

1. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

The Charity name is: St John's Centre, Charity Number: 1146058, Company number: 7597525,

Registered office:

St John's Centre,
St Johns Road
Old Trafford,
Manchester M16 7GX

Trustees:

Appointed 2/10/2012:- Rev John D Hughes, Miss Evelyn Cosham, Mrs Louise Dunn, Mrs Glynis Craig, Mrs Sandra Barber, Mrs Tahira Khan Sindhu, Mr Colin Barson (appointment terminated 2/10/2013)

Appointed 29/10/2013:- Mrs Julie Nelson Hall.

Additional information:

Senior staff member in charge of day to day management of the charity: Ms Christine Aspinall

Independent examiner: Mr Alastair Gillian 53 Burnedge Fold Road, Grasscroft, Oldham OL4 4EE.

Bankers:

Barclays Bank
587, Wilbraham Road,
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy,
Manchester,
M21 9AL

2. Structure, governance and management

St John's Centre is a company Limited by Guarantee and is constituted by Articles of Association adopted March 2011.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with our governing document. 4 Parochial Church Council (PCC) nominated representatives, who are appointed by the PCC at the meeting prior to St John's Centre's AGM, plus 3 members from the local community and there are 2 spaces for co-optees onto the board from affiliated groups. Trustees are formally elected at the Annual General Meeting. When trustees have been recruited they are given an induction pack with information of the charitable company, background information, reports from the last 2 meetings, a business plan, relevant policies and a code of conduct. We also provide a trustees handbook. Ongoing training is arranged for trustees with opportunities provided for specific training as and when needed.

Decisions are made by trustees sitting as a board at 6 meetings per annum. Specific work is carried out by 1 standing sub group at present: Finance and strategy. Other sub groups are set up as and when needed. The board retains all liability for decision making around financial issues. Other sub groups are developed, time limited and specific.

3. Financial review:

Reserves policy

Explanation of any Deficit

See second part of this report for examined accounts for the year 2011/12

4. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

NONE

5.Charitable Aims, Objectives Public benefit statement

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

1. *To further or benefit the residents of Old Trafford, Manchester and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.*
2. *To promote such other purposes as are charitable according to the laws of England and Wales for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined.*

This annual Report contains all aspects of public benefit of the charity.

Staff & Board Members 2013

Staff:

Christine Aspinall - Centre Manager

Elaine Eland - Development Worker

Anita Ward - Administrator

Emma Wilton - Courses Co-ordinator

Prem Kaur - Crèche Supervisor

Lizzie Quinn - Crèche worker

John Ward - Cleaner & Maintenance

Board:



John
Hughes



Louise
Dunn



Evelyn
Cosham



Sandra
Barber



Glynis
Craig



Julie
Nelson-Hall



Tahira
Khan Sindhu



Chair's comments

I commend this report, revealing as it does myriad ways in which St John's Centre continues to enrich lives in our community.

Thanks are due to all, staff and volunteers, groups and individuals, partners organisations and funders, for all you do to make the Centre such a vibrant and welcoming community resource. The report celebrates what we have achieved together. Long may we thrive with your support!

Centre Manager's Report - Chris Aspinall

It has been another successful year for our Centre, and we have been very busy serving the community particularly in the areas of community learning; community events, young people's activities and volunteering. There have been some heart-warming stories of how people have grown in skills and confidence through attending courses and activities at the Centre.

Partnership work is continuing to flourish, and we still have strong links with community learning providers WEA and Trafford College. Our International Women's Day event was opened by Paula Dunn, head coach of the GB Paralympics team, and saw over 100 women (and a few men) from different backgrounds coming together to share their stories whilst enjoying activities and food. Our Summer School provided 3 weeks of positive activities for more than eighty 8-13 year olds. Volunteering has figured largely at the Centre this year in a variety of areas of our work, and some of our volunteers have found employment or gone on to higher education. We are also delighted that through our Children in Need Grant we have been able to employ two local residents for 3 years and been able to offer some paid work to others during the Summer scheme in August.

The Centre continues to get some of its electricity generated by solar power through St John's Sunshine scheme. This year the saving was £340, not the total cost of our electricity bill, but its importance is also about clean, green energy. We would like to have more of this in the future, and will be looking at ways in which we are able to get further solar panels installed on the roof of the church.

A particular highlight this year was achieving the PQASSO Quality standard Mark, after a very robust process of self examination in 12 areas of our work, and a day visit from the PQASSO evaluator we now have a certificate to officially verify that we are a quality organisation. This has been one of the several areas of development at the Centre.

