

THE BLACKLEY CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1184714

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-08-01

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Prospect View
Blackley
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West Yorkshire
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Phone 01422646803

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Website www.blackleycentre.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:(1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN THE PROMOTION OF RECONCILIATION AND PEACE, RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL HARMONY AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIANS AND PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS AND TO ADVANCE RELIGION AND IN PARTICULAR THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN SUCH ACTIVITY. (2) THE PROVISION OF INDEPENDENT MEDIATION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS EXPERIENCING OR THREATENED BY DISPUTE OR CONFLICT, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, NEIGHBOUR NUISANCE, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, HARASSMENT, BULLYING, FAMILY OR COMMUNITY CONFLICT WITH A VIEW TO THE PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ORDER AND FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE WELL-BEING OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS. IN THESE OBJECTS: "CONFLICT" MEANS ANY FORM OF CONFLICT BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES OR COMMUNITIES THAT MAY ARISE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE ARISING FROM PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE (WHETHER PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL), MISUNDERSTANDINGS, DISPUTES OR DISAGREEMENTS.

Activities: The Blackley Centre is a Registered Charity working for peace, transforming conflict, and enabling good inter faith relations, providing quality hospitality at a centre in West Yorkshire. The Centre was founded by Blackley Baptist Church, with which it now works in partnership from a shared site in the village of Blackley.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£50,928	£40,758	-	-
2023-09-30	£45,154	£43,858	-	-
2022-09-30	£47,137	£47,581	-	-
2021-09-30	£49,258	£40,817	-	-
2020-09-30	£24,100	£17,398	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Mary Frances Taylor	Chair	2021-03-06
Karen Ainsworth		2023-03-18
ROBERT QUARTON		2023-05-25

THE BLACKLEY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184714

Accounts

The Blackley Centre
Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30th September 2024
for the Charity Commission

The Blackley Centre is a Registered Charity working for peace, transforming conflict and enabling good inter faith relations, providing quality hospitality at a centre in West Yorkshire. The Centre was founded by Blackley Baptist Church, with which it works in partnership from its shared site in the village of Blackley.

The Blackley Centre was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1184714) on 1st August 2019 (Yorkshire Day!) and officially launched on 12th October 2019 with 80 friends and supporters.

The Trustees 23/24

Hugh Donald (resigned during the year)
Pam Smith (resigned during the year)
Samina Ali (resigned during the year)
Andrew Taylor
Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)
Karen Ainsworth
Rob Quarton (elected as a trustee and Treasurer March 2024)
Guy Hirst (nominated by Blackley Baptist Church September 2024)

The objects of the Blackley Centre are

‘(1) To advance education for the benefit of the public in the promotion of reconciliation and peace, religious and racial harmony and equality and diversity, in particular by the provision of facilities and retreat opportunities for Christians and people of all religions and beliefs and to advance religion and in particular the Christian religion in such activity.’

‘(2) The provision of independent mediation services for individuals, organisations and groups experiencing or threatened by dispute or conflict, such as, but not limited to, neighbour nuisance, anti-social behaviour, harassment, bullying, family or community conflict with a view to the preservation of public order and for the preservation and protection of the well-being of such individuals, organisations and groups.’

Our vision ...

- is of a society where any person may live safely in any community; be welcomed, accepted, valued and understood; contributing to community life; finding ways of living that are for mutual flourishing; and where the potential transformational power of conflict is embraced and transformed.

Our Aim is ...

- To provide a Centre which is an inspiring, and welcoming meeting place offering respect and hospitality for people seeking to transform conflict and make peace, and for people of all religions and beliefs to develop understanding and friendship.

- To create and enable respectful spaces where people are enabled through encounter to share stories, explore vulnerabilities, and recognise common interests, releasing energy and creativity that ultimately leads to transformation.
- To seek to model in our relationships, within and without the organisation, attitudes of respect, generosity and hospitality, born of appropriate compassion for the other.
- To provide training in conflict awareness and transformation and inter faith relations

Our Values and initial formation ...

Our values are to relate to individuals and communities with openness, respect, honesty, integrity and transparency, valuing diversity. We seek to be welcoming, hospitable and compassionate and to learn creatively as we work together for transformation.

For many years, Baptist ministers Andy and Jo Williams had had a dream of bringing their particular specialisms within reconciliation and inter faith work together with ministry into one place or centre. Friends and colleagues encouraged them to pursue this, and Blackley Baptist Church and Centre was suggested as a place to consider. The church's history, since 1993, of providing quality hospitality through their centre with a focus on spirituality and retreat certainly created an interesting possibility, and at the time the church was about to enter a period of pastoral vacancy.

Meetings, further conversations, deliberations and prayers ensued, resulting in the church calling Andy and Jo to be Joint Ministers of the Church in October 2016, unanimously endorsing the vision for the centre for peace, reconciliation and dialogue/inter faith relations. The Yorkshire Baptist Association funded a six month scoping project which confirmed the need and the potential for such a place and made a three year grant of seed funding to enable the work to begin in July 2017 with Andy and Jo delivering reconciliation and inter faith work at Blackley alongside pastoral ministry. The combined resources of Church and Ministers creates this unique place, well-resourced buildings blessed by beautiful and peaceful surroundings, with experienced professionals bringing their heart for reconciliation and hope for peace. With a focus on personal conversation, enabling direct transformative encounters, stimulating curiosity and grace, the Centre seeks to affect change and build peace.

The Scoping Project Group oversaw the initial work with Andy and Jo, developing a constitution for The Blackley Centre to become a CIO with a membership in consultation with the Church and wider church structures. Seven trustees, including two from Blackley Baptist Church, with a broad range of skills and specialist knowledge of church, reconciliation and inter faith relations were recruited to form the Board. This replaced the scoping project group, meeting formally for the first time in October 2018.

Achievements during the fifth trading year ...

In this fifth trading year the Centre continued to offer its work through a mix of online, on site and hybrid meetings, gatherings, courses and retreats.

David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors

Our greatest achievement for the second time is again the David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors, enabling children in 5 primary schools to address and transform conflict among their peers. 48 year 4 and 5 children and 9 staff did the training and their peers now have the opportunity to deal with conflict in a positive way when YPAs invite them to peace talks. Thus, potentially all year 5 and 6 pupils across all five schools are seeing that there are non-violent ways of resolving conflicts. The schools are becoming more peaceful learning communities where the impact of destructive conflict is being reduced and transformed. We hope this approach to culture change will help to stop children, young people and adults becoming involved in violence, including knife crime now and in the future. We introduced the concept of Peace Ambassadors to the whole staff teams in two new schools. Out theatre artist delivered the special launch assembly with the children and staff and our Director for Reconciliation introduced Young Peace Ambassadors and invited the children from years 4 and 5 to apply. She also led assemblies in the pilot schools, drawing on the experiences of the existing YPAs and again invited the children from years 4 and 5 to apply. This led the children and staff coming to the Blackley Centre for two days to train to be Peace Ambassadors. After the summer, everyone met up for a refresher day, leaving excited and confident about being Peace Ambassadors in their schools, supported by their teachers. Finally, the children and their families were invited to the Centre Celebration for their commissioning as Peace Ambassadors and 90 came along! All this was only possible because of a grant from the West Yorkshire Mayor's Fund of £7970. YPAs is much needed in our increasingly divided world and it has huge potential.

Training

Through our Director for Reconciliation we delivered commissioned training days for 5 church colleges, Regional Associations and Dioceses. These days, or combination of days, focus on how we manage ourselves in conflict situations, and how we can address anxiety in churches caused by difference and division and general education work around conflict in churches, improving the culture. She also delivered a final Mediation Skills Training for Smile Mediation.

A key development this year was the creation of our own mediation skills and restorative practice training entitled 'Paths of Peace – Handling Conflict Well'. Initially, this is for ministers and church leaders. It is designed to help people within their own context, to handle conflict and disagreement well: learning processes and practices that promote restoration of relationship and reconciliation. We hope that this will be a significant resource for churches of all denominations, but primarily the Baptist denomination, to improve the culture in churches. This course was delivered for the first time in October 2024, outside the scope of this report, but at the close of our year in September 8 people had booked. In all, approximately 200 people have experienced training coming from (or in partnership with) the Blackley Centre.

Interpersonal Mediations and Group Facilitations.

Over the course of the year the Centre has offered several Group Facilitations to church congregations. These occasionally involved a single meeting, but more often have taken several months of careful and committed working to improve relationships. One additional significant conversation was between people of different faiths, including Jews and Muslims, as well as community leaders, living within the same city, exploring the impact of the war in Gaza with Israel. This involved facilitating about 50 people in listening deeply and carefully to one another. The CEO of the City Council

who commissioned the conversation said it was exemplary and the best 'conversation' of that kind that she had ever participated in. Our Director for Reconciliation has conducted 1:1 Handling Conflict Coaching Sessions with a variety of people, some connected with the group sessions above but others on unrelated issues. We are also indebted to associates of the Centre who have worked with us on several of these cases. In all, around 275 people have received mediation/facilitation from The Blackley Centre.

Inter Faith Work

The challenges of funding interfaith work have meant that this has been a smaller part of our work this year. However, due to the Hamas attack on Israel last October and the ensuing war in Gaza, we were asked, as mentioned earlier, to facilitate representatives of the faith communities in a city to have dialogue about the impact of the conflict on their interfaith relations here. We were also saddened by the closure of the Interfaith Network UK, but delighted to be asked by Calderdale Interfaith to work in partnership with them and the Peace Studies Department of the University of Bradford to plan a Peace Conference to be hosted at the Centre in Inter Faith Week 2024. Our Director for Reconciliation continued to support interfaith work in Calderdale as part of the steering group of Calderdale Interfaith.

