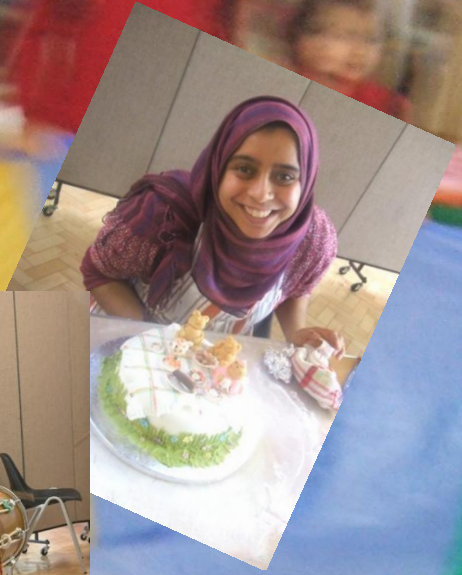


St John's
CENTRE

enriching lives in our community

Annual Report 2015



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 John's 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 Jonathan Baker (appointment terminated 1 June 2015)

Additional information:

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

Independent examiner of accounts: 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 a Charity; it 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 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 asked to attend an interview, and 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: Funding & Strategy. Other sub groups are set up as and when needed, time limited and specific. The board retains all liability for decision making around financial issues.

3. Financial review:

Reserves policy

Explanation of any Deficit

See second part of this report for examined accounts for the year 2013/14

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

Staff & Board Members 2014/15

Staff:

Christine Aspinall - Centre Manager

Elaine Eland - Development Worker

Diane Browne - 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



Jonathan
Baker



Tahira
Khan Sindhu

(resigned June 2015)

Mission Statement:

Through education and recreation we seek to promote good relationships within our diverse community; give individuals the opportunity to realise their full potential; meet the needs of the present and create a sustainable resource for the future.

Centre Manager's Report - Chris Aspinall



This is The Centre 33rd anniversary and our 4th Year as a Company and Charity and yet another successful year for our Centre. We have been very busy serving the community, meeting needs and creating opportunities for people to enrich their lives, particularly in the areas of community learning; community events, young people's holiday activities, work experience and volunteering.

It's getting so busy it's hard to squeeze people in! We do however have to hit targets for our funders, but by far the most important thing to us is that we make a difference to people's lives. So people not numbers.

There are many success stories of how people have been helped and encouraged by staff at the Centre; and how they have grown in skills and confidence through attending courses and other activities at the Centre.

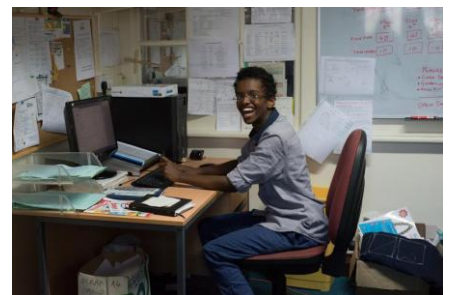
Partnership work is continuing to flourish; we have strengthened our links with local organisations and continue to work with WEA, Trafford College, Trafford Partnership, and Old Trafford Liaison Group, and to Chair the Old Trafford Education Employment and skills group. Our partnership work with The National Citizenship Scheme for Young people is developing. In addition this year we have had several new initiatives, including much needed legal advice sessions led by Ikram Malik; and Talk English (ESOL) classes and Cafe.

Through links with our learning providers, WEA, Trafford College, Talk English and others, this year has been a fantastic year for community learning. Many students gained qualifications in Community Interpreting Level 3, First Aid, Food Hygiene and Basic Computer skills, and more.

Our children and young people's activities have flourished; Stay & Play sessions meet a real need for parents/carers; Minecraft club is popular; Summer School was again much in demand.

Volunteering opportunities have been offered, both backroom and delivery. Our volunteers have been excellent; they have gained skills and experience and shared their own skills too. Some have found employment; some are training for a qualification here at the Centre.

The Centre continues to offer work experience to young people from the local high schools (usually one or two weeks). We try to make sure the experience is both valuable and enjoyable for them. This year we have had 3 young people, two from Chorlton High and one from Trinity High. They produced a newsletter, worked in the front office, made posters, answered the phone and dealt with enquiries.



In April we appointed a new part time Admin worker, Diane Browne, who is also our volunteer co-ordinator. Diane is an asset to the team.