Future Developments will be around the 'Grow, Cook, Eat Learn & Earn' agenda, which involves teaching people how to grow their own fruit and vegetables, offering workplace training and social enterprise development through a cafe enterprise. We are also creating an opportunity to set up a pool of trained interpreters both paid and voluntary that would work within our community setting.

Funding:

Whilst the Centre continues to keep its head above water financially for the time being, it is getting more and more difficult to secure core funding as times have changed drastically. The funding market is getting very competitive, where there is still funding available, and we find ourselves competing with many others for the same funding pots. Our Core grant from Trafford has been reduced over the last 5 years from £40,000 to just £5,000. We are very lucky to have our building with which we are able to generate some income.



With:



Funding is still in place from Manchester Diocese Parish Mission Fund and Council for Social Aid towards salaries of core staff.

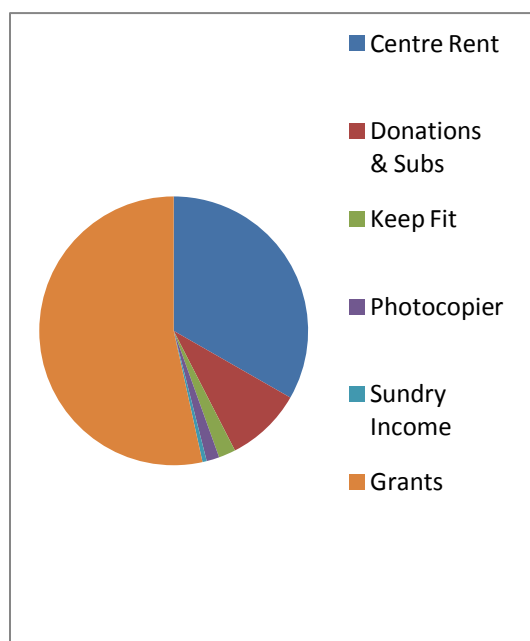
BBC Children in Need have been funding our crèche provision since February this year. We were awarded £73,000 over 3 years which means we now employ 2 crèche workers from the local area until 2016. This award includes funding for a 2 week Summer school each year.

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

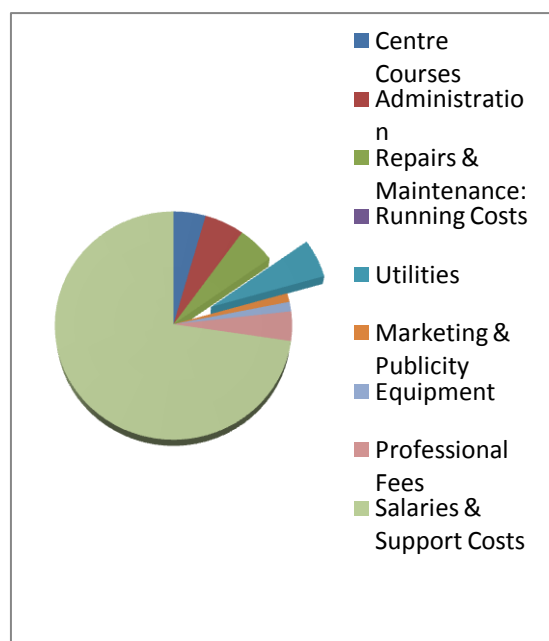


- St John's Sunshine – Fold up Bicycle for community use
- Old Trafford Community Panel - Construction and Interpreting courses
- BME Mental Health – Good Food Good Health courses and International women's day.
- Trafford Council – 'Free Space' Project
- Sure Start – although they didn't provide us with money in real terms they provided 2 members of staff whilst we were awaiting the results of our bid to Children in Need. We are very thankful for this as it helped with the continuity of the crèche provision.
- People's Health Trust – Kitchen Garden Project

Income



Expenditure



Thank You! Thank you to all our funders for helping the Centre to make a difference to people's lives. A well deserved thank you also goes to our Directors, Staff and Volunteers who have worked extremely hard this year to make sure that the Centre continues to serve the community, run smoothly, and is a safe and welcoming place to visit. I think that has been achieved, so a great big thank you goes to them all for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

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

Courses Co-ordinator's Report - Emma Wilton

Courses 2012-13

In this academic year we registered over 400 learners.

We continued to have strong relationships with Trafford College, Trafford College Community Learning and the WEA.



Ongoing courses

We continued to run our most popular classes:

- ESOL (2 different classes)
- Literacy
- Numeracy (including Maths with ESOL)
- Computing (3 different classes)
- Healthy Cookery (with the PCT)
- Dressmaking (2 levels)
- Cake Decorating (3 levels)
- Watercolour painting
- Photoshop and Web Design

Our volunteer-led classes in ESOL, IT, sewing, craft and gardening also continued.

