

THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE

MINUTES of Annual General Meeting for 2026

Thursday 26th March 2026

[Online via Zoom Meeting ID: 828 0444 8212 Passcode: 112561](#)

Council members present:

Rev R. H. Allaway (Chairman)
Dr D. Instone-Brewer
Dr A. P. Kerry (Hon. Secretary)
Dr D. Watkis (Treasurer)
Revd Dr J. Weaver

17 individuals attended the March 2026 Panel via Zoom.

12 members in total remained for the AGM and one non-member observer.

OPENING	Rev. R Allaway welcomed members and opened the meeting in prayer.
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	Copies of the minutes of the previous AGM held 10 th April 2025 were available on the website. These were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.
ELECTION	<p>The meeting agreed to the election or re-election of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. President – Professor David Wilkinsonb. Vice-Presidents - Prof. Malcolm A. Jeeves, Prof. Sir Colin J. Humphries and Revd Dr John Weaver as Vice Presidents.c. Honorary Treasurer – Dr David Watkisd. Council - Rev. Bob Allaway, Rev. John Buxton, Mrs Joanne Mead, Rev. Dr Sally Nelson, Rev. Dr David Instone-Brewer and Dr David E. Watkis and Dr Todd Kantchev (ex officio as Reviews Editor for S&CB).e. The meeting noted the resignation from Council of Dr Alan Kerry.
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	<p>The completed 2025 annual accounts have been independently examined and were presented. The independent examiner found a discrepancy in the starting figure and the accounts amounting to £55.70. This was tracked down to an error in recording PayPal payments – three payments in March 2023 had been entered twice in error. The accounts have been corrected and the independent examiner has approved the corrected version.</p> <p>DW pointed out that the independent examiner is married to a council member and this interest has been declared.</p> <p>The year-end shows a deficit of £2907 after paying outstanding expenses from 2024 symposium but the reserves remain strong.</p> <p>The corrected end of year cash balance was £5120.72 and share valuations totalled £138,806.</p>

Website:

www.faithandthought.org

Administration Address:

15 Evans Orchard, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, MK43 2AR

Administration Telephone:

07710 050225

email: admin@faithandthought.org

Faith & Thought is the operating name of The Victoria Institute or Philosophical Society of Great Britain Charity No. 285871 Established 1865

	<p>We have made some changes to share-holdings in the current year, shifting our portfolio away from fossil fuel companies and towards more ethically sustainable investments. Our share manager advised transferring some funds to gilts which we have done.</p> <p>The current financial situation is satisfactory, with balances of £9766.22 (bank account) and £131,140.48 (investments).</p> <p>The budget for 2026 will depend on the decision taken under future plans below.</p> <p>DIB asked if we planned to continue to have the accounts independently examined as this is not a legal requirement for our level of income. DW replied that this was being done for probity, but may not be necessary if future finances simplify significantly along the lines of the proposal below.</p> <p>RA said that the Gunning fund of money that had been identified by Simon Buck as having derived in part from the proceeds of enslavement in Brazil was the Prize Fund money. AK said this was correct, the former treasurer had advised him that the Charity Commission required the name of the original donor to appear in the annual accounts. AK suggested that Council might consider what action should be taken in light of this discovery, but an option might be to find a suitable Brazilian theological college and encourage their students to apply for academic grants from F&T?</p>
<p>FUTURE PLANS FOR F&T – A PROPOSAL</p>	<p>Proposal to discontinue subscription model of membership and move to publishing the journal online. The full proposal had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>This was discussed, DIB said that free open online publishing is increasingly the gold standard that academic journals are moving towards anyway, so this is not a matter of necessity but preference. DW agreed but also pointed out that we are currently making a loss on producing the paper journal.</p> <p>John Hodges asked if future papers would be published in the form of a periodic volume or as individual papers. DIB said either option would be acceptable for an 'online journal', this need not necessarily be published 'periodically' with a volume number. He said that one off papers stood a better chance of actually being read. JH asked about reference identification. DIB said increasingly online papers are identified by DOI number rather than volume and page numbers.</p> <p>Andy Dipper said he thought making the papers available for free online was brilliant but would authors be happy? AK said that our current arrangements make it clear that our constitution states 'Papers presented to the Society shall be considered as the property of the Society unless there shall have been any previous engagement with its author to the contrary, and the Council may cause the same to be published in any way and at any time it may think proper.'</p>

Website:

www.faithandthought.org

Administration Address:

15 Evans Orchard, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, MK43 2AR

Administration Telephone:

07710 050225

email: admin@faithandthought.org

Faith & Thought is the operating name of The Victoria Institute or Philosophical Society of Great Britain Charity No. 285871 Established 1865

	<p>AK mentioned that the question of administration roles after he leaves are still open and we have been in conversation with two individuals about this. When we know what help might be available the future plans (events, frequency of publication etc) would be clearer. JW said that if the person he has been in contact with was willing to help this would be greatly to our benefit.</p> <p>RA asked if the April journal would still be published and AK confirmed this would be a paper journal that is nearly finalised. It will be accompanied by a letter to all members advising them of this decision and asking them to CANCEL their subscription. Any uncanceled subscriptions or other money coming in after the journal has been sent out will be regarded as a donation towards the work of Faith & Thought.</p> <p>AK raised the question of what might happen with S&CB book reviews, which are currently published in the paper version of F&T. Council will need to negotiate with Christians in Science on this matter if they wish to continue to publish the book reviews.</p> <p>The chairman invited the meeting to vote on the proposal and this was carried unanimously.</p>
CLOSE	The Chairman closed the meeting by leading those present in saying the grace together.

Website:

www.faithandthought.org

Administration Address:

15 Evans Orchard, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, MK43 2AR

Administration Telephone:

07710 050225

email: admin@faithandthought.org

Faith & Thought is the operating name of The Victoria Institute or Philosophical Society of Great Britain Charity No. 285871 Established 1865