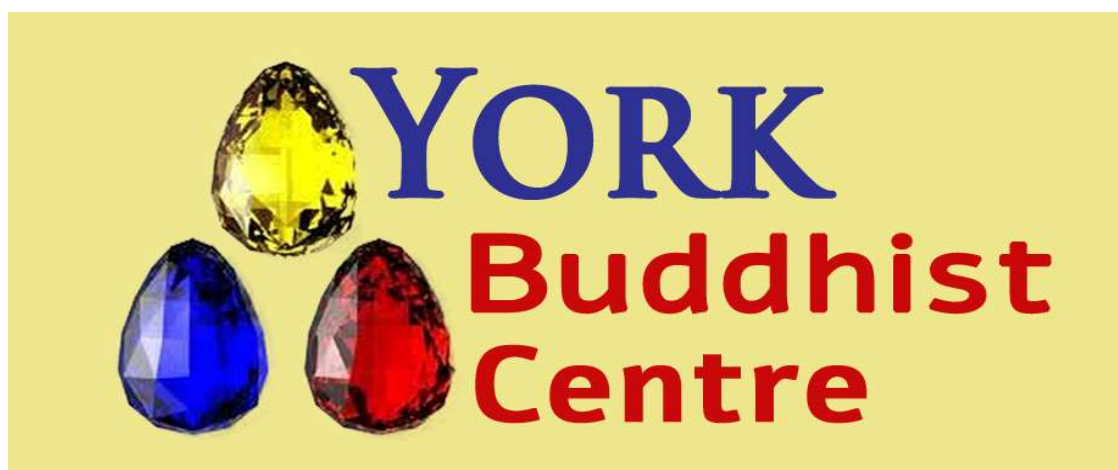


# **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

Charity number 1189773

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**



# **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

# **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

## **Trustees' report for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Shakyapada Jenny Roberts	Chair	Appointed June 20
Mark Jones	Treasurer	Appointed June 20
Kathryn Readman	Trustee	Appointed June 20
Mark James Leech	Trustee	Appointed June 20
Frances Irene Hooker	Trustee	Appointed June 20
Robert Burdett	Trustee	Appointed June 20

### **Charity number**

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1189773, on 03 Jun 2020.

### **Principal address**

38 Gillygate  
York  
YO31 7EQ

### **Bankers**

Triodos Bank plc  
Deanery Road  
Bristol BS1 5AS

### **Independent examiner**

Simon Bostrom FCIE

### **West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) formed on 3 Jun 2020.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

# **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The object of the CIO is to support the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular by:

Encouraging members and others to live ethical lives in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.

Supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Community and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the CIO.

Maintaining close communication with and working under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

Using applications of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all.

#### **Encouraging members and others to live ethical lives in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.**

We are here to support people who wish to learn about and practise Buddhism. In order to achieve this we provide courses and classes which explore Buddhist practice. These include teaching basic meditation techniques to complete beginners, and more advanced classes and courses for those who want a deeper understanding of Buddhist practice and how this can be explored in contemporary society. We have a small Spiritual and Gift shop to provide access to meditation accessories, etc. and Buddhist literature not easily available elsewhere. All the work and teaching at our Centre, including the shop, is carried out by volunteers. No one is paid. We raise money from donations at the classes and events and from members of the Sangha (community). We aim to promote the Buddhist ethic of 'dana' or giving, so most of our activities are paid for by donation. People are free to attend even if they have no money. We have a commitment to making our activities and premises accessible to all by providing access for disabled people.

#### **Supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Community and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the Council of the CIO;**

At the moment we do not support anyone. However, this may be necessary in the future as we grow, The contribution made by members of the Triratna Buddhist Order remains essential to provide the experience, depth of practice and understanding of Buddhism needed in a spiritual community, and to make this available to others.

#### **Maintaining close communication with and working under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects;**

We work in co-operation with other Triratna Centres, Retreat Centres and with the Preceptors College (which oversees the Ordination process). This allows us to maintain clarity with regard to our vision, to benefit from the experience of other groups with similar objectives, and so make the best use of the resources we have in York.

#### **Using applications of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all.**

Triratna Buddhist Community(York) is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among our sangha, and eliminating discrimination. Everyone is welcome regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, income, sex and sexual orientation. People attending our classes or events classes do not have to be a Buddhist or feel the need to become a Buddhist.

Specifically, we do this by:

- a. Holding services of worship and devotion;
- b. Organising talks, courses, classes meditation sessions and retreats;
- c. Publishing materials (written and online);
- d. Raising funds and invite and receive contributions.

Our aim is to encourage members and others to live ethical lives in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha. So, the Triratna Buddhist Community (York) provides an understanding of Buddhism through a programme of classes and events, both for regular members of our group as well as for newcomers from the local community and others.

# **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

### **Objectives and activities (Continued)**

One of the main aspects of the Buddha's teaching is a grounding in Buddhist ethics. These ethical values are central to, and are threads that run through all the Buddha's teachings. Non-Buddhists are in no way expected or required to take on or follow these precepts. Instead, they are invited to test the ethical principles in their own lives to determine their effects on themselves and others around them, for the enhancement and benefit of society as a whole.

These ethical values are expressed in both a positive and negative form in what are called The Five Precepts:

Negative formulation:

- I undertake to abstain from taking life.
- I undertake to abstain from taking the not-given.
- I undertake to abstain from sexual misconduct.
- I undertake to abstain from false speech.
- I undertake to abstain from taking intoxicants.

Positive formulation:

- With deeds of loving kindness, I purify my body.
- With open-handed generosity, I purify my body.
- With stillness, simplicity, and contentment, I purify my body.
- With truthful communication, I purify my speech.
- With mindfulness clear and radiant, I purify my mind.

### **The charity's main activities**

We are a community of friends who support the Buddhist religion in York mainly through our Centre and online. Our activities encourage members and others to live ethical lives in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha. We use applications of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all through classes and courses and other means.

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of religion, encouraging members and others to live ethical lives in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha and, through those teachings, promoting the health and well-being of all.

### **Achievements and performance**

A programme of classes and events has been available during the period. Normally these would be held in-person but, owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, all our activities have been online.

We have continued to run Sangha (community) nights on Zoom every Wednesday evening, throughout this period, covering a broad range of the Buddha's teaching together with a period of meditation. These have been attended by between eight and twenty sangha members.

We have run two separate study groups on Zoom, each of these is following part of the four-year Triratna Mitra Training Course which gives a comprehensive overview of the Triratna presentation of Buddhism: The Year One Group meets on Thursday evenings and the Year Two Group on Tuesday evenings. These have been well attended with nine members on Tuesdays and ten on Thursdays. These groups run for most of the year with breaks between modules.

Normally students in Year Two are required to be Mitras (i.e. they regard themselves as Buddhists, follow the Five Precepts and are committed to practising with Triratna for the time being).

## **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

### **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

#### **Achievements and performance (Continued)**

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been offering extra meditation sessions each weekday morning live on Facebook and YouTube. These each last around thirty-five minutes and were attended by between eight and thirty people. We believe that these sessions have been really helpful to people living their lives under restrictions and many of the morning meditators have gone on to join one of our Introduction to Buddhism Courses. Some have also joined our regular community and enjoyed other activities with us.

During the first lockdown we also ran a fifteen minute 'Morning Cuppa Meditation' at 11am Tuesday to Friday, which was attended by between eight and fifteen people each day. This was aimed particularly at non-meditators and was an opportunity for them to sit quietly for fifteen minutes. This session ended on 31st July as many of the lockdown restrictions were eased.

During July, August and early September when groups and religious organisations were allowed to meet (with social distancing) we held one hour meditation sessions every fortnight in the open at Museum Gardens at York. They were popular. Numbers varied, but there would usually be between eight and twelve participants, some from our Sangha, some from the online meditations and some complete newcomers.

One of our objects is to promote the Buddha's teaching for the health and well-being of all and we know from feedback received that all these sessions have helped many people to cope with the restrictions of the COVID-19 emergency

On Tuesday 7th July we ran an evening for those who wanted to know what was involved in becoming a Mitra and this was attended by 7 people, three of whom asked to become Mitras. Unfortunately it was not possible to hold their ceremony in late September as hoped due to tighter COVID-19 restrictions. We hope to perform this ceremony in Summer 2021.

In mid-July, we were able to access what was to become our own small but very welcome Buddhist Centre at 38 Gillygate, York. We asked for help with decorating and there followed a week in August when around fifteen volunteers descended on the premises and turned it from an empty shell into an attractive place to meet. The cost of fitting it out was substantial so we applied for and received a grant of £2000 from the Triratna Future Dharma Fund. One of the conditions of the grant was that we had to match the grant with another £2000 from supporters. We launched our appeal in early August and by September we had raised over £3000 from very generous local, national and international friends. This amount was enough to enable us to cover all our costs and to fully equip the new Centre.

In late August/early September we successfully completed the fitting out of a small gift/spiritual shop at the front of the Centre. Gillygate is a busy thoroughfare and we wanted to use our space well so that the costs of the centre could be eventually covered by the profit from the shop. The fitting out was paid out of the appeal but we used our own funds to buy around £3000 of stock which included Buddhist figures, meditation stools, yoga accessories, incense and burners, wind chimes, malas, spiritual books and other items. One of our community, someone who has managed a large store, offered to look after the shop and she managed to recruit around eight people each week to serve in two's on Tuesday to Friday afternoons in October. The shop took over £500 that month but had to close in November due to lockdown. It opened again in December from Tuesday to Saturday and again sold over £500 of goods.

Once restrictions are lifted we anticipate sales of over £1000 per month, the profit on which will cover our rent and utilities, leaving our donated funds to accumulated towards renting or maybe buying a much bigger Centre which we will need within the next two years. The lease for the centre was signed on 1st September 2020. The landlord - Shakyapada, who is also a trustee and Chair of the Centre - agreed a monthly rent of £400 per month (half the commercial rate) with the trustees. However, since we opened the Centre all rent has been waived, as we are not able to offer face to face activities and the shop has been closed for much of the time. This rent holiday is set to continue until such time as the Centre and shop are fully operational.

## Triratna Buddhist Community (York)

### Trustees' report (continued) for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020

#### Achievements and performance (Continued)

We ran an Introduction to Buddhism course on four Monday evenings from 21st September. This was smaller than our usual in-house courses (held at the Quaker Centre before we became a charity) but was still attended by eleven very enthusiastic newcomers to Buddhism. This was followed in by our first 'follow-on course' which looked more deeply into Buddhist practice. Around twelve people attended, many from the first course. Some of them are now members of our community.

In October/November a guest Order member from Manchester, Taravandana, a good friend to our Centre, held a course spread over three Monday evenings looking at 'Friendship in the Sangha' which was attended by fifteen people, both regulars and newcomers. Taravandana joined us again on 15th November to lead a Day Retreat entitled 'The Taste of Freedom' which was attended by sixteen people.

We have also encouraged our Sangha members to attend Zoom events and retreats offered by the wider movement and many have taken this opportunity to deepen their practice.

We have publicised our events through a weekly e-newsletter produced by a member of our Sangha, through social media - mainly Facebook - and via our website at [www.yorkbuddhistcentre.org](http://www.yorkbuddhistcentre.org)

We have also established a substantial library of Buddhist books in the Centre so that they are available to everyone without the need to buy. Anyone can borrow a book / books a for a month at a time. There is no charge but we suggest a £1 donation per book borrowed to cover replacement costs. The library was funded mostly from our income with some donations of books from others.

It has been a busy six months for a small charity but a successful one. Our sangha has grown with an estimated forty to fifty people who attend least one even every few months; this includes a regular core sangha of around thirty people who attend most weeks. For our income we rely on our sangha and people have been very generous in supporting the charity, many making regular monthly donations through standing orders while others prefer to donate on a more ad hoc basis through PayPal.

Finally, although the lockdowns and restrictions have had their difficulties, there has been an upside to the pandemic, in that we have attracted people from beyond York as well as local people. We have discovered new ways of reaching out to more people through Zoom and social media broadcasts. When we return to in-person classes, we hope (subject to a suitable broadband signal) to be able to maintain online access for those who, for whatever reason, find it difficult to travel to our Centre.

#### Financial review

The net receipts for the period were £12,477.

#### Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £12,477.

We have no formal policy at present.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: .....

*Shakyapada*

Date: .....

*19/04/2021*

Name .....

*SHAKYAPADA ROBERTS*

(Trustee)

## **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Triratna Buddhist Community (York) Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: ..... 

Name: Simon Bostrom

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCIE

Date: .....5/05/2021.....

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW



**Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

	Notes	2020 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants and donations	(2)	6,200	5,252	11,452
Shop sales		1,540	-	1,540
Other income		3	-	3
Gift aid		858	-	858
Income from association		11,807	-	11,807
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>20,408</b>	<b>5,252</b>	<b>25,660</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Marketing and publicity		238	-	238
Books, resources and stock		4,795	-	4,795
Training		100	-	100
Printing, postage and stationery		102	-	102
IT software and consumables		874	-	874
Furniture and equipment		-	1,326	1,326
Bank charges		83	-	83
Utilities		216	-	216
Insurance		825	-	825
Centre refurbishment and decoration		362	3,926	4,288
Sundry		132	-	132
Telephone		204	-	204
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>7,931</b>	<b>5,252</b>	<b>13,183</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<b>12,477</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,477</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(3)	<b>12,477</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,477</b>

# Triratna Buddhist Community (York)

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2020

	2020	2020	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>			
Cash at bank	12,205	-	12,205
Cash in hand	272	-	272
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>12,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,477</u>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>			£
Debtors			504
Prepayments - Insurance			551
Stream - water bill			45
Barmley retreat deposit Sept 2021			100
			<u>1,200</u>
<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			
21 x stackable chairs			
HP laptop			
<b>Liabilities</b>			£
Independent examination			450
Room rental March 2020 - Quaker Society			401
			<u>851</u>

### Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: .....19/04/2021.....

Signed: .....Shakyapada Jenny Roberts..... (Trustee)

# **Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

**for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

### **1 Accounting policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

#### **Fund accounting**

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

**Triratna Buddhist Community (York)**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the period 3 June 2020 to 31 December 2020**

<b>2 Grants and donations</b>	2020	2020	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£
Triratna Future Dharma Fund	-	2,000	2,000
Dana - General Donations	1,835	-	1,835
Dana - Newcomers	81	-	81
Dana - Recurring Payment	247	-	247
Dana - Standing Orders	3,982	-	3,982
Dana - Study	55	-	55
Dana - New Central Appeal	-	3,252	3,252
	<u>6,200</u>	<u>5,252</u>	<u>11,452</u>

<b>3 Restricted funds</b>	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Refurbishment fund	-	5,252	5,252	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,252</u>	<u>5,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Fund name**

**Purpose of restriction**

Refurbishment fund      Funds provided from the Triratna Future Dharma Fund matched by donations raised from an appeal.

**4 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

No trustee received any expenses during this accounting period.

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this accounting period.

**Other related party transactions**

The charity is located in premises owned by one of the trustees - Shakyapada Jenny Roberts. During the year refurbishment costs of £3,591 were incurred relating to that property. The charity will rent the property at £400 per month but no rental costs were incurred during the accounting period due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

There were no other related party transactions.