Revd Nikki Jenkins

It's not so much of an achievement, but more the appreciation of a gift and certainly a major highlight of this year to have had the Revd Nikki Jenkins working with us. Nikki led on our Peace and Quiet Retreat Days, drawing participants into deeper reflection through her 'Out of the Box' storytelling with sand and figures and in the ideas to develop our Peace Garden. She also led us in a partnership event with the Church to host the Project Violet Exhibition on the experience of women in Baptist ministry. She did an interfaith course on 'Multiple Belonging' and supported our inter-faith work in Calderdale, Young Peace Ambassadors, the Centre's stall at the Baptist Assembly and our first Paths of Peace course.

Other achievements include:

- Provided Gilmore Fraleigh Friendly Style Profiling which is a personality profiling process that is helpful for managing ourselves in stressful and anxious times. It is routinely used in much of our training with groups as well as with individuals. Our Director for Reconciliation developed a simplified version which is part of the Young Peace Ambassador training.
- Continued to work with the Yorkshire Baptist Association exploring how the Centre could assist in handling conflict in churches and through this we have recognised the Blackley Centre as a national, as well as regional resource.
- Continued to work with Calderdale Inter Faith and their steering group
- Welcomed regular and guest organisations to use the Blackley Centre and provide hospitality.
- Continued as a partner of Reconcilers Together and ran a regional networking and support day for past participants of the Journey of Hope as well as partner organisations in the north.

In terms of organisational developments, the Centre has:

- Welcomed a new Trustee nominated by Blackley Baptist Church
- Elected our new Treasurer who had previously been co-opted
- Continued to extend the list of regular contacts;
- Continued to welcome new members
- Continued to support the development of the Blackley site.
- Continued to fund our half-time Directors, with a full shared Baptist minister's stipend;
- Strengthened the staff team with two small part-time roles with a Co-leader for Playing with Peace and a Graphic Design and Communications role.

Organisation

The Centre is run on a day-to-day basis by the Directors, Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams (one full time equivalent) assisted by Christine Allcock, the Centre Manager (voluntary), who oversees all use of the Centre, manages bookings by external groups and arranges volunteer teams from the Church and its friends to provide the catering. During the year the team has been strengthened with the addition of two small part-time roles with a Co-leader for Playing with Peace in Michelle Edwards and a Graphic Design and Communications role with Tim Ingram. The Centre's finances are coordinated by the Treasurer, with banking assistance by Pauline Barnard, a volunteer from the Church

The Centre is overseen by the trustees and we began the year with seven, but it was a year of change. In November, Hugh Donald resigned due to a change in personal circumstances and Pam Smith felt it was time to conclude her work as trustee nominated by the church. Desley Taylor concluded her time as the minute secretary to the trustees in February. Due to a new work role Samina Ali concluded her time as a trustee in August. We owe a huge debt of thanks to all of these for their work as all but Samina had been with us since the trustee body was established in 2019 and have seen the Centre through its early years, including the challenges of Covid 19.

We're very grateful to our Chair, Revd Mary Taylor for her leadership and to the remaining trustees for navigating this time of change. Rob Quarton had been co-opted as our Treasurer in 2023 and was elected as a trustee at our AGM in March 2024. Karen Ainsworth has continued to serve as has Andrew Taylor although he gave notice that he would conclude his last year of service in November 2024 as a trustee nominated by the church. We carried a vacancy for a trustee nominated by the church for much of this year, but we were delighted when Guy Hirst offered his services and was appointed as a nominated trustee by the church in September, thus concluding the year with five trustees.

The trustees have worked particularly hard this year with the Directors to find a sustainable way forward for the Centre which has included the development of our Paths of Peace Mediation Skills Training, Mediations, Young Peace Ambassadors, interfaith work and encouraging membership of organisations, as well as individuals, and applying for grant funding. All this takes time to develop and as an interim measure the Centre made an appeal for £20,000 in the summer of 2024. With the help of our funding consultant, Lisa Jagger, an application was also made to the Community Fund

of the National Lottery for core funding of £20,000 and in June we received the wonderful news that this had been successful, but the challenge of sustainability continues. It was good that we were able to share our funding consultant's expertise in making another Community Fund application for £20,000 for the Church for the refurbishment of the Prospect Suite entrance and toilets and we heard in March that this had been successful.

As we enter a sixth year of trading ...

Hopeful indicators for 2024-2025 include:

- Further developing the 'David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Project' in partnership with primary schools and funders and extending it to a secondary school.
- Delivering our own Mediation Skills Course in the name of the Blackley Centre.
- Developing an ongoing partnership with a regional association of churches
- Developing closer working relationships with the regional associations that make up the Baptist Union of Great Britain
- Continuing the development of commissioned training and mediation work
- Continuing to develop 'Playing with Peace Parent and Toddlers' in partnership with the Church.
- Continuing successful searches for external funding to develop the work of the Centre in strategic areas.
- Increasing personal membership and financial support
- Developing organisational membership and financial support
- Continuing to work in partnership with Blackley Baptist Church to help in achieving its vision of Blackley Gatherings for Peace.

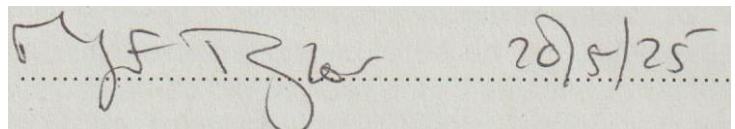
All of the above provide continuing evidence of the Blackley Centre's work and influence. As strategic planning continues, the Centre remains confident in its potential for growth in the coming years.

The trustees continue to put in place further structural provision, that will underpin further strategic planning and enable the Centre to develop ever more widely its ability to fulfil the original vision.

Signed by Revd

Mary Taylor Chair

of Trustees

A photograph of a handwritten signature and date on a piece of paper. The signature is written in dark ink and appears to be 'Mary Taylor'. To the right of the signature, the date '28/5/25' is written. The paper has a horizontal dotted line running across it.



The Blackley Centre

Annual Financial Statements

For the year ending
30th September 2024

Charity Registration Number 1184714

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF THE BLACKLEY CENTRE**

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes the review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

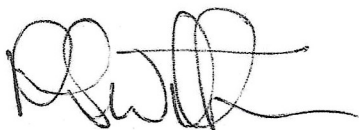
Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the Blackley Centre has failed;
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act;
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name **Robert Stephen Williams**

Signature



Date **28th January 2025**

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body **ACIB**

Address

**15 Ridge View Drive
Birkby
HUDDERSFIELD
HD2 2EX**

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

	<i>Notes</i>	Current Year 2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Income			
Service Provision	1	16,450	11,732
Donations and Grants	2	31,105	30,959
Other	3	3,373	2,463
Total		50,928	45,154
Expenditure			
Practitioner Costs	4	33,114	30,296
Delivery Costs	5	1,470	5,872
Operating Costs	6	5,526	4,989
Other	7	648	2,701
Total		40,758	43,858
Net income for the reporting period		10,170	1,296

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

	<i>Notes</i>	Current Year (30/09/24)	2022-23 (30/09/23) £
Fixed assets			
<i>Tangible Assets</i>		0	1,075
<i>Total fixed assets</i>	8	0	1,075
Current assets			
Debtors	9	100	1,466
Cash at bank and in hand		36,640	26,470
Prepayments			
<i>Total current assets</i>		36,740	27,936
Less Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		0	0
<i>Net current assets</i>		36,740	27,936
<i>Total net assets</i>		36,740	29,011
Funds of the Charity			
Net income this reporting period		10,170	1,296
Retained income brought forward		26,470	25,174
Total funds		36,640	26,470

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

For the year ended 30 September 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with FRS102 SORP

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Chair of Trustees:



Mary Taylor

Date

13/2/2025

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (cont.)**

Accounting Policies

Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015). The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. There has been no change in accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on the accrual basis as the liability is accrued. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation is generally exempt from income tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. There are currently no restricted funds to account for.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (cont.)**

1. Fee income from Service Provision		2024	2023
Including teaching, training, mediation services and special events consistent with the objects of the charity			
		16,450	11,732
2. Grants and Donations			
	2024	2024	2024
	Unrestricte	Restricted	Total
	d funds	funds	Funds
	£	£	£
Awards For All	20,000		20,000
Yorkshire Baptist Association	0		6,000
West Yorkshire Mayor – Safer Community Fund	0		7,970
Southall Trust	0		3,000
Donations – Standing Orders	3,813	-	3,813
Donations - Other	7,292	-	7,292
	31,105	-	31,105
Total			30,959
3. Other Income		2024	2023
Gift Aid		3,231	682
Mansfield Baptist Church		0	1,456
Hope Church		0	325
Other		142	0
		3,373	2,463
4. Practitioner Costs		2024	2023
Directors' Stipends		31,800	29,817
Other Employees		1,154	0
Professional Associates		0	479
Staff training and Supervision		160	0
		33,114	30,296

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (cont.)**

5. Project Delivery Costs	2024	2023
Interfaith	0	353
Reconciliation and Mediations	85	5,519
Commissioned Training	960	0
Retreats, Networks & Young Peace Ambassador	425	0
	1,470	5,872
6. Operating Costs	2024	2023
Fundraising Consultancy	3,150	2,458
Publicity	49	272
Insurance	1,030	839
Telephone	606	906
Computer Software and Hardware	187	181
IT Support and Email	488	333
Stationery and Postage	16	0
	5,526	4,989
7. Other	2024	2023
Contribution to Blackley Baptist Church	500	1,500
Hire and other costs to Blackley Baptist Church	0	1,201
Trustees' Strategy Event	148	0
	648	2,701
8. Tangible Assets		
At 30 th September 2024 there were no Tangible Assets held by the organisation		
9. Debtors		
<i>Invoices issued before end of September 2024</i>		
	2024	2023
Lister Hill Baptist Church (Invoices 2024-010, and 2024-012)	100	0
Newcastle DBF (invoice 2023-037)	0	1,466
	100	1,466

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (cont.)**

10. Trustee's expenses

None of the trustees have claimed expenses during the year for travel, subsistence, and accommodation costs.

