested in hosting an in-person event (perhaps especially in Wales, Scotland or Ireland), or if you have an idea for an online event, we would like to hear from you.

Widening Participation

The Practical Theology Hub continues to offer a space for practitioners and theologians to offer short, publically accessible reflections on a number of issues in practical theology across a great variety of topics. I am very grateful to the Editorial Board and I wish to thank them all - James Morris, Patricia Palazzo Tsai, Katie Cross Owen Griffiths, John Falcone and Matt Batten. See James’ report for further details.

A continuing development in this work is the expansion into podcasting and we are grateful to Zoe Strong and her team of podcasters for the work they are continuing to put into this

Prizes

We moved the submission for prizes to later in the year in 2023 with the aim of spreading the workload for our administrator and Trustees from the busy time just before and after conference. We were pleased to have a strong field of entries and awarded the BIAPT Masters Dissertation Prize to Jane

Kelly for her work on *Flourishing or Failing? A Theological Analysis and Critique of the Culture of Whiteness in Church of England Primary Schools*. The BIAPT Publishable Article Prize was awarded to Isaac McNish for his piece 'Familiarity and Otherness: Evangelical Practical Theology as Worship' which will be published in a future edition of the Journal of Practical Theology. We congratulate both winners who gain a free place at the 2024 conference.

Strategy

Last year's AGM agreed to adopt our new Five Year Plan based on our three goals for our association.

Charitable Objects

The objects of the CIO are for the public benefit, the advancement of education in the subject of practical theology and the promotion of practical theology within the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and throughout the world by:

- advancing practice, teaching, learning and research in practical theology;
- promoting contact and exchange between the various contexts of practical theology, education and training;
- organising events and consultations appropriate to the above;
- fostering international links and activities;
- encouraging interchange between the worlds of practical theology, other disciplines, and local and national faith communities;

Goal 1

We seek to foster relationships with organisations which would enhance the work of BIAPT

Strategy: Compile, maintain and update database of past, present and potential partner organisations.

Goal 2

We aim to diversify our income stream in order to better achieve our charitable goals

Strategy 1: Monetise Practical Theology Hub

Strategy 2: Organise Annual Cycle of Events and Fundraising

Goal 3: While valuing our respective heritages, we aim to become a learning community marked by mutual accountability, honesty and hospitality.

Strategy 1: Explore possibility of creating sites of informal learning.

Strategy 2: Increase the diversity of BIAPT's membership

Sarah Brush, Chair from July 2023 onwards

**BIAPT (BRITISH AND IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR
PRACTICAL THEOLOGY)
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**Accounts
to 31 December 2023**

**Charity no: 1181208
Registered: 17 December 2018**

OBJECTS

The objects of BIAPT are for the public benefit,

The advancement of education in the subject of Practical Theology and the promotion of Practical Theology within the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and throughout the world by:

- (i) Advancing practice, teaching, learning and research in Practical Theology;
- (ii) Promoting contact and exchange between the various contexts of Practical Theology, education and training
- (iii) Organising events and consultations appropriate to the above
- (iv) Encouraging interchange between the worlds of Practical Theology, other disciplines, and local and national faith communities

TRUSTEES

Revd Mark Bennet (Treasurer)
Revd Dr Sarah Brush
Prof. Elaine Graham
Revd Owen Griffiths (chair)
Revd Dr David Beedon
Codie Crawshaw
Dr Sanjee Perera
Dr Delroy Hall
Revd Dr Jayson Rhodes
Revd Dr Lucy Dallas
Saiyyidah Zaidi

Income and Expenditure

Year to 31 December

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	17,715.00	18,669.00
Conference income	6,725.00	11,600.00
Event income	235.90	3,111.40
Summer School income	3,425.00	-
Donations	106.04	-
Interest	291.16	40.40
Total	28,498.10	33,420.80
EXPENDITURE		
Practical Theology	12,438.44	19,525.20
Conference expenses	3,716.20	2,928.33
Summer School	1,986.11	240.00
Other events	179.25	3,052.67
Prizes and bursaries	-	400.00
Committee and administration expenses	1,907.25	3,886.17
Website	1,448.09	2,373.33
Transaction charges	431.53	481.33
Total	22,106.87	33,119.25
Surplus/ (deficit) for period	6,391.23	301.55
Funds carried forward from previous year	26,661.19	26,359.64
Funds carried forward	33,052.42	26,661.19

BALANCE SHEET

	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022
ASSETS		
Cash and bank	33,052.42	26,661.19
REPRESENTING		
General funds	30,291.87	25,801.90
Bible SIG	463.67	
Summer school balance	2,296.88	859.29
Total	33,052.42	26,661.19

Mark Bennet
Treasurer
June 2024

M. D. Bennet

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BIAPT (British and Irish Association for Practical Theology)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the BIAPT (British and Irish Association for Practical Theology) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the 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

In connection with my examination, I confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. The requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. The accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
3. The accounts do 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 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.

Mrs Monika Tabatabaian ATT MAAT
Tax Avenue
Turnfields Gate, Turnfields
Thatcham, Berkshire
RG19 4PT



8 July 2024

Notes and Treasurer's report

1. BIAPT became a charity on 17 December 2018 and now operates with its new constitution under the umbrella of a CIO.
2. The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
3. Membership has eased off for the third year running, and looks to be reducing this year too.
4. The allocation of last year's conference costs and receipts is reflected in the split of funds in the balance sheet. The summer school figures for 2023 represent two years of activity. General funds stand at a little over £20,000 after taking account of some £10,000 outstanding for Practical Theology, and are now much more in line with ambitions.
5. 2022 showed a double payment for Practical Theology, which is why that figure is so much larger than the 2023 figure,
6. The 2023 online conference made a significant surplus – the costs recorded include the deposit for 2024 in person. The move to an in person conference will reduce the surplus on that

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