



Annual report 2011/12

Vice Chair's comments

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this forward to the annual report of St John's Centre. I have been privileged to have worked with the centre for some ten years and I am still amazed at the sincerity and warmth of the welcome everyone receives. It epitomizes for me the true nature of a successful centre, a place where people are welcome and a



value led organisation seeking to serve its community, one that is rich in its diversity. It has always been a joy to work with the staff and volunteers, supporting them in their duties and aspirations to make St John's Centre the best it can be in service to the community of Old Trafford and beyond.

This year has seen the usual cycle of success and worry, success in continuing to generate funding to meet the community's needs and worry when we cannot meet all the demands placed upon us, especially so at this difficult time for many in our community. The centre has now entered another phase in its rich life; that as a company and charity. The future

though, is concerned with people and our community. This is the driving force, to meet the aspirations of people in a community that has its own issues to face and I shall look forward to this challenge as we enter our 4th decade of service, surrounded by bright positive colleagues who call St John's centre, 'their' centre, within a vibrant, often challenging but always positive community.

Although this is my final year as a colleague and director of the centre, I shall continue to seek to support this work from afar and wish all staff, volunteers and users a bright and positive future. This report details our work and our aspirations and here is to another 3 decades of service. Good Luck

Project Manager's Report

The Centre is celebrating its 30th year this year, and its first full year as a Company Limited by Guarantee and now a registered charity. The Centre has continuously served the people of Old Trafford in many ways over the years, enriching, engaging and enabling individuals and groups to come together in an atmosphere of trust and support and 2011/12 has seen this continue.

The Centre values and continues to embrace the richness and diversity in Old Trafford and contributes to building good community relationships, though this is not undertaken in a specific way, the opportunities that the Centre creates for people to meet together and get to know one another helps to build a strong integrated community; a community where people know one another.

2011/12 has seen the Centre help many people to access learning and training that builds skills, knowledge, confidence and good health by providing opportunities to enable them to do this, including volunteering. This provision supports people to go on to further education or to enhance their employment chances.

In addition the Centre is a place for other groups to meet and deliver their activities providing a great service to our community and numerous volunteering opportunities. We have also worked with schools and colleges providing students with teaching practice and work experience giving young people/ trainees a valuable experience within a community setting. The Centre continues to provide employment for 6 local residents working on the core project, and the Crèche.



Looking to the future, and building on our successful history, we have been developing a strategic plan for the organisation taking into account the needs of our community, alongside a business plan and funding plan. We have almost completed our PQASSO quality standards and hope to achieve the quality mark by December. We still want to continue the development of the whole site including the church for community use and have held many events, exhibitions and concerts in the church space in the last year.

An unexpected, but fantastic development for the Centre this year has been the use of 'green' energy; the Centre now receives some of its electricity through solar panels fitted to the church roof. This was made possible through St John's Sunshine an independent project, initiated by St John's Church and initially funded by an Old Trafford Community Grant. This scheme benefits not only those that use the Centre, but also it's investors and the environment too.

We have had another successful year in terms of numbers recorded using our resource, but I will repeat what I said last year - that it is, people, not numbers that are our main concern; individuals and families from Old Trafford especially those who are vulnerable and marginalised, and as we move into the future we will continue to listen to what our community needs, and use creative ways to meet those needs wherever we can.

Strategic Development

The Centre has gone through many changes in the last year or two and this year it has continued to grow and develop itself using the 'social enterprise' model enabling the organisation to be less 'grant dependent' and more self reliant. This has worked well, and the Board of directors continues to oversee these developments and have been working on a timed development plan to bring together the vision for the Centre over the next 10 years with short medium and long term plans. The short term included plans for the Centre to become a Company and a Registered Charity which involved forming a board of directors as opposed to having a 'management committee', and having Articles of Association (Constitution) setting out our charitable aims and rules of how we will run the charity. Both of which have been achieved.



We have also been working towards the PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance Standards for Small Organisations) quality standards mark for our organisation so that we can continue developing and improving ourselves.

We have employed a worker to develop family and young people's activities at the Centre and in addition as part of our longer term strategy, we still have plans for an extension to the building for crèche and after school use, and to develop the whole site to include the church space (whilst still keeping the space for worship) to serve the community in different ways including: exhibition space; conference/meeting space; and space for community events. In October last year the church hosted a Black history event involving young people from the community sharing their talents and also the Narnia Grotto was created in the church space and visited by over 300 local school children. These were a major success and a great example of how the church can be used for the benefit of the whole community.

Funding

Though we generate some of our own income from the building, we are still dependent on a certain amount of grant generated income to enable us to deliver the best service we can to the community.



With:



The Centre has lost quite a bit of private hire revenue in the last year due to having to change our hours of use. We are now only licensed to hold events until 10am if we hire out for a community celebration. This had resulted in less bookings and ultimately less revenue to be ploughed back into the Centre for community need.

Our original TMBC Voluntary Sector Grant ended in March 2012, though we have since had a successful application for this money; Projects were chosen for a grant through a Participatory Budgeting event, which means that the community voted for who they wished to receive the money. We had great support from all who use the Centre.

We also have funding from Manchester Diocese Parish Mission Fund and Council for Social Aid towards salaries of core staff.

BBC Children in need funding for our crèche finished in August 2011. We had been unable to replace the funding for last year, but managed to keep the crèche open working with small contributions from John Grant Davies Trust, Trafford College, WEA, donations from parents and some of our own core funding, employing one paid worker, using volunteers and partnership working with Sure Start. This has been quite a struggle but we were determined to keep this much needed resource. We recently reapplied to BBC Children in Need and have been awarded £73,000 over 3 years, which means we can now employ 2 crèche workers from the local area and continue the good work until 2015. This award includes funding for a 2 week Summer school each year.

In addition we have had a number of small grants for specific projects from the following:

British Heart Foundation - Good Food Good Heath

Old Trafford Community Grants - I.T. Equipment

BME Mental Health - Good Food Good Heath2

Summer of Wellbeing - Jubilee events

Our Cash our Call/ Safe4Summer - Summer Schools

Hilden Trust - Summer School activities

North Trafford Sports Fund - Women's keep fit sessions + Summer School activities- **Thank you to all our funders for helping us to make a difference in our community.**



Course Co-ordinator's Report



Academic Year 2011/2012

In 2011/2012 we had another successful year in terms of numbers recorded using our resource; we enrolled 350 learners this academic year. We have continued to have strong relationships with Trafford College, Trafford Community Learning and the WEA. We meet regularly with their staff to give them feedback on courses here, and they keep us informed of current and future policies.

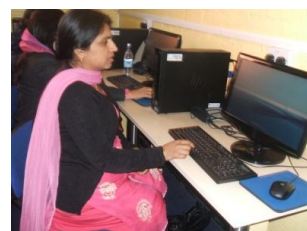
Ongoing courses

We have continued to run our most popular classes:

- ESOL (5 different classes);
- Literacy;
- Numeracy;
- Computing (4 different classes);
- Dressmaking (2 levels);
- Cake Decorating (2 levels);
- Watercolour painting; and
- Photoshop and Web Design.

The volunteer-led classes - IT, sewing, craft and gardening - are also continuing.

We are also working with private training provider BDS Group to provide a venue for their vocational courses.



New Courses

- In July 2011 the WEA provided a short “Summer School” at St John’s for the first time.
- We successfully applied for funding from the British Heart Foundation to run 5 sessions of Healthy Cooking classes, which have been very popular and have allowed us to make new links with the PCT.
- The WEA were able to offer us higher level Dressmaking and Cake Decorating classes this year, which provided progression for the most committed students as well as extra capacity for new learners.
- In June we started an ESOL conversation group run by volunteers, which is now well established.

Trends

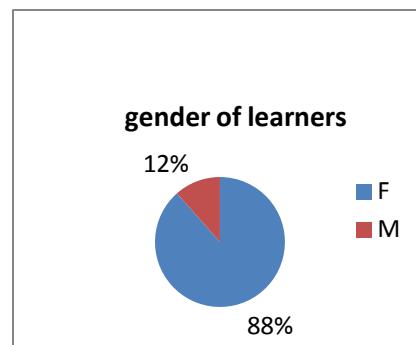
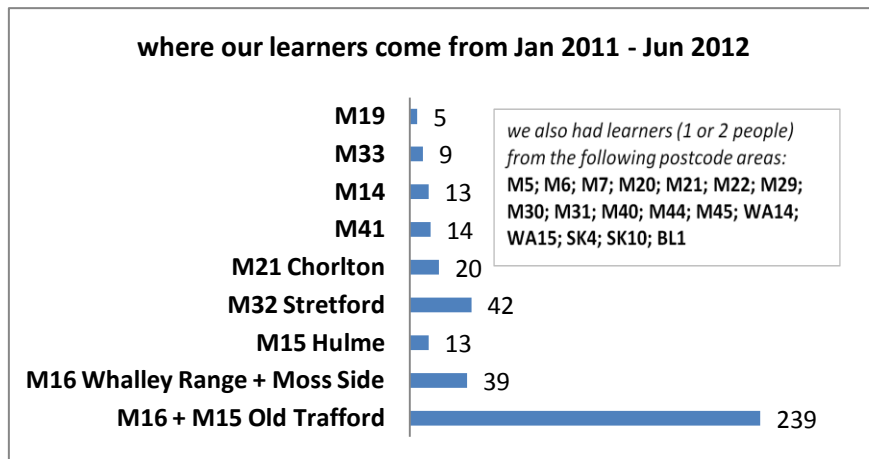
Funding this year seemed to be moving away from basic skills to family learning and employability. This has meant that learners without children could not access the College ESOL courses. We were able to accommodate many of them in the WEA classes, but those who wanted a women-only class had to go elsewhere. However it also meant that providers were likely to run more pre-vocational courses here. The WEA “Introduction to Beauty, Health and Social Care” course was very popular.

Course Co-ordinator's Report (continued)

Monitoring

We keep registration forms for all our learners so we can produce accurate figures for monitoring.

***We have 416 individual learners registered on courses from Jan 2011 - June 2012
As you can see the majority come from Old Trafford, and neighbouring areas.***



Academic Year 2012/13

- Over 200 people attended our Open Day in September.
- The WEA's funding for this region is unchanged this year. They are offering the same courses as last year, as well as extra courses to meet demand in Cake Decorating and Dressmaking. They will be holding a baking course in November, and we are currently working together to organise a Community Interpreting course.
- Trafford College Community Learning is offering us a similar number of courses, including Basic IT and Confidence Building.
- Trafford College continue to provide Maths and English classes, but have only been able to offer one ESOL class this year. This is partly because changes in funding mean that fewer students can access free courses. We have compiled a list of other ESOL courses in the area that we can signpost learners to. Classroom space has become available enabling us to run an extra dressmaking class, and start a volunteer-led Creative Textiles group.
- The Construction Youth Trust is currently (September 2012) running some taster sessions here for young people. We are applying for funding to extend this into a Construction Skills course in January 2013.



Volunteering at the Centre



The Centre has a strong voluntary ethos and in the last year have had around 20 volunteers to help us run the Centre. We have been very fortunate in that we have some excellent people on board with us giving of their time during the week undertaking many of the duties and supporting paid staff.

Rev. Ellie Trimble has taken on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator and is doing a sterling job sorting out all our enquiries for voluntary work.

We have been able to provide volunteering opportunities to people in the following areas:

- Tutor support
- Esol conversation group
- Arabic
- Gardening
- Sewing
- Computer workshop
- Office support
- Crèche
- Management Committee
- Cafe bar
- Work Club
- Summer school
- Play Together, Stay Together sessions
- Centre & Church events



We have also been involved with local schools enabling young people to undertake their work experience. The young people have worked both in the office, Old Trafford News and the Crèche. One of the placements wrote a fantastic poem for the launch of the St John's Sunshine Project, which he delivered with confidence at the event. Another came with us to Peace FM and was interviewed about his experience at the Centre. We try to make things as interesting as we can for them.

We have worked with student placements that need to deliver teaching hours as part of their course. We offer our own in house training. And have enabled 4 people to complete their qualifications two in Childcare and one in teaching another in Community Work.

The Cafe Bar volunteers have been running a charity cafe to raise funds.

In Addition we have had a group of volunteer solicitors from Addleshaws, 'Big Week Out' clearing up around the site on two occasions.



Working with Community Groups

Many community groups have used the Centre as their base this year, who themselves offer a great service to our community, including: Old Trafford Media Plus, Photography Club, Old Trafford Boxing Club, Brownies, South Asian Families Association, STEP Saturday School, SOCA Aerobics, Trafford African Caribbean over 50's, Old Trafford Credit Union, Manchester Sing Out Choir, ACE Women's group, Young Identity Writers group (16 -25 year olds), Ayo's Zumba.

One of the roles that the Centre continues to fulfil is to enable new groups to develop using space at the Centre, and has acted as an 'incubator' for projects such as Young Identity, Yoga for happiness, and has recently supported Activity Zone after school care to continue with their provision.

The Centre has hosted numerous community events:

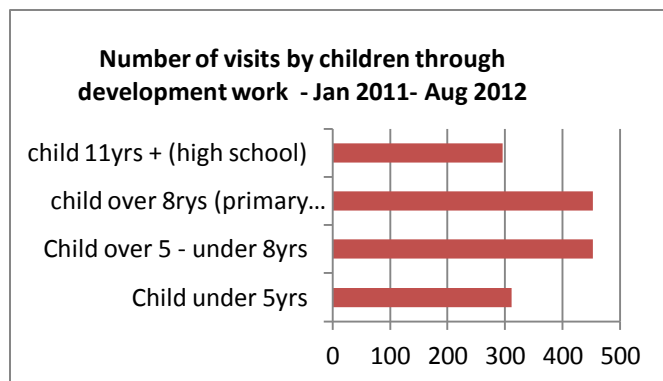
- St John's Community Pantomime
- Young people's Music event
- Old Trafford Neighbourhood forums
- Consultations
- Mental Health forums and events
- family Fun Days for young people
- fundraisers
- community weddings, parties and lots of other celebrations



Monitoring

It is always difficult to monitor who comes in to use the centre as there are so many different groups and activities. Our singing in book shows we have had 19,623 visits to the centre. The development worker has monitored 1,833 adults, young people and children attending events and activities. We have no way of knowing how many people turn up for private party bookings.

Our monitoring shows we have had 21,456 visits to the centre since Jan 2011.



We often feel our centre is used mainly by adults, but development work has meant more visits by children, young people and their families. Many of our community groups provide dedicated activities for children and young people such as Brownies; STEP Saturday School; junior Boxing; Young Identities writers group. Under 18's made up 12% of visits to the centre from Jan 2011 to Aug 2012.

Crèche Report



The Crèche has continued to flourish and despite having very little funding still managed to get a 'good' from our Ofsted inspection earlier this year. We have enrolled around 90 different children throughout the year, some have only been with us for one or two sessions and others have been long term. It has been amazing watching how the children have developed within the setting after only a few months. Our parents/carers have been very happy that they have a safe and caring environment to leave their children whilst they attend classes.

We have been using volunteers in the crèche due to a shortage of funding, and have had 3 regular volunteers who have been really supportive, so a very big thank you to them as without them we would not have been able to carry on. Also thank you to Sure Start crèche workers who have run 2 sessions per week at the Centre. This has been a great piece of partnership work.

The crèche worker Jaz also helped to organise half term family activities and Christmas activities alongside the development worker. These now regular sessions have been very well attended and received by families in Old Trafford.

Through receiving a BBC Children in need grant the crèche is now able to employ 2 workers for 3 years, this is fantastic news for those parents/carers that really need the facility to support them on their journey. In the meantime Sure Start is providing staff for all our crèche sessions. A big thank you from all of us.



Church & Centre Development Worker's Report



I have been working at the centre in various roles since 2005 and am pleased to be employed in the exciting new role of Church and Centre Development Worker. My job is to develop activities for children young people and families in the area, and to develop the use of the church space as a venue to be enjoyed by everyone in the community. There have already been some fantastic outcomes.

I think that having a development worker allows St. John's Centre to look at building the community in different directions than existing funding allows. St. John's functions as an adult education centre during the day. Having time to develop different directions allows for the moments that make memories and brings people together who may not meet in their usual lesson time in St. John's. Small things can mean so much. The act of creating something together as a community results in; talents coming to the surface that few know about; reveals personal and family information, making friendship and respect for one another stronger; provides something in the community that you were part of, giving a joint sense of purpose and belonging - creating something together.

Church & Centre Development Worker's Report (continued)

Activities in the Centre



'Play Together, Stay Together' sessions run in the school holidays for families. The pressure of having the kids at home, in isolation, is relieved for a few hours by coming to one of our play sessions.

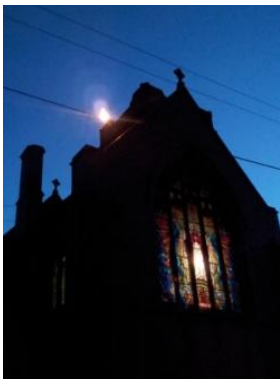


Summer School 2012 was funded through Safe4Summer money allowing us to run 2 weeks of Olympic themed activities in the summer holidays for children age 8+ yrs. We always have spaces for accompanied younger children so families can attend together. Funding from BBC Children In Need will provide Summer School for the next 3 years.



- **St. John's Got ...** Black History Month talent showcase with Young Blood Promotions
- **Young Inventors Club** as part of Manchester's Science Week
- **International Women's Day** "Take an Hour out" lunch
- Olympic Torch Making sessions as part of the **Cultural Olympiad 2012**
- **Christmas Fayre**

Activities in the Church



St. John's Church has its own congregation as well as being home to Christ Temple African Church. The Church wants to see this amazing building used by the community for activities fitting with its ethos. A permanent exhibition space is now available for artists to display their work. Musicians regularly use the church for rehearsals and recordings. Live concerts have been a real success. School groups have visited as part of their curriculum. "Tower Tours" produced some fantastic bird's eye views over Old Trafford.



- **Know your Neighbour** - photographic exhibition
- **Space Invaders** - interactive gaming event for young people
- **P4C sessions** (psychology for children) with Development Education Project
- **St. George & the Dragon** - Spanish processional giants in church
- **Christmas in Narnia & Nativity** - over 300 children visited
- **Coptic Christians and the Arab Spring** - photographic exhibition plus Q&A session
- **Big Jubilee Tea Party** - buns, bunting and meet the Queen
- **Best of British** - photographic exhibition by OTN photography group
- **Jubilee Beacon Lighting** - the only official Trafford beacon

Fun & charity Fund Raising

Again in Dec 2011 the Centre Staff and a few others put together the now widely acclaimed St John's community pantomime. 'Dick Whittington' written by Ally Fogg, of Old Trafford News fame, the staff performed in and made their own sets and costumes (with a little help from their friends). The performances were a sell out, and all the proceeds went to Children in Need **£365.55**

£ 132.60 went to Christian Aid from our 'Souper Soup' lunch event.

Candlemas - light a candle grow a flower, raised **£94** that went to "Polly's Pantry" fund for a new kitchen in the centre.

Some of our volunteers are running a charity cafe (tea, coffee and Biscuits) we will put money raised towards a chosen charity in December.



Thank you

Directors, Staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard this year to make sure that the Centre continues to serve the community, runs smoothly, and is a safe and welcoming place to come. I think that has been achieved, so a great big thank goes to all for their hard work, dedication and commitment and time given freely and cheerfully.

We would also like to thank all our partners and associates, we have formed some strong relationships and it had been a pleasure working with you and we hope to be able to continue building on this into the future.

Staff & Board Members 2011/12

Staff: Christine Aspinall, Elaine Eland, Anita Ward, Emma Wilton, Jasbir Kaur, John Ward

Board:



John
Hughes



Louise
Dunne



Colin
Barson



Evelyn
Cosham



Sandra
Barber



Glynis
Craig



Polly
Williams



Tahira
Khan Sindu

Sadly Polly Williams one of our long standing management committee members, director and staunch Centre supporter died at the beginning of the year. She has been sadly missed by all and we would like to give a special thank you for all her work with the Centre over the years.

Partners & Associates

2001/12

St John's Church
Manchester Diocese
OT Media Plus
St John's Sunshine
Primary Care Trust
Trafford Council
Trafford College
VCAT
Workers Education Assoc.
Development Education Project
Business Link
BDS Training
Old Trafford Family Centre
Old Trafford Children Centres
Sure Start
Trafford African Caribbean over 50's Club
Old Trafford Credit Union
Construction Youth Trust
Young Blood Promotions
Old Trafford Partnership Education & skills