11. Cash at bank and in hand

	2024	2023
Coop Current account	36,640	26,470
	<u>36,640</u>	<u>26,470</u>

12. Policy on Reserves

During the year 2023-2024 the Blackley Centre achieved its policy to hold a minimum of £15,000 as its reserve (*agreed at Meeting of Trustees, 25th November 2021*)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF THE BLACKLEY CENTRE**

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report

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The Trustees 22/23

Hugh Donald
Revd Dr Richard Kidd (Treasurer) (sadly died in July 2023)
Pam Smith
Andrew Taylor
Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)
Professor Paul Weller (retired March 2023)
Samina Ali
Karen Ainsworth (appointed March 2023)
Rob Quarton co-opted as a trustee and Treasurer

The objects of the Blackley Centre are

‘(1) To advance education for the benefit of the public in the promotion of reconciliation and peace, religious and racial harmony and equality and diversity, in particular by the provision of facilities and retreat opportunities for Christians and people of all religions and beliefs and to advance religion and in particular the Christian religion in such activity.’

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- To provide training in conflict awareness and transformation and inter faith relations

Our Values and initial formation ...

Our values are to relate to individuals and communities with openness, respect, honesty, integrity and transparency, valuing diversity. We seek to be welcoming, hospitable and compassionate and to learn creatively as we work together for transformation.

For many years, Baptist ministers Andy and Jo Williams had had a dream of bringing their particular specialisms within reconciliation and inter faith work together with ministry into one place or centre. Friends and colleagues encouraged them to pursue this, and Blackley Baptist Church and Centre was suggested as a place to consider. The church's history, since 1993, of providing quality hospitality through their centre with a focus on spirituality and retreat certainly created an interesting possibility, and at the time the church was about to enter a period of pastoral vacancy.

Meetings, further conversations, deliberations and prayers ensued, resulting in the church calling Andy and Jo to be Joint Ministers of the Church in October 2016, unanimously endorsing the vision for the centre for peace, reconciliation and dialogue/inter faith relations. The Yorkshire Baptist Association funded a six month scoping project which confirmed the need and the potential for such a place and made a three year grant of seed funding to enable the work to begin in July 2017 with Andy and Jo delivering reconciliation and inter faith work at Blackley alongside pastoral ministry. The combined resources of Church and Ministers creates this unique place, well-resourced buildings blessed by beautiful and peaceful surroundings, with experienced professionals bringing their heart for reconciliation and hope for peace. With a focus on personal conversation, enabling direct transformative encounters, stimulating curiosity and grace, the Centre seeks to affect change and build peace.

The Scoping Project Group oversaw the initial work with Andy and Jo, developing a constitution for The Blackley Centre to become a CIO with a membership in consultation with the Church and wider church structures. Seven trustees, including two from Blackley Baptist Church, with a broad range of skills and specialist knowledge of church, reconciliation and inter faith relations were recruited to form the Board. This replaced the scoping project group, meeting formally for the first time in October 2018.

In Memorium

The Revd Dr Richard Kidd served as a founding trustee and our first Treasurer from when the Centre was established as a CIO in August 2019. At the AGM in March, he

gave notice that he would conclude his work as the Treasurer and as a trustee at the end of the financial year. Sadly, he was not well, but it came as a great shock when Richard died of a heart attack whilst in hospital in July 2023. This was a huge loss not only to the Centre, but to all the very many friends and colleagues he had as a Baptist minister, Principal and Co-Principal of Northern Baptist College. He was talented as a radical theologian, poet and artist and he was a dear friend. He was a friend and supporter of the Centre from the very beginning, even when it was just an idea before Andy and Jo Williams came to Blackley and he was delighted to support the Centre as a founding trustee and Treasurer, helping us gain charitable status in 2019. He was full of enthusiasm for the work of peace, reconciliation, justice and inter faith and designed our logo and banner overseeing the production of our initial publicity and original website. Through the years Richard has given so much to the Centre and his artwork adorns the walls. He was a great friend, and we miss him very much.

Achievements during the fourth trading year ...

In this fourth trading year the Centre continued to offer its work through a mix of online, on site and hybrid meetings/gatherings and courses.

- Our greatest achievement this year has been the highly successful development of the David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Pilot project in memory of one of our founding trustees, Lord David Shutt. We worked with three local primary schools, introducing the project to each school staff team and giving them a taste of the training. Then two theatre artists led a special, highly participative and fun launch assembly in each school, inviting children from years 4 and 5 to apply. This led to 32 children and 6 staff coming to Blackley for two days training as Young Peace Ambassadors, learning and practicing the GLIDE process of transforming conflict. In September this was followed by a refresher day, followed by a Centre Celebration to commission the Young Peace Ambassadors with their families and Centre supporters. We are very grateful to the Southall Trust who made a grant of £3000 in support of the project in December.
- Provided training in peace, mediation and reconciliation with and for our partners and clients. For the first part of the year our Director for Reconciliation, Jo Williams, continued to work as the lead trainer for Smile Mediation and delivered training for three of their client organisations and a fourth in September. She also delivered several commissioned training days for Dioceses, working with Curates, Training Incumbents, and Missional leaders on Gilmore Fraleigh Style Work; Coping with Anxiety in Church Leadership; Transforming Conflict and Handling Change. She has also led training days for individual Baptist Churches. In all, approximately 200 people have experienced training coming from (or in partnership with) the Blackley Centre.
- Provided Interpersonal Mediations/Group Facilitations to couples, individuals, and to larger groups, involving couples with marital tensions, individuals within churches struggling with relationships, as well as clergy teams, for Baptist, URC and Anglican churches, cathedrals, colleges and dioceses and a prison. We are very grateful to our associate mediators who have worked with the Centre on several of these cases. In all, around 75 people have received mediation/facilitation from The Blackley Centre.

- Provided coaching for individuals in conflict situations or those seeking to develop skills in reconciliation processes.
- Provided a monthly programme of Peace and Quiet Days creating a varied space for people to use to find restoration and peace. The days start with a group stilling and reflection time, and offer space for reading, prayer, quiet reflection and study, with the opportunity to walk on the Blackley Pilgrimage, or receive one-to-one coaching or conversation regarding conflict.
- Provided Gilmore Fraleigh Friendly Style Profiling which is a personality profiling process that is incredibly helpful with regard managing ourselves in stressful and anxious times. It is routinely used in much of our training with groups as well as with individuals. Our Director for Reconciliation developed a simplified version for the Young Peace Ambassador training which was very much appreciated by the children.
- Our Inter Faith work included hosting the 'Dignity of Women' Exhibition, delivering a primary school assembly on Christianity, hosting Calderdale Interfaith Women's Peace and Quiet Day, leading the 'Listening as Leaders' workshop at Calderdale Interfaith's 'Women in Leadership' Conference, showcasing Blackley at the Inter Faith Network's Regional meeting and hosting part of a Hindu funeral.
- Our Director for Inter Faith Relations, Andy Williams, continued his national inter faith role as Moderator of the Baptist Inter Faith Working Group, but after consultation with Centre Trustees, concluded this role in June to focus on local inter faith work and give more support to the Centre's peace work.
- Continued to work with the Yorkshire Baptist Association exploring how the Centre could assist in handling conflict in churches and provided a workshop on listening at their annual Assembly, as well as networking with ministers at their annual conference.
- Continued to work with Calderdale Inter Faith and their steering group
- Provided two months of sabbatical leave for our Directors in July and August.
- Welcomed regular and guest organisations to use the Blackley Centre and provide hospitality.
- Continued as a partner of Reconcilers Together and as part of the Community of Practice and running a regional networking and support day for past participants of the Journey of Hope as well as partner organisations in the north. Unfortunately, this year's day was cancelled due to snow.

In terms of organisational developments, the Centre has:

- Appointed a new Trustee
- Co-opted a new Treasurer
- Continued to extend the list of regular contacts;
- Continued to support the development of the Blackley site.
- Continued to fund our half-time Directors, with a full shared Baptist minister's stipend;

Organisation

The Centre is run on a day to day basis by the Directors, Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams (one full time equivalent) assisted by the part-time Administrator and by Christine Allcock, the Centre Manager (voluntary), who oversees all use of the

Centre, manages bookings by external groups and arranges volunteer teams from the Church and its friends to provide the catering.

The Centre's finances are coordinated by the Treasurer, with continuing book-keeping assistance by Pauline Barnard, a volunteer from the Church. Rob Quarton, a member of the Centre, offered his support as a possible new Treasurer and was co-opted by the trustees. A transition process was already underway when Richard died and we are very grateful to Rob for taking on the role in difficult circumstances in the middle of the financial year and completing the accounts for presentation.

We are very grateful to the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA) for giving grant funding to the Centre from the time of the scoping project in 2017, with seed funding from 2017 to 2020 and taper funding to June 2023. We look forward to developing our ongoing relationship with the YBA in new ways.

In March, our main training client Smile moved into a different model of management becoming part of the Resolve family. This led to a reduction in work with Smile and in September Jo Williams delivered a final Mediation Skills Training for Smile. She is hugely grateful for all the opportunities that Smile Mediation gave to her over 23 years as the place where she honed her craft as both a mediator and a trainer. However, the loss of Smile as a client has resulted in the loss of an important income stream. This, combined with the conclusion of funding from the YBA, resulted in a challenging financial situation and a major funding application was made, but it was sadly declined. The situation was temporarily alleviated by a very generous gift of £10,000, which was followed by a grant of £7,970 for the development of the Young Peace Ambassadors by the West Yorkshire Mayor's Fund. These were very welcome, but the trustees are well aware of the need for new income streams to be developed next year.

At the third AGM on 18th March 2023, Professor Paul Weller retired as a trustee and was thanked for his broad insights and particular expertise on inter faith matters. Hugh Donald was re-elected to serve as a trustee to 2026 and Karen Ainsworth was elected to serve for the first time as a trustee to 2026.

As we enter a fourth year of trading ...

Hopeful indicators for 2023-2024 include:

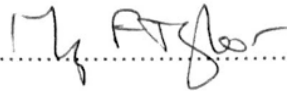
- Further developing the 'David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Project' in partnership with the three pilot primary schools and extending it to three more schools funded by the grant awarded by the West Yorkshire Mayor's Fund in September.
- The gift of the half-time ministry of the Revd Nikki Jenkins by Hope Baptist Church, Hebden Bridge, to both Blackley Church and Centre.
- Developing our own Mediation Skills Course in the name of the Blackley Centre.
- Continuing the development of training and mediation work
- Re-launching 'Playing with Peace: the Parent and Toddlers' initiative in partnership with the Church, and with the help of grant funding from the Wharfedale Foundation. We had hoped to do this in 22/23 but were unable to recruit an appropriate Co-Leader.
- Continuing successful searches for external funding to develop the work of the Centre in strategic areas;

- Increasing the membership and financial support.
- Continuing to work in partnership with the church to help in achieving its vision of Blackley Gatherings for Peace.

All the above provides evidence of the continuing development of the Centres work and influence. As strategic planning continues, the Centre remains confident in its potential for growth in the coming years.

The Trustees continue to put in place a further structural provision, that will underpin further strategic planning, and enable the Centre to develop ever more widely its ability to fulfil the original vision.

Signed by Revd Mary Taylor

 26/6/24

Chair of Trustees



The Blackley Centre

Annual Financial Statements

For the year ending
30th September 2023

Charity Registration Number 1184714

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BLACKLEY CENTRE

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes the review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the Blackley Centre has failed;
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act;
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name ROBERT STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Signature 

Date 27TH FEBRUARY 2024

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body A.C.I.B.

Address 15 RIDGE VIEW DR
BIRKBY
HUDDERSFIELD
HD2 2EX.

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	<i>Notes</i>	Current Year 2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Income			
Service Provision	1	11,732	22,442
Donations and Grants	2	30,959	23,835
Other	3	2,463	860
Total		45,154	47,137
Expenditure			
Practitioner Costs	4	30,296	35,049
Delivery Costs	5	5,872	4,640
Operating Costs	6	4,989	4,600
Governance		0	1,033
Other	7	2,701	2,259
Total		43,858	47,581
Net income for the reporting period		1,296	(444)

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Current Year (30/09/23)	2021-22 (30/09/22) £
Fixed assets			
<i>Tangible Assets</i>		1,075	2,170
<i>Total fixed assets</i>	8	1,075	2,170
Current assets			
Debtors	9	1,466	1,392
Cash at bank and in hand		26,470	25,173
Prepayments			
<i>Total current assets</i>		27,936	26,565
Less Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		0	1,037
<i>Net current assets</i>		27,936	25,528
<i>Total net assets</i>		29,011	27,698
Funds of the Charity			
Net income this reporting period		1,296	(444)
Retained income brought forward		25,174	25,618
Total funds		26,470	25,174

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

For the year ended 30 September 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with FRS102 SORP

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 29th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Chair of Trustees:



Mary Taylor

Date 29th February 2024

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (cont.)**

Accounting Policies

Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015). The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. There has been no change in accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on the accrual basis as the liability is accrued. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay the resources and the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation is generally exempt from income tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. There are currently no restricted funds to account for.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (cont.)**

1. Fee income from Service Provision

	2023	2022
Including teaching, training, mediation services and special events consistent with the objects of the charity	11,732	22,442

2. Grants and Donations

	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Yorkshire Baptist Association	6,000		6,000	
West Yorkshire Mayor – Safer Community Fund	7,970		7,970	
Southall Trust	3,000		3,000	
Donations – Standing Orders	3,394	-	3,394	
Donations - Other	10,595	-	10,595	
	30,959	-	30,959	23,835

3. Other Income

	2023	2022
Gift Aid	682	860
Mansfield Baptist Church	1,456	
Hope Church	325	
	2,463	860

4. Practitioner Costs

	2023	2022
Directors' Stipends	29,817	27,664
Other Employees		6,630
Professional Associates	479	775
	30,296	35,049

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (cont.)**

5. Project Delivery Costs

	2023	2022
Interfaith Reconciliation	353	677
	5,519	3,963
	5,872	4,640

6. Operating Costs

	2023	2022
Fundraising Consultancy	2,458	2,100
Web Platform	272	238
Insurance	839	885
Telephone	906	871
Zoom Contract	181	173
Email Contract	333	333
	4,989	4,600

7. Other

	2023	2022
Contribution to Blackley Baptist Church	1,500	1,500
Hire and other costs to Blackley Baptist Church	1,201	759
	2,701	2,259

8. Tangible Assets

These comprise two laptops computers (1,871 and £299 purchased in 2021).
Depreciated after two years - to be written off over three years

9. Debtors

Invoices issued before end of September 2023

	2023	2022
Newcastle DBF (invoice 2023/037)	1,466	
	1,466	1,392

10. Trustee's expenses

None of the trustees have claimed expenses during the year for travel, subsistence, and accommodation costs.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (cont.)**

11. Cash at bank and in hand

	2023	2022
Coop Current account	26,470	25,173
	<u>26,470</u>	<u>25,173</u>

12. Policy on Reserves

During the year 2022-2023 the Blackley Centre achieved its policy to hold a minimum of £15,000 as its reserve (*agreed at Meeting of Trustees, 25th November 2021*)

Audit Of The Blackley Centre Accounts – Year ending 30th September 2023

I am pleased to advise that my examination of the above accounts has been successfully completed.

In accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission I can confirm that:-

- The Blackley Centre is eligible to have an independent examination rather than an audit, based on the gross income being less than £250,000.
- There are no conflicts of interest as stated in the General Directions that prevents me from carrying out this independent examination.

The examination included:-

- A full check of all formulae used in preparing the spreadsheets upon which the records are based.
- A review of all income and expenditure transactions for reasonability.
- A full check of 6 months income and 6 months expenditure transactions to the Bank Statement.
- A sample check of 6 invoices for expenditure selected at random from all the transactions.
- An examination of the chequebook to confirm that all cheques held for the account were present.
- A full check of the figures included in the Financial Statements to the accounting records.
- A full check of the figures in the Report to the AGM to the accounting records.
- A full check of the figures in the Financial Statements to those in the Report to the AGM.

The review of the spreadsheet on which the records are held identified minor errors, and these have been corrected.

One of the invoices selected could not be produced. I have asked that they ensure that all paper receipts are retained for inspection.

The figures included in the Financial Statements have been checked to the accompanying Notes and agreed. Minor changes were necessary and these have been undertaken.

A review of the Centre's chequebook indicated that cheques numbered 100006 to 100010 had been issued during the accounting period. This agrees to the accounting records.

A small number of formatting errors were identified and corrected to provide consistency throughout the Financial Statements.



Independent Examiner

THE BLACKLEY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184714

Accounts

The Blackley Centre Annual Report of Trustees for the year ended 30th September 2022

The Blackley Centre is a Registered Charity working for peace, transforming conflict and enabling good inter faith relations, providing quality hospitality at a centre in West Yorkshire. The Centre was founded by Blackley Baptist Church, with which it works in partnership from its shared site in the village of Blackley.

The Blackley Centre was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1184714) on 1st August 2019 (Yorkshire Day!) and officially launched on 12th October 2019 with 80 friends and supporters.

The Trustees 21/22

Hugh Donald
Revd Dr Richard Kidd (Treasurer)
Pam Smith
Andrew Taylor
Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)
Professor Paul Weller
Samina Ali

The objects of the Blackley Centre are

‘(1) To advance education for the benefit of the public in the promotion of reconciliation and peace, religious and racial harmony and equality and diversity, in particular by the provision of facilities and retreat opportunities for Christians and people of all religions and beliefs and to advance religion and in particular the Christian religion in such activity.’

‘(2) The provision of independent mediation services for individuals, organisations and groups experiencing or threatened by dispute or conflict, such as, but not limited to, neighbour nuisance, anti-social behaviour, harassment, bullying, family or community conflict with a view to the preservation of public order and for the preservation and protection of the well-being of such individuals, organisations and groups.’

Our vision ...

- is of a society where any person may live safely in any community; be welcomed, accepted, valued and understood; contributing to community life; finding ways of living that are for mutual flourishing; and where the potential transformational power of conflict is embraced and transformed.

Our Aim is ...

- To provide a Centre which is an inspiring, and welcoming meeting place offering respect and hospitality for people seeking to transform conflict and make peace, and for people of all religions and beliefs to develop understanding and friendship.

- To create and enable respectful spaces where people are enabled through encounter to share stories, explore vulnerabilities, and recognise common interests, releasing energy and creativity that ultimately leads to transformation.
- To seek to model in our relationships, within and without the organisation, attitudes of respect, generosity and hospitality, born of appropriate compassion for the other.
- To provide training in conflict awareness and transformation and inter faith relations

Our Values and initial formation ...

Our values are to relate to individuals and communities with openness, respect, honesty, integrity and transparency, valuing diversity. We seek to be welcoming, hospitable and compassionate and to learn creatively as we work together for transformation.

For many years, Baptist ministers Andy and Jo Williams had had a dream of bringing their particular specialisms within reconciliation and inter faith work together with ministry into one place or centre. Friends and colleagues encouraged them to pursue this, and Blackley Baptist Church and Centre was suggested as a place to consider. The church's history, since 1993, of providing quality hospitality through their centre with a focus on spirituality and retreat certainly created an interesting possibility, and at the time the church was about to enter a period of pastoral vacancy.