New Courses

- We worked with Old Trafford Community Panel and the Construction Youth Trust to offer 8 week courses in Construction Skills for young people.
- Two of our own staff, together with one of our regular volunteers, organised and taught a very successful Baking course.
- The WEA provided an accredited Community Interpreting course in January, which enabled many of the learners to gain a Level 3 qualification. We also linked up with Big Life families to offer the learners voluntary work to gain experience.
- We set up a Spanish Conversation class, and when our original volunteer moved away from Manchester, we contacted the Instituto Cervantes, who found us some fantastic new volunteers.

Recent Developments

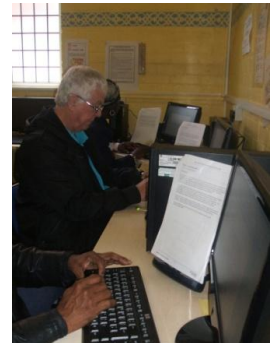
We have seen an increasing number of learners being sent on courses by Jobcentre Plus, and needing to provide proof that they are attending. The fact that we offer volunteer-led classes, particularly in ESOL and Computing, means that we can meet this need even if our other classes are full. This is particularly important because of our reduced number of ESOL classes.



Prospects for 2013-14

- The WEA have been able to offer us the same core courses as last year.
- Although Trafford College are no longer offering an ESOL class here, they are providing Maths for ESOL learners as well as their core Numeracy and Literacy courses.
- Trafford College Community Learning is providing IT and Spanish Courses, and plans to offer a "Crafty Fundraising" course after half term.
- We are planning another volunteer-led Baking course in November, this time with a Christmas theme!

- We have received funding from Old Trafford Community Panel to subsidise places on two more Community Interpreting courses (September 2013 and March 2014), making them accessible to people on low incomes.
- A very recent grant from the People's Health Trust will allow us to set up Cookery Group with learners from the Good Food, Good Health course, and to expand the Gardening Group's activities, starting in January 2014.



Supporting Community Groups

Many community groups have used the Centre as their base this year, who themselves offer a great service to our community, including: Photography Club, Old Trafford Boxing Club, Brownies, STEP Saturday School, Hellenic School, Activity Zone after school care, Trafford African Caribbean Over 50's, Old Trafford Credit Union, Manchester Sing Out Choir, Young Identity Writers group (16 -25 year olds) and 'Shylarks' Harmony singing group.

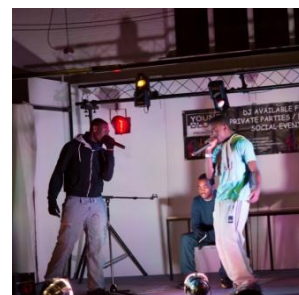
One of the roles that the Centre continues to fulfil is to enable new groups to develop using space at the Centre, and we have acted as an 'incubator' for projects. The Centre was awarded £2980 to help new projects to get off the ground by giving them free space for a specified period whilst they find funding, get a constitution together, and do some marketing; we have recently supported 5 groups to continue with their provision or to start something new such as Zumbini, and the 1055 Business Club

The Centre has organised numerous community events including:-

- Young people's music event;
- International Women's Day
- Family Fun Days for young people ;
- Fundraisers

As well as hosting

- community weddings, parties and festivals



Paula Dunn - Head Coach for the GB Paralympics Team at IWD

As a woman of Inspiration Paula, the daughter of one of our directors and a local girl herself opened our 'International Women's day' event. It was fantastic to have Paula with us on the day.

Volunteering at the Centre – Diane Brown



Diane Brown is our Volunteer Co-ordinator at present. As a volunteer herself Diane has given time to this demanding role, and is really getting things organised. The Centre has a strong voluntary ethos and in the last year 29 volunteers have helped us at 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 below and supporting paid staff.

- Tutor support, ESOL conversation groups, photography
- Gardening, Sewing group, Computer workshop
- Office support, film making, Summer school, Enrolment day
- Play Together, Stay Together sessions
- Spanish lessons, Centre & Church events



We have also been involved with local schools enabling young people to undertake their work experience. The young people have undertaken a variety of work, in particular designing posters, making telephone calls and other office based tasks. It has been great to see the young people develop in confidence even over one week. We try to make things as interesting and enjoyable as we can for them.

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

Case Study - Natalie Hine – Volunteer ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Tutor.



"I started volunteering at the Centre with Margaret and the ESOL conversation class in May; I had been very unwell over the previous year and as a consequence had lost my job as a mental health O.T. This had left me lacking confidence and at a loss how to feel my once busy day. Finding St. John's has proved to be an important and fundamental step on my road to recovery. As well as being able to attend classes myself which I have found therapeutic and a great way to reconnect with others, being able to volunteer has provided me with more confidence, self belief and hope for the future. All the team at St. John's have been incredibly supportive, and understanding, especially after the recent death of my father. I have found St. John's to be a healing, (and happy!) place, thanks!"

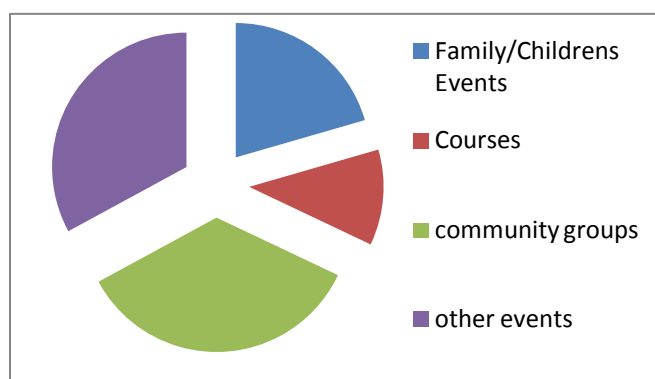


Some of Our volunteers at work - Summer Scheme, Gardening, Spanish, enrolment day.

Monitoring

It is always difficult to monitor who comes in to use the centre as there are so many different groups and activities. Our signing in book shows we have had 14,721 visits to the centre between Jan – Dec 2012 and 11,844 between Jan 2013- Sept. The development worker has monitored 748 adults, young people and children attending events and activities. We have no way of knowing how many people turn up for private party bookings. This adds up to a massive 26,000 plus visits to the centre since Jan 2012.

Breakdown of Visitor Types Jan 2012 – Dec 2012



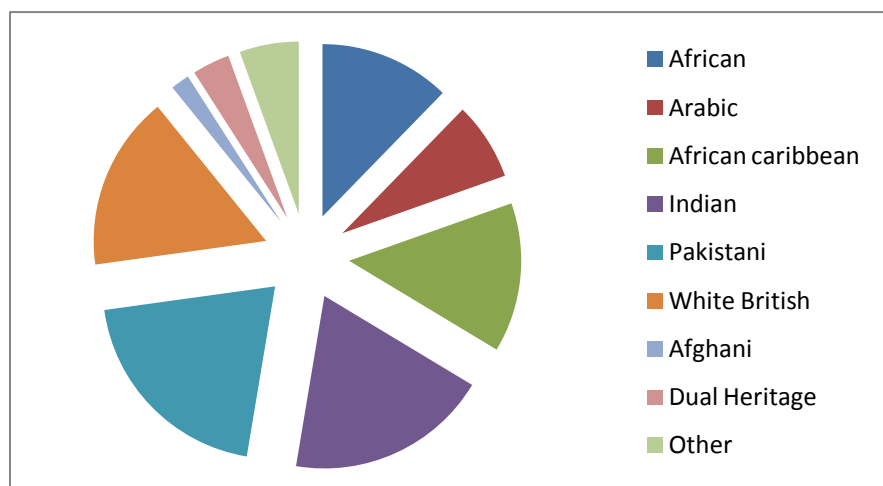
We have felt in the past that our Centre is mainly used by adults, but development work has meant more visits by children, young people and their families. Many of our community groups provide dedicated activities for children and young people such as Brownies; STEP Saturday School; junior Boxing; and Young Identity writers group.

Though numbers are useful to monitor, the real difference the Centre is making can't be shown in this way.

We have collected lots of evidence of how people are enjoying, growing and developing skills becoming confident and moving towards their full potential.

Anecdotal evidence and feedback from people attending shows that the Centre has helped many people some in small ways and some in big ways.

Ethnicity breakdown of people attending Courses and activities Monday – Friday Daytime.



'Other' is made up from small numbers of:

Bangladeshi, Chinese, Cypriot, Iranian, Italian Kurdish, Sri Lankan Somali, Spanish, Italian Greek, Turkish, Moroccan
4 people did not state their ethnicity.

Trends show that whilst the breakdown still reflects the makeup of the community,

there is a larger segment of people from both Africa and Arabia and of those described in 'Other' compared to previous years.

Male/Female breakdown – women still manage to out-number the men when accessing courses. 80% v 20% though the overall picture of Centre usage is more balanced.

Crèche Report - Prem Kaur & Lizzie Quinn



There have been some big changes for our creche this last year 2012-13. In September our creche was being run by Sure- Start whilst we were awaiting funding from BBC Children in Need. There were many things that needed to be in place before money was released and all these took time: interviews, CRB checks and safeguarding training (including the Board members), a false start re staffing arrangements,

but eventually all was in place. Sure- Start left in February after a handover period and our new staff were in place.

Both staff are from the local area and are qualified childcare practitioners, they are making an enormous difference to the creche They have new professional looking uniforms so that they are easily recognised, by people using the Centre;

The creche room layout has been changed to create specified areas for play; and some much needed equipment has been bought. Planning and delivery of activities for the children is based around the primary areas of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).



The creche has introduced a 'settling in procedure' for children, who have been invited to visit before starting. This has helped them settle in more quickly. Result: happy children who are developing new skills and becoming more confident and happy learners. Feedback from parents/carers has been most encouraging.

87 children have benefitted from the provision from January – September 2013

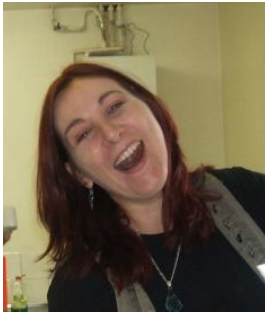
'Play Together - Stay Together'

The creche staff alongside our development worker run half term 'Play Together Stay Together' family activity sessions which have become an integral part of the Centre's year. These events have been well attended and enjoyed enormously by families in the area. One dad described the sessions as 'a life saver'.



"Working for St John's Centre in the creche, has been a great opportunity for me; there is always something new and challenging each day, the children love it once they have settled in and are sometimes sad to leave at the end of the session, it's very rewarding".(Prem Kaur - Creche Supervisor)"

Development Workers Report - Elaine Eland



'Play Together, Stay Together' sessions run in the school half term 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. (299 parents/carers and children attended)

International Women's Day was opened by Paula Dunn - manager of the GB Paralympics team. We were fortunate to work with artists Charlotte Newson and Claire Mooney. A well attended event gathered women together to create arts and crafts. "Bags of Creation" resulted in some fantastic handmade felt bags with the telling of heartfelt stories of the lives of local women. Watch out for the resulting book. . You can listen by visiting Kerry Voellner's film type "bags of creation" into YouTube search. (142 women attended – and 3 men)



Junior Jammin' is a weekly session running in the church where young people can come and practice their live music skills. It has had a mixed response, not one of my more successful projects – it needs nurturing.

St. John's Summer School offered 3 weeks of activities to children age 8+. We worked with local artists, the BBC outreach team, Activity Zone and volunteers to offer arts, crafts and trips themed round our environment – urban and natural.

Salford Foundation, running a National Citizenship Service programme, ran an extended week 3 to our Summer School. 15 volunteers age 16-17yrs, organised and ran activities under supervision from a youth worker.

(83 children had fun, and were kept safe & busy, over the 3 weeks)



EAT, COOK, GROW looks at growing food and feeding communities. A wonderful day in the sunshine was had by me and the NW catering section of the Army at St. Bride's Fun Day in August. We fed about 1,500 people with free healthy food, sourced from Fair Share NW.
(581 adults and 926 children attended the day)



School visits to St. John's Church – increased this year. Year groups' reception and YR4 from Seymour Park Primary and YR2 from Rolls Crescent Primary, Hulme, visited.
(216 primary school children visited the church)

Future funding for the development worker post runs until August 2014. Until then, there'll be Play Together, Stay Together sessions over half terms. Summer School 2014; plus the most memorable Christmas celebration ever! Remaining time will be spent researching and applying for funding to develop the church building for community use – we need more space!
Money raised through the development work post for 2013 = £5284.35

Fun & Charity Fund Raising

- Our Souper Soup lunch Raised £108 for Christian Aid,
- Elaine's sponsored 1 mile swim in Lake Windermere raised £247 towards a microwave and fridge freezer for the Centre – very appropriate as the water was apparently freezing.
- Red Nose Day saw fun and fitness combined – in total we raised £169.33 for Comic Relief

A grand total of £524.33p



Thanks to all those who supported us.

Partners & Associates 2012/13

St John's Church
Manchester Diocese
St John's Sunshine
Construction Youth Trust
Primary Care Trust
Trafford Council
Trafford College
VCAT
Workers Education Assoc.
Thrive
Sure-Start
Trafford African Caribbean Over 50's Club
Old Trafford Credit Union
Old Trafford Partnership
THT's – Old Trafford Community Panel