More Solar Panels have been installed on the church roof this year to enable the wonderful St John's Sunshine (SJS) Community Benefit Company to supply even cleaner, green, electricity to the Centre saving us money on our bills. SJS have given out grants again this

year to small local community initiatives from income generated through government FiT (Feed in Tariff). Thank you Sunshine!

And last, but definitely not least, our Community Pantomime was, I believe, the best ever.

Community Groups

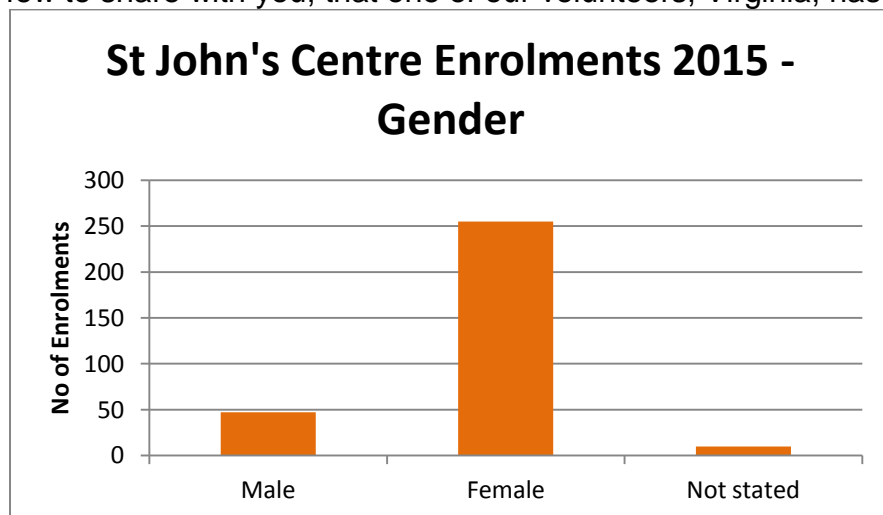
One of the roles that the Centre continues to fulfil is to support groups that use the Centre and enable new initiatives to develop; we have acted as an 'incubator' for many projects over the years. Regular community groups using the Centre are Boxing club, Brownies, STEP, Shylarks singing, Yoga for Women, Inspirational voices and Hellenic school; though there have been many other short term groups.

Funding:

Our funding comes from many different sources. Of the £120,000 it costs to keep St. John's running as it is, about one quarter is self generated income from hiring out our space. Our core costs, to pay for bills, salaries, and building maintenance for this year have been from:- Parish Mission Fund; Council for Social Aid; John Grant Davies Trust; Garfield Weston; People's Health Trust and Awards for All. In addition to core costs we have had small grants to support specific projects: Hilden Trust £1,000; Trafford Housing Trust £380; Voluntary Grants Trafford £1,000. Funding remains one of our biggest concerns as statutory funding is cut back and more organisations apply for other pots of money available. Funding from Trafford Council is a good example to reflect this trend - from receiving core funding 5 years ago, to a small £5,000 grant in 2013/14 to a voluntary sector grant of £1,000 in 2015. Securing funding is a major part of the Centre Manager's role and is supported by our board of directors. Thank you to all our funders; partners; associates.

Statistics

We constantly collect information from people using our Centre. This is a usual requirement from funders who want to know who benefits from the work we do. Statistics give a flavour of who uses St. John's and may indicate some of the reasons why. They do not replace the real life impact that attending courses, activities and events at the Centre can have. Below are a few to share with you, that one of our volunteers, Virginia, has ably put together.



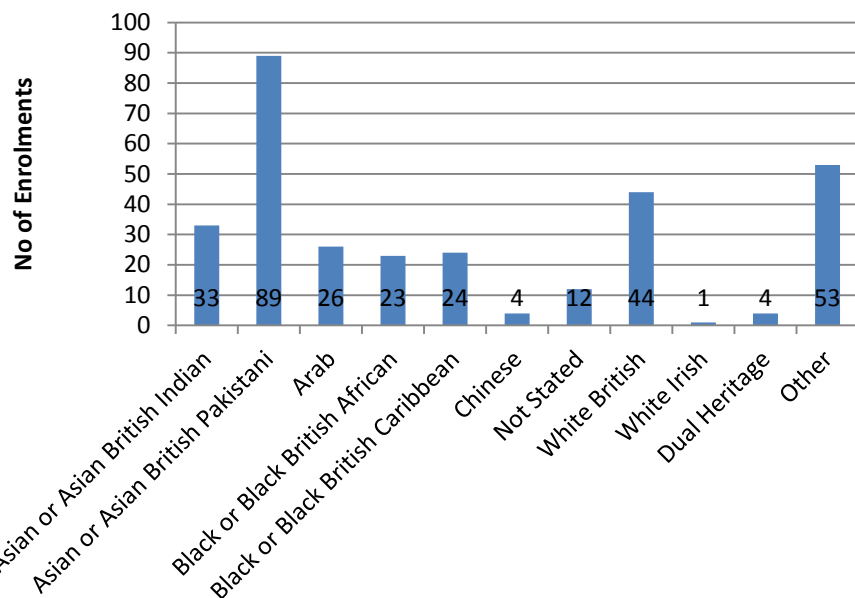
Notes:

Students enrolling more than once have been counted only once.

Data for October enrolments not yet complete. 29/10/15.

Statistics (continued)

St John's Centre Enrolments 2015

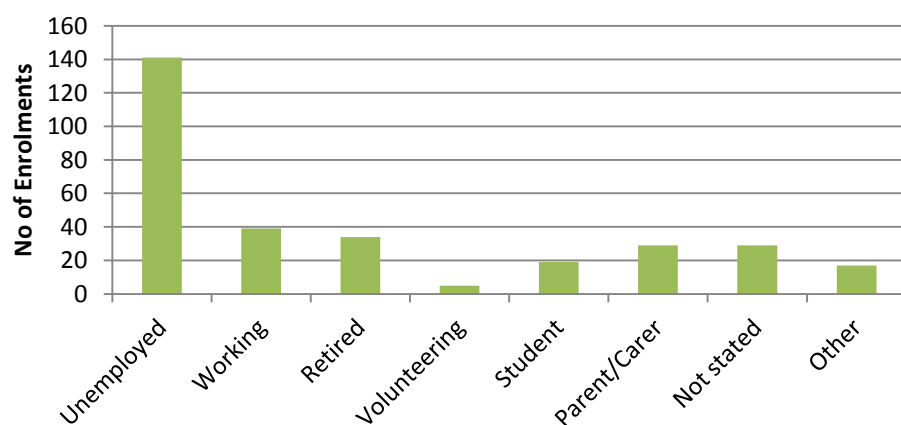


Notes:

Students enrolling more than once have been counted only once.

Data for October enrolments not yet complete. 29/10/15.

St John's Centre Enrolments 2015 - Employment Status



Notes:

Students enrolling more than once have been counted only once.

Data for October enrolments not yet complete. 29/10/15.

Future Developments

'Grow, Cook, Eat, Learn & Earn' - building on last years developments we have a bid in for our poly-tunnel to be repaired - we are having a new solar boiler fitted, providing our running hot water. A Friday baking group will give people the opportunity to learn new skills in the kitchen. Funding is being sought to run a Bread Project – bringing together people from different cultural backgrounds to learn bread baking skills. After an unsuccessful bid to BIG Lotteries we continue to search for funding to further develop this project, which involves teaching people resilience, how to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and offers workplace training and social enterprise development through a cafe enterprise.

Community Interpreting – Anna Mansell has been busy developing a community interpreting service that will provide a pool of trained interpreters for paid and voluntary work within our community, and throughout Trafford and Manchester. We continue with community interpreting courses at St. John's and have been able to offer Level 3, in partnership with the WEA (Worker's Education Association).

Advanced courses – Building on one of our new courses "Child Development" we may be able to run a teaching assistant course. This is in response to requests from people from the community using the centre who require more specific skills to get into employment.

Lastly from me.... I would like to thank our directors, volunteers and teachers for helping to make a difference to people's lives through the work of the Centre.



A special thank you to the staff team – you have been truly amazing!

Chairperson's comments - John Hughes



I wear different hats. As well as being Chair of St John's Centre, I am Priest in Charge of St John's Church and Founder Director of St John's Sunshine, our Old Trafford solar energy co-op, which has its registered office in the Centre. Once a year, I even wear the hat of a pantomime dame. But the number of hats I wear is as nothing compared to the variety of activities, groups and costume changes that take place in St John's Centre in any given week. Just list the hats!: ESOL, Maths, Cake Decorating, Art, Boxing, Gospel Choir, Greek School, Sewing, Crèche, Computing Class, Brownies, Accapella Singing,

Taekwondo, STEP's Saturday school, Gardening, Interpreting, Garden Design, Singing for the Brain (Alzheimers' Society), Photoshop and Web Site Design, Bingo and Keep Fit, Yoga and Pilates, private parties and public events, Talk English café and refreshments after church on a Sunday and this list is far from complete!

None of these quick changes of costume could take place without the seamless skills of staff and volunteers who keep the show on the road and find the hats a home. Our great and many thanks are due to them. The many groups and users help us generate funds to pay staff and maintain the building...but even in a good year, this doesn't pay for half of what we need, as Christine Aspinall, our Centre Manager, points out in her report. So, we have to doff our caps at funders. We thank all those who help us do this and those who have funded our many activities. Occasionally, we even have to pass the hat around the Centre. It never comes back empty! This is humbling, because it makes us realize how much you value what the Centre tries to offer, with all its quick changes and many groups: a place, to misquote Marvin Gaye and friends, to hang your hat and feel at home.

Courses Co-ordinator's Report - Emma Wilton



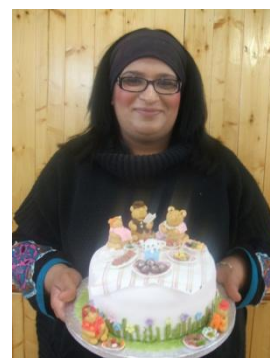
Courses 2014-15

In this academic year we registered nearly 450 learners (up from 400 last year). We continued to have strong relationships with Trafford College Community Learning and the WEA.

Ongoing courses

We continued to run our most popular classes:

- ESOL (4 levels, including a Pre-entry class for the first time in many years)
- Dressmaking
- Literacy and Numeracy (2 levels)
- Cake Decorating (4 classes)
- Painting and Drawing
- Computing (3 different classes)
- Photoshop and Make a Website



In addition to these:

- Trafford College Community Learning provided Healthy Cookery classes.
- Thanks to funding from THT, we were able to offer a Level 3 course in Community Interpreting to the learners from our previous Level 2 courses. All these learners achieved this rigorous qualification.
- Through Trafford College and the People's Health Trust, we were able to offer several First Aid and Food Safety courses, including Paediatric First Aid. These have had a high pass rate and improved learners' employability.
- We received funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) and from Trafford Council's Equality Grants to support our provision of classes.

Our volunteer-led classes in ESOL, IT, Spanish, sewing, baking and gardening continued. Our ESOL Conversation group had a trip out where they were given a guided tour of the refurbished Central Library, and our Talk English groups visited the Whitworth Gallery.

Prospects for 2015/16

Over 250 people attended our Open Day, and in September/October 2015 we enrolled over 300 people (up from 250 this time last year).

- We continue to offer our established classes, which now include Community Interpreting Level 2.

- We have formed a partnership with Talk English, who train volunteers to deliver open access ESOL classes at basic levels. They are offering two classes at St John's, and supporting one of our existing ESOL volunteers to gain a Level 3 qualification (formerly PTLLS).
- A Basic DIY course provided by the WEA is proving popular, and the class is going to do some minor jobs around the Centre.
- The WEA are also providing us with new courses starting in November:
 - Art and Architecture;
 - Introduction to Wildlife;
 - Supporting Children's Learning and Development (accredited Entry 3).
- We will also be holding a "Learning Champions" course where volunteers will learn skills to help them promote the value of learning (both at St John's and in general) in their communities.
- Trafford Community Learning are providing a 6 week "Friday Bakes and Cakes" course in November/December which will involve learners planning and baking for a Christmas fundraising event at the Centre.
- Demand for Improve your Maths (Level 1/2) has been high enough for Trafford College to offer two courses this year.
- We are hoping to be able to start a Level 1 literacy course for ESOL learners in November, depending on learner numbers.

Volunteering at the Centre – Diane Browne



Over the past year St John's Centre has had over 30 volunteers supporting the Centre in a variety of roles such as teaching courses, supporting Centre events and children and young people projects. Volunteering helps build the confidence, learn new skills, find employment or return to education.

St John's is currently supporting the ESOL volunteers Susan Khalid, Nasrien Siddiq and Kate Wood to become a qualified ESOL teacher through the Talk English programme. Talk English is a new project which aims to help people with little or no English learn English and get more involved in the wider community.



(picture: Ewelina Chorazak – Talk English Tutor, Susan Khalid, Nasrien Siddiq and Kate Wood)

"I have been volunteering at St. John's Centre for over two years as ESOL assistant. Within those two years, the staff at St John's encouraged me to gain new skills and qualifications. This year I have completed the Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) qualification and I am currently training to be an ESOL Teacher with the Talk English Programme." (Nasrien Siