

The Blackley Centre

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30th September 2023

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 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.’

‘(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

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

..... M. 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

	<i>Notes</i>	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.

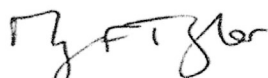
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(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	353	677
Reconciliation	5,519	3,963
	<u>5,872</u>	<u>4,640</u>

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
	<u>4,989</u>	<u>4,600</u>

7. Other

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

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	
	<u>1,466</u>	<u>1,392</u>

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Independent Examiner