Meetings, further conversations, deliberations and prayers ensued, resulting in the church calling Andy and Jo to be Joint Ministers of the Church in October 2016, unanimously endorsing the vision for the centre for peace, reconciliation and dialogue/inter faith relations. The Yorkshire Baptist Association funded a six month scoping project which confirmed the need and the potential for such a place and made a three year grant of seed funding to enable the work to begin in July 2017 with Andy and Jo delivering reconciliation and inter faith work at Blackley alongside pastoral ministry. The combined resources of Church and Ministers creates this unique place, well-resourced buildings blessed by beautiful and peaceful surroundings, with experienced professionals bringing their heart for reconciliation and hope for peace. With a focus on personal conversation, enabling direct transformative encounters, stimulating curiosity and grace, the Centre seeks to affect change and build peace.

The Scoping Project Group oversaw the initial work with Andy and Jo, developing a constitution for The Blackley Centre to become a CIO with a membership in consultation with the Church and wider church structures. Seven trustees, including two from Blackley Baptist Church, with a broad range of skills and specialist knowledge of church, reconciliation and inter faith relations were recruited to form the Board. This replaced the scoping project group, meeting formally for the first time in October 2018.

In Memorium

Very sadly Lord David Shutt, one of our founding trustees, died unexpectedly in November 2020. Due to the Pandemic, it was not possible to gather to celebrate his life. Our Directors were privileged to work with Margaret and David's family to plan his Memorial Service which was held at Blackley in March 2022. People came from far

and wide to give thanks for Lord David as a Yorkshireman, committed to family, faith, community, local and national politics and his beloved Calderdale. In addition to a number of tributes, our Directors introduced the plans for two memorial projects in his name. The first to be a physical memorial on the Blackley site to enable people to gather together outside. The second to be David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors, training young people to become peacemakers in their school communities. A number of generous donations and grants were received in response, including those gathered by the Community Foundation for Calderdale which David founded. We were very grateful for these as they provided a basis to move forward with both projects. Other funding applications were submitted for the David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors project and we are very grateful for a further grant from the Edith Maud Ellis Trust.

Achievements during the third trading year ...

The third trading year covers the Centre's emergence from the Pandemic in which we had adapted to providing our services and activities online. This change in ways of working continued to affect our work this year as we offered a mix of online, on site and hybrid meetings/gatherings and courses.

- The David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Project has been planned and developed since its launch at his memorial service, focussing on building relationships with local schools, and securing funding. By the end of September 2022 we had secured £5,100.
- Secured a grant of £2,700 from the Wharfedale Foundation to fund a co-leader to enable us to relaunch the Playing with Peace Parent and Toddlers in partnership with the church.
- Continuing to deliver our course 'Let's Talk: About Conflict' to church groups and extending it into 'Lets Talk 2' which is primarily a supportive group training for experienced ministers and church leaders, looking to increase their personal skills in managing tension and anxiety in themselves and their churches.
- Continuing as a partner of Reconcilers Together as part of the Community of Practice and running regional networking and support days for past participants of the Journey of Hope (3 cohorts) as well as partner organisations in the north.
- Continuing to provide training in peace, mediation and reconciliation with and for our partners, sometimes via Zoom. The other main area of training has been with churches and colleges, delivering modules for Ministers-in-Training at 4 Baptist colleges as well as working with newly accredited ministers (NAMS) in 4 regional associations of Baptist churches and teaching the BA module for the Luther King Centre's Durham Common Awards on Conflict Transformation for Church Leaders. In all approximately 275 people experienced training from (or in partnership with) the Blackley Centre.
- Continuing to provide Interpersonal Mediations and Group Facilitations to couples, individuals, and to larger groups. Some of these were one-off meetings, others have taken several months of careful and committed working to improve relationships. This has involved couples with marital tensions, individuals within churches struggling with relationships, as well as clergy teams, for Baptist, URC and Anglican churches, cathedrals, colleges and dioceses. Approximately 80 people have received mediation/facilitation.

- Continuing to provide coaching for individuals in conflict situations or those seeking to develop skills in reconciliation processes;
- Providing a monthly programme of Peace and Quiet Days creating a varied space for people to use to find restoration and peace. The days start with a group stilling and reflection time, and offer space for reading, prayer, quiet reflection and study, with the opportunity to walk on the Blackley Pilgrimage, or receive one-to-one coaching or conversation regarding conflict.
- Gilmore Fraleigh Friendly Style Profiling is a personality profiling process which is incredibly helpful with regard managing ourselves in stressful and anxious times. It is routinely used in much of our training and the Centre delivered Profiles to over 60 people – individuals as well as small groups – as they went through coaching or support sessions. One particularly useful place of delivery was to curates with their training incumbents as this becomes particularly helpful when people who work together explore their profiles.
- Continuing to work with the Yorkshire Baptist Association in handling conflict in churches. A Healthy Church Listening Team was conceived and a proposal was developed to appoint and train listeners to work with churches in conflict. This was advertised, but applications were lower than had been hoped, plus mainly from ministers, so the YBA decided to put the project on hold.
- Our Community Fund Award from last year enabled us to employ a part-time administrator and offer an Inter Faith Programme from October to June. This included a conference on climate change, inter faith dialogues on inter faith friendships, climate change and mental health, inter faith visits to a gurdwara and the holocaust education centre and a Zoom networking meeting for leaders of inter faith organisations in Yorkshire.
- For Inter Faith Week we partnered with Elland Amateur Radio to send greetings for Inter Faith Week around the country and the world and the Inter Faith Network recognised that this had not been done before. A first for the Blackley Centre.
- Continuing to work with the Baptist and United Reformed Inter Faith groups.
- Continuing to work with Calderdale Inter Faith and other inter faith groups.
- Provided a month of sabbatical leave for our Directors to rest and recuperate as we emerged from the pandemic
- Continued to welcome regular and guest organisations to use the Blackley site and provide hospitality

In terms of organisational developments, the Centre has:

- Run its first overnight residential for trustees and staff at Wydale Hall Retreat Centre to further team-building and to generate further ideas for the future of the Centre.
- Continued to employ a part-time Administrator to strengthen the overall administrative efficiency of the Centre. This was on a one year contract and as there was no further funding available the post ended in July 2022.
- Continued to extend the list of regular contacts;
- Continued to support the development of the Blackley site.
- Continued to fund our half-time Directors, with a full shared Baptist minister's stipend;

Organisation

The Centre is run on a day to day basis by the Directors, Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams (one full time equivalent) assisted by the part-time Administrator and by Christine Allcock, the Centre Manager (voluntary), who oversees all use of the Centre, manages bookings by external groups and arranges volunteer teams from the Church and its friends to provide the catering.

The Centre's finances are coordinated by the Treasurer, with continuing book-keeping assistance by Pauline Barnard, a volunteer from the Church.

We are very grateful to the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA) which continues to be a major funding support for the Centre. The Centre is already making provision in response to a gradual reduction in YBA grant funding which will conclude in June 2023.

At the third AGM on 18th March 2023, Professor Paul Weller retired as a trustee and was thanked for his work. Hugh Donald was re-elected to serve as a trustee to 2026 and Karen Ainsworth was elected to serve for the first time as a trustee to 2026.

The Revd Dr Richard Kidd serves as the Hon. Treasurer and has given notice that he will conclude his work as the Treasurer at the end of the current financial year on 30 September 2023 and that at that time he will also step down as a Trustee.

As we enter a fourth year of trading ...

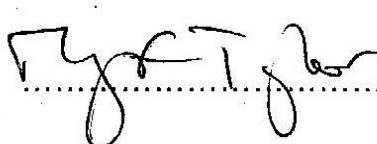
Hopeful indicators for 2022-2023 include:

- Continuing successful searches for external funding to develop the work of the Centre in strategic areas;
- Developing the 'David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Project' in partnership with three primary schools using grant funding and gifts made available in his memory;
- Continuing the development of training and mediation work
- Hosting and running women's inter faith events and an inter faith Peace and Quiet Day
- Re-launching 'Playing with Peace: the Parent and Toddlers' initiative in partnership with the Church, and with the help of grant funding from the Wharfedale Foundation;
- Increasing the membership and financial support.
- Working in partnership with the church to help in achieving its new vision of Blackley Gatherings for Peace.

All the above provides evidence of the continuing development of the Centres work and influence. As strategic planning continues, the Centre remains confident in its potential for growth in the coming years.

The Trustees continue to put in place a further structural provision, that will underpin further strategic planning, and enable the Centre to develop ever more widely its ability to fulfil the original vision.

Signed by Revd Mary Taylor



25/5/23

Chair of Trustees



The Blackley Centre

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

30th September 2022

Charity No. 1184714

1. Report of the Independent Examiner

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

2. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect The Blackley Centre has failed:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act;
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;

3. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: ROBERT STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Signature: 

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body: ACIB .

Address: 15 RIDGE VIEW DR
BIRKBY
HUDDERSFIELD HD2 2EX

Date: 19TH FEB 2023 .

2. Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30th September 2022

	Notes	Current Year	
		2021-22	2020-21
Incoming resources			
Income and endowments from:			
Grants and donations	1	23,835	29,491
Fee income from provision of services	2	22,442	19,767
Other	3	860	-
Total		47,137	49,258
Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Promotion and publicity	4	2,338	4,080
Practitioner costs		35,049	28,883
Project delivery costs		4,640	373
Services and equipment		2,262	5,230
Governance		1,033	-
Other		2,259	2,250
Total		47,581	40,816
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(444)	8,441
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(444)	8,441
Extraordinary items		-	-
Transfers between funds		-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-	-
Other gains/(losses)		-	-
Net movement in funds		(444)	8,441
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		25,618	17,177
Total funds carried forward		25,174	25,618

3. Balance Sheet

As at 30th September 2022

	Notes	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets		-	-
Tangible assets	5	2,170	3,225
Heritage assets		-	-
Investments		-	-
Total fixed assets		2,170	3,255
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	6	1,392	8,199
Investments		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		25,173	25,618
Total current assets		26,565	33,817
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	1,037	1,108
Net current assets/(liabilities)		25,528	32,709
Total assets less current liabilities		27,698	35,964
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		27,698	35,964
Funds of the Charity			
Endowment funds		-	-
Restricted income funds	8	9,700	-
Unrestricted funds		15,473	25,618
Revaluation reserve		-	-
Total funds		25,173	25,618

4. Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30th September 2022

	2021-2022 £	2020-2021 £
1. Grants and Donations		
<i>Grants</i>		
Yorkshire Baptist Association	9,500	
Wharfedale Foundation	2,700	
Edith Maud Ellis	2,500	
Community Foundation for Calderdale	4,500	
	<u>19,200</u>	<u>26,388</u>
<i>Donations</i>		
Standing Orders	3,334	
Other Donations	1,301	
	<u>4,635</u>	<u>3,103</u>
2. Fee income from provision of services		
Including teaching, training, mediation services, and special events consistent with the objects of the charity	<u>22,442</u>	<u>19,767</u>
3. Other Income		
Gift Aid	<u>860</u>	
	<u>860</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>47,137</u>	<u>49,258</u>
4. Resources expended		
<i>Promotions and publicity</i>		
Consultancy	2,100	
Website Platform	238	
	<u>2,338</u>	<u>4,080</u>

Practitioner costs

Director's Stipend (Rev Andrew Williams)	13,822	
Director's Stipend (Rev Joanna Williams)	13,822	
Other Employee (Administrator)	6,630	
Professional Associates	775	
	<u>35,049</u>	<u>28,883</u>

Project delivery costs

Inter Faith	677	
Reconciliation	3,963	
	<u>4,640</u>	<u>373</u>

Services and equipment

Insurances	885	
Telephone	871	
Zoom Contract	173	
Email Contract	333	
	<u>2,262</u>	<u>5,230</u>

Governance

Trustee expenses (including Residential)	<u>1,033</u>	<u>0</u>
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Other

Agreed contribution to Blackley Baptist Church	1,500	
Hire cost to Blackley Baptist Church	759	
	<u>2,259</u>	<u>2,250</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>47,581</u>	<u>40,817</u>
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5. Tangible assets

This comprises two laptop computers (£1,871 and £299, purchased 2021). Depreciated after one year, to be written-off over three years.

6. Debtors

Invoices issued before end of September 2022

Gift Aid Claim to 30/09/22	683	
Diocese of Peterborough (Invoice 2022/028)	709	
	<u>1,392</u>	<u>8,199</u>

7. Creditors

Sums relating to expenditure before end of September 2022 (not appearing on Bank Statements)

Richard Kidd – continuing email addresses (by cheque)	333	
Sabbatical costs for August 2022 (by transfer to BCC)	704	
	<u>1,037</u>	<u>1,108</u>

8. Restricted Funds

With the exception of the grant from the Yorkshire Baptist Association, the other three grants listed under Note 1 (totalling £9,700) were all awarded for specific projects to be delivered by the Centre as part of its ongoing work.

Policy on Reserves

During the year 2021-2022 the Blackley Centre achieved its policy to hold a minimum of £15,000 as its reserve. (Agreed at a Meeting of Trustees, 25th November 2021)

These financial statements were approved at a Meeting of Trustees on 24th February 2023, and are signed on their behalf by the Chair of Trustees:

Name:

Mary Taylor
MARY TAYLOR

Date:

20/2/23

The Blackley Centre Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th September
2022
Charity No. 1184714

1. Report of the Independent Examiner

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

2. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect The Blackley Centre has failed:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act;
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;

3. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: ROBERT STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Signature: 

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body: ACIB .

Address: 15 RIDGE VIEW DR
BIRKBY
HODDERSFIELD HD2 2EX

Date: 19TH FEB 2023 .

THE BLACKLEY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184714

Accounts



The Blackley Centre

CHARITY RETURN

for the year ended

30th September 2021

comprising

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (5 Pages)

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (7 Pages)

Charity No. 1184714



The Blackley Centre

Annual Report of Trustees

for the year ended

30th September 2021

Charity No. 1184714

The Blackley Centre is a Registered Charity working for peace, transforming conflict and enabling good inter faith relations, providing quality hospitality at a centre in West Yorkshire. The Centre was founded by Blackley Baptist Church, with which it works in partnership from its shared site in the village of Blackley.

The objects of the Centre are ...

- to advance education for the benefit of the public in the promotion of reconciliation and peace, religious and racial harmony and equality and diversity, in particular by the provision of facilities and retreat opportunities for Christians and people of all religions and beliefs and to advance religion and in particular the Christian religion in such activity.
- the provision of independent mediation services for individuals, organisations and groups experiencing or threatened by dispute or conflict, such as, but not limited to, neighbour nuisance, anti-social behaviour, harassment, bullying, family or community conflict with a view to the preservation of public order and for the preservation and protection of the well-being of such individuals, organisations and groups.

Our vision ...

- is for a society where any person may live safely in any community; be welcomed, accepted, valued and understood; contributing to community life; finding ways of living that are for mutual flourishing; and where the potential transformational power of conflict is embraced and transformed.

Our Aim is ...

- to provide a Centre which is an inspiring and welcoming meeting place offering respect and hospitality for people seeking to transform conflict and make peace, and for people of all religions and beliefs to develop understanding and friendship;
- to create and enable respectful spaces where people are enabled through encounter to share stories, explore vulnerabilities, and recognise common interests, releasing energy and creativity that ultimately leads to transformation;
- to seek to model in our relationships, within and without the organisation, attitudes of respect, generosity and hospitality, born of appropriate compassion for the other;
- to provide training in conflict awareness and transformation and inter faith relations.

Our Values and initial formation ...

Our values are to relate to individuals and communities with openness, respect, honesty, integrity and transparency, valuing diversity. We seek to be welcoming, hospitable and compassionate and to learn creatively as we work together for transformation.

For many years, Baptist ministers Andy and Jo Williams had had a dream of bringing their particular specialisms within reconciliation and inter faith work together with ministry into one place or centre. Friends and colleagues encouraged them to pursue this, and Blackley Baptist Church and Centre was suggested as a place to consider. The church's history, since 1993, of providing quality hospitality through their centre with a focus on spirituality and retreat certainly created an interesting possibility, and at the time the church was about to enter a period of pastoral vacancy.

Meetings, further conversations, deliberations and prayers ensued, resulting in the church calling Andy and Jo to be Joint Ministers of Blackley Baptist Church in October 2016, unanimously endorsing the vision for a Centre for peace, reconciliation and dialogue/inter faith relations. The Yorkshire Baptist Association funded a six-month scoping project which confirmed the need and the potential for such a place and made a three year grant of seed funding to enable the work to begin in July 2017 with Andy and Jo delivering reconciliation and inter faith work at Blackley alongside pastoral ministry. The combined resources of Church and Minsters creates this unique place, well-resourced buildings blessed by beautiful and peaceful surroundings, with experienced professionals bringing their heart for reconciliation and hope for peace. With a focus on personal conversation, enabling direct transformative encounters, stimulating curiosity and grace, the Centre seeks to affect change and build peace.

The Scoping Project Group oversaw the initial work with Andy and Jo, developing a constitution for The Blackley Centre to become a CIO with a membership in consultation with the Church and wider church structures. Seven trustees, including two from Blackley Baptist Church, with a broad range of skills and specialist knowledge of church, reconciliation and inter faith relations were recruited to form the Board. This replaced the scoping project group, meeting formally for the first time in October 2018.

Official registration and launch ...

On **1st August 2019** (Yorkshire Day!) The Blackley Centre was registered as a Charity and was officially launched on **12th October 2019** with 80 friends and supporters.

The Trustees appointed at the first AGM on 6th March 2020 were:

Hugh Donald OBE
Revd Dr Richard Kidd (Treasurer)
Lord David Shutt
Pam Smith
Andrew Taylor
Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)
Professor Paul Weller
(supported by the Minute Secretary, Desley Taylor, a volunteer from the Church.)

In October, we were shocked by the sudden death of Lord David Shutt, after a short illness. David was one of our founding Trustees. Much of this year has been about coming to terms with quite how much we have, as a Centre and as individuals, lost in David. His wisdom, humour and positivity were foundational rocks on which we relied, and his passion for justice, peace and community helped us frame our work. We have tried to continue in ways that speak of him, and reflect many of his values in our work, and we look to do that more tangibly in a memorial project.

The Trustees were delighted to co-opt and welcome Samina Ali, our first Muslim Trustee, at the Trustee Meeting in February 2021. She is already bringing significant fresh insights into the Trustee Meetings.

Achievements during the second trading year ...

The second trading year began, despite the many pressures created by Covid-19 and related lockdowns, with the Centre in good order and in optimistic mood. This optimism was shown to be well-founded and 2020-21 proved to be another successful year despite the limitations of Covid-19. Highlights include:

- Developing and delivering a new on-line 3 session course, 'Let's Talk: About Conflict' to combat loneliness and isolation due to the pandemic. This was funded by the Local Connections Fund and attracted nearly 40 participants.
- Continuing to work in partnership with Reconcilers Together to deliver a module on the second 'Journey of Hope' project on Zoom.
- Continuing to provide training in peace and reconciliation with and for our partners, often via Zoom. The other main area of training has been with churches and colleges, delivering modules for Ministers-in-Training at 4 Baptist colleges and supporting on-going learning and training for URC ministers and newly accredited Baptist Ministers in Yorkshire, as well as offering CMD (Continuing Ministerial Development) sessions for ministers in the North West Baptist Association. In all about 300 people received training from the Blackley Centre during the year.
- Continuing to encourage and provide interpersonal mediations, this year for 17 people and facilitating two church reconciliation processes.
- Continuing to provide coaching for individuals seeking to develop skills in reconciliation processes.
- Securing a Community Fund Award for a part-time Administrator and a one year Inter Faith Programme to run from August 2021.
- Hosting further 'Peace and Quiet Days' when possible, to provide an opportunity for retreat using the Centre's excellent facilities and grounds.
- Delivering an inspirational event to mark our first AGM, 'The Rabbi and the Minister', exploring Jewish/Christian friendship, with 40 participants from around the country on Zoom.
- Continuing to work with the Baptist and United Reformed Inter Faith groups, including the Mosque/Church Conversations Pilot Project on Zoom when 12 pairs of churches and mosques entered into Zoom conversations and concluded with a Zoom celebration with 40 participants.
- Continuing to work with Calderdale Inter Faith and other inter faith groups.

In terms of organisational developments, the Centre has:

- Slowly continuing to enlarge the Membership, and to extend the list of regular contacts.
- Continued to develop the resources of the Prospect Suite, including supporting the church in installing the lift, making the first floor fully accessible and fulfilling part of the vision of the Scoping Project vision from 2017.
- Steadily increased the list of friends who have Standing Orders to support the day-to-day work of the Centre.
- Achieved the aspiration to fund the Directors, Andy and Jo, with a full shared Baptist minister's stipend.
- Secured a Yorkshire Covid Recovery Grant to provide a Macbook, suitable for video editing.
- Benefitted from having a volunteer developing the website and FaceBook page.

- Employed a part-time Administrator (Peter Whitworth) to strengthen the overall administrative efficiency of the Centre.

The Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA) continues to be a major funding support for the Centre. The Centre is already making provision in response to a gradual reduction in YBA grant funding expected over the next few years.

Christine Allcock, the Centre Manager (voluntary) has continued to efficiently manage all the Centre bookings and arrange volunteer teams from the Church and its friends to provide the catering.

At the second AGM on 12th March 2021, Richard Kidd (Treasurer) and Samina Ali were elected to serve as Trustees for a three year term. The Centre's finances are now coordinated by the Treasurer, the part-time Administrator, with continuing book-keeping assistance by Pauline Barnard, a volunteer from the Church.

As we enter a third year of trading ...

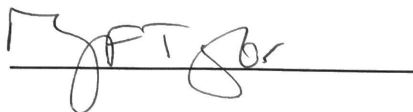
Hopeful indicators for 2021-2022 include:

- Offering an inter faith programme comprising a conference, dialogues, relating days and networking for inter faith groups.
- Developing the 'Listening Project' with the Yorkshire Baptist Association.
- Continuing successful searches for external funding to develop the work of the Centre in strategic areas.
- Exploring the development of a 'David Shutt Young Peacemakers Project', using grant funding and gifts made available in his memory.
- Re-launching 'Playing with Peace': the Parent and Toddlers' initiative in partnership with the Church, and with the help of grant funding from the Wharfedale Foundation.
- Initial plans to create a short residential retreat for Trustees, in order to further team-building, and to generate ideas for the future of the Centre.

All the above provides evidence of the continuing rapid development of the Centres work and influence. As strategic planning continues, the Centre remains confident in its potential for growth in the coming years.

The Trustees continue to put in place structural provisions, that will underpin further strategic planning, and enable the Centre to develop ever more widely its ability to fulfil the original vision.

Signed by Revd Mary Taylor
(Chair of Trustees)



Date 27/6/22



The Blackley Centre

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

30th September 2021

Charity No. 1184714

1. Report of the Independent Examiner

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect The Blackley Centre has failed:
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 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: ROBERT STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Signature: 

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body: ACIB .

Address: 15 RIDGE VIEW DR
BIRKBY

Date: HUDDERSFIELD HD2 2EX

18TH FEBRUARY 2022

2. Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30th September 2021

	Notes	Current Year	2019-20
		2020-21	2019-20
Incoming resources			
Income and endowments from:			
Grants and donations	1	29,491	21,417
Fee income from provision of services	2	19,767	2,683
Other		-	-
Total		49,258	24,100
Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Promotion and publicity		4,080	644
Practitioner costs		28,883	11,552
Project devilvery costs		373	350
Services and equipment		5,230	2,056
Governance		-	321
Other		2,250	2,475
Total		40,817	17,398
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		8,441	6,702
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		8,441	6,702
Extraordinary items		-	-
Transfers between funds		-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-	-
Other gains/(losses)		-	-
Net movement in funds		8,441	6,702
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		17,177	10,475
Total funds carried forward		25,618	17,177

3. Balance Sheet

As at 30th September 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets		-	-
Tangible assets	4	3,255	-
Heritage assets		-	-
Investments		-	-
Total fixed assets		3,255	-
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	5	8,199	-
Investments		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		25,618	17,177
Total current assets		33,817	17,177
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	1,108	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		32,709	17,177
Total assets less current liabilities		35,964	17,177
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		35,964	17,177
Funds of the Charity			
Endowment funds		-	-
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		25,618	17,177
Revaluation reserve		-	-
Total funds		25,618	17,177

4. Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30th September 2021

	2,021 £	2,020 £
1. Grants and Donations		
<i>Grants</i>		
Yorkshire Baptist Association	11,550	11,812
Local Connections Fund	2,500	
Yorkshire Covid-19 Recovery Grant	2,338	
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	
	<u>26,388</u>	<u>11,812</u>
<i>Donations</i>		
One-off Donation		8,000
Standing Orders	3,002	1,561
Other occasional donations	101	44
	<u>3,103</u>	<u>9,605</u>
2. Fee income from provision of services		
Including teaching, training, mediation services, and special events consistent with the objects of the charity	<u>19,767</u>	<u>2,683</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>49,258</u>	<u>24,100</u>
3. Resources expended		
<i>Promotions and publicity</i>		
Consultancy	3,900	500
Website Platform	180	144
	<u>4,080</u>	<u>644</u>

<i>Practitioner costs</i>		
Director's Stipend (Rev Andrew Williams)	12,450	7,906
Director's Stipend (Rev Joanna Williams)	12,450	2,906
Other Employee (Administrator)	1,300	
Directors' expenses	0	440
Professional Associates	2,683	300
	28,883	11,552
<i>Project delivery costs</i>		
Resourcing special events	373	350
<i>Services and equipment</i>		
Insurances	883	663
Telephone	809	719
Zoom Contract	173	86
Email Contract	0	472
Office Equipment	3,305	
Office Accessories	60	116
	5,230	2,056
<i>Governance</i>		
Trustee travel expenses	0	321
<i>Other</i>		
Agreed contribution to Blackley Baptist Church	2,250	900
One-off feasibility study	0	500
Contribution to installation of lift	0	1,000
Gift to visiting choir	0	75
	2,250	2,475
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	40,817	17,398

4. Tangible assets

This comprises two new laptop computers (£2,806, 17/03/21 and £449, 02/08/21), totalling £3,255. These will be depreciated annually and written-off over three years.

5. Debtors

Invoices issued before end of September 2021

Diocese of Leeds (30/10/20)	866	
Diocese of Newcastle (10/09/21)	1,357	
YBA (24/09/21)	90	
Centrica (27/09/21)	3,000	
Gift Aid Claim to 30/09/21	859	
Diocese of Derby (30/09/21)	1,547	
United Reformed Church (30/09/21)	480	
	<u>8,199</u>	<u> </u>

6. Creditors

Sums paid before end of September 2021 (not appearing on Bank Statements)

Book Token (by Credit Card)	75	
Richard Kidd (by Cheque)	333	
Sajda Majeed (by Transfer)	250	
Afrasiab Anwar (by Transfer)	250	
Wale Hudson-Roberts (by Transfer)	200	
	<u>1,108</u>	<u> </u>

Additional Note (a policy on 'reserves', agreed at a Meeting of Trustees, 25th November 2021)

By far the greatest risk to the financial stability of The Blackley Centre would be the absence - because of illness or any other unexpected reason - of one or both of its current Directors, who have skill-sets for which it will be difficult to find cover in the short term. The Trustees, therefore, agree that:

**In the year 2021-2022, The Blackley Centre will hold a minimum of £15,000 as a reserve, exclusively available to fulfil its responsibilities to the Directors. (In the worst possible case, this equates to a period of approximately 6 months employment costs.)
This figure will be reviewed annually at the November Meeting of Trustees.**

These financial statements were approved at a Meeting of Trustees on 24th February 2022, and are signed on their behalf by the Chair of Trustees:

Name: _____



Date: _____

24th Feb 2022

THE BLACKLEY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184714

Accounts



The Blackley Centre

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

30th September 2020

Charity No. 1184714

Annual Report of the Trustees

(Pages 2-6)

The Blackley Centre is a Registered Charity working for peace, transforming conflict, and enabling good inter faith relations, providing quality hospitality at a centre in West Yorkshire. The Centre was founded by Blackley Baptist Church, with which it now works in partnership from a shared site in the village of Blackley.

Our vision is ...

- for a society where any person may live safely in any community; be welcomed, accepted, valued and understood; contributing to community life; finding ways of living that are for mutual flourishing; and where the potential transformational power of conflict is embraced and transformed.

Our aims are ...

- to provide a Centre which is an inspiring and welcoming meeting place, offering respect and hospitality for people seeking to transform conflict and make peace, and for people of all religions and beliefs to develop understanding and friendship;
- to create and enable respectful spaces where people are enabled through encounter to share stories, explore vulnerabilities, and recognise common interests, releasing energy and creativity that ultimately leads to transformation;
- to seek to model in our relationships, within and without the organisation, attitudes of respect, generosity and hospitality, born of appropriate compassion for the other;
- to provide training in conflict awareness and transformation and inter faith relations.

Our values ...

- are to relate to individuals and communities with openness, respect, honesty, integrity and transparency, valuing diversity. We seek to be welcoming, hospitable and compassionate and to learn creatively as we work together for transformation.

Our roots ...

For many years, Baptist ministers, Andy and Jo Williams, harboured a dream of bringing their particular specialisms within reconciliation and inter faith work together with ministry into one place or centre. Friends and colleagues encouraged them to pursue this, and Blackley Baptist Church and Centre was suggested as a possible place to consider. The Church's history, since 1993, of providing quality hospitality through their existing Centre with a focus on spirituality and retreat certainly created an interesting possibility, and at the time the Church was about to enter a period of pastoral vacancy.

Meetings, further conversations, deliberations and prayers ensued, resulting in the call of Andy and Jo to be Joint Ministers of the Church in October 2016, unanimously endorsing the vision for a Centre for peace, reconciliation and dialogue/inter faith relations. The Yorkshire Baptist Association funded a six-month Scoping Project, which confirmed the need and the potential for such a place and made a three-year grant of seed funding to enable the work to begin in July 2017, with Andy and Jo delivering reconciliation and inter faith work at Blackley alongside their pastoral ministries. The combined resources of

Church and its Minsters creates a unique place, well-resourced buildings blessed by beautiful and peaceful surroundings, with experienced professionals bringing their heart for reconciliation and hope for peace. With a focus on personal conversation, enabling direct transformative encounters, stimulating curiosity and grace, the Centre seeks to affect change and build peace.

The Scoping Project Group oversaw the initial work with Andy and Jo, developing a Constitution for The Blackley Centre to become a CIO with a Membership, in consultation with the Church and wider church structures. Seven trustees, including two from Blackley Baptist Church, with a broad range of skills and specialist knowledge of church, reconciliation and inter faith relations were recruited to form the Trustee Board. This replaced the Scoping Project Group, meeting formally for the first time in October 2018.

The Founding Trustees were ...

Hugh Donald OBE
Revd Dr Richard Kidd (Treasurer)
Lord David Shutt
Pam Smith
Andrew Taylor
Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)
Professor Paul Weller

The Trustee Board is supported by a Minute Secretary, Desley Taylor, a volunteer from the Church.

The Directors ...

From the start, the Joint Ministers of Blackley Baptist Church were recognised as the first Directors of the Centre. They are:

Revd Joanna Willams (Director for Reconciliation)
Revd Andrew Williams (Director for inter faith)

Formal registration and launch ...

- On **1st August 2019** (Yorkshire Day!) The Blackley Centre was registered as a Charity and was officially launched on **12th October 2019** with 80 friends and supporters.

Early achievements through to the end of our first trading year ...

A great deal has been achieved in this first year of trading, 2019-2020, much of it building on initiatives that originated in the pre-registration period. During this first year, the newly formed Charity has faced a major impact from the global Covid-19 pandemic. This necessitated a radical shift in 'normal' ways of working, rapidly moving from predominantly face-to-face work, to almost entirely online meetings and conversations. Despite difficult challenges, under the creative leadership of its Directors, the Centre did not suffer any serious down-turn in its work and influence, and, at the end of year, there is an immense amount to celebrate.

Highlights include:

- becoming a partner in **Reconcilers Together**, the national network of centres for Christian peacemakers, with a shared vision for reconciliation and social cohesion;
- providing training events for Christian Ministers and other mediation providers;
- providing 'church facilitations', working with local Christian leaders and their communities towards community reconciliation;
- coaching for individuals seeking to develop their own skills in reconciliation processes;
- hosting 'peace and quiet days', exploiting the peaceful context of the Centre;
- hosting meetings between Muslim, Sikh and Jewish leaders and their communities across the region;
- hosting sessions for 'scriptural reasoning', settings in which people from different faith traditions can share insights from their precious religious texts;
- enabling inter faith visits crossing the boundaries between Christians, Muslim and Jews;
- providing a major input to the 'Gathering in Glasgow Conference' that brought together more than 200 peacemakers in a pioneering event;
- encouraging the Centre Directors to offer inputs as keynote speakers at a wide range of events around the country.

There have been a number organisational developments, many still in process. The Centre has:

- established an initial Membership of around 50 members, and a substantial list of regular contacts;
- established a bursary fund of £2,000 to enable the widest possible take-up of Centre events and resources;
- secured sufficient funding to install a lift in the Prospect Suite, providing wheelchair access to both floors;
- seen an increasing number of friends taking out Standing Orders, in order to support the day-to-day work of the Centre.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA). The YBA provided a half-stipend and start-up costs from July 2017, that has enabled Andy and Jo Williams to develop the work of The Blackley Centre, first with the help and oversight of the Scoping Project Group, and then with the founding Trustees. Andy and Jo have worked on a self-employed basis, with Jo's mediation and training work supplementing the half-stipend to provide the equivalent of a full-time shared income for them as Centre Directors.

Christine Allcock, the Centre Manager (voluntary) has continued efficiently to manage all the Centre bookings and to arrange volunteer teams from the Church and its friends to provide catering. Up to September 2019, the Centre's finances had been run through the accounts of Blackley Baptist Church, with the excellent support of the Church's Treasurer, Michael Whitworth. From October 2019, the Centre's finances have been overseen by the Honorary Treasurer of the Centre, Richard Kidd, with book-keeping assistance by Pauline Barnard, a volunteer from the Church.

As we enter our second year of trading ...

Hopeful indicators include:

- increased support from volunteers;
- continuing investment in the search for external funding to develop the work of the Centre in strategic areas;
- plans to appoint a part-time staff member, with a special focus on administration;
- hopes to fulfil the original aspiration to support Andy and Jo with a shared Baptist minister's stipend, starting as early as possible in 2021;
- hopes to appoint further Trustees, who will provide additional skills and, most significantly, explicitly represent non-Christian interests in the work of the Centre.

All the above provides no more than a snapshot of the rapid development of the Centre's work and influence. Strategic planning for the future is our continuing priority, and with the help of the YBA and an increasing range of supporters, the Centre is confident of its potential for growth over the coming three years.

Through 2020-2021 and the following years, the Trustees will continue to build a secure structural framework, sufficiently robust to provide confidence in strategic planning, and to enable the Centre to develop ever more widely its ability to fulfil the original vision.

One note of sadness ...

Soon after the end of this first trading years, everyone involved with the Centre was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Lord David Shutt, one of the founding Trustees who, in a very short time, contributed so much to the rapidly developing life of the Centre, offering a wide range of skills and a great deal of encouragement to his colleague Trustees. He is already greatly missed.

Financial Statements

(Pages 7-12)

1. Report of the Independent Examiner

Basis for the Independent Examiner's Report


My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect The Blackley Centre has failed:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act;
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: ROBERT STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Signature: 

Relevant Professional qualification or body: A.C.I.B.

Address: 15 RIDGE VIEW DRIVE
BIENBY

Date: HUDDERSFIELD HD2 2EX
7TH APRIL 2021

2. Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30th September 2020

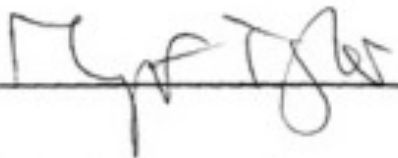
	Notes	Total
		2019-20
Incoming resources		
Income and endowments from:		
Grants and donations	1	21,417
Fee income from provision of services	2	2,683
Other		-
Total		24,100
Resources expended		
Expenditure on:		
Promotion and publicity		644
Practitioner costs		11,552
Project delivery costs		350
Services and equipment		2,056
Governance		321
Other		2,475
Total	3	17,398
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		6,702
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-
Net income/(expenditure)		6,702
Extraordinary items		-
Transfers between funds		-
Other recognised gains/(losses):		
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-
Other gains/(losses)		-
Net movement in funds		6,702
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total funds brought forward	4	10,475
Total funds carried forward		17,177

3. Balance Sheet

As at 30th September 2020

	Notes	2020 £
Fixed assets		
Intangible assets		-
Tangible assets		-
Heritage assets		-
Investments		-
Total fixed assets	5	-
Current assets		
Stocks		-
Debtors		-
Investments		-
Cash at bank and in hand		17,177
Total current assets		17,177
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		17,177
Total assets less current liabilities		17,177
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-
Provisions for liabilities		-
Total net assets or liabilities		17,177
Funds of the Charity		
Endowment funds		-
Restricted income funds		-
Unrestricted funds		17,177
Revaluation reserve		-
Total funds		17,177

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 25th March 2021, and are signed on their behalf by the Chair of Trustees:



Date: 27/4/2021

Name: Rev Mary Taylor

4. Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30th September 2020

2020

£

1. Grants and Donations

Grants

Yorkshire Baptist Association £11,812.00

Donations

One-off donation £8,000.00

Standing Orders £1,561.00

Other occasional donations £44.00

£21,417.00

2. Fee income from provision of services

These include teaching, training, mediation services
and special events consistent with the objects of the charity.

£2,683.00

TOTAL INCOME

£24,100.00

3. Resources expended

Promotions and publicity

£644.00

Practitioner costs

Director's Stipend (Rev Andrew Williams) £7,906.00

Director's Stipend (Rev Joanna Williams) £2,906.00

Directors' expenses £440.00

Remuneration for occasional services £300.00

£11,552.00

Project delivery costs

Resources for special events **£350.00**

<i>Services and equipment</i>	
Insurances	£663.00
Telephone	£719.00
Internet	£558.00
Computer accessories	£116.00
	£2,056.00
<i>Governance</i>	
Trustee travel expenses	£321.00
<i>Other</i>	
Agreed contribution to Blackley Baptist Church	£900.00
One-off feasibility study	£500.00
Contribution to installation of lift	£1,000.00
Gift to visiting choir	£75.00
	£2,475.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£17,398.00

4. Total funds brought forward

This is the charity's first year of trading and there are, therefore, no records relating to previous years. The 'funds brought forward' were a one-off transfer from Blackley Baptist Church, which enabled the formation of the new charity.

5. Fixed assets

At the end of the first year of this new charity, there are no fixed assets. Most of the infrastructure that enables the charity's work is provided by Blackley Baptist Church and, as yet, it has not been necessary to buy new equipment. This will most likely begin to change during the coming year.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

At this early stage in the life of the charity, there are no other funds to be considered, other than the general fund. This is also likely to change during coming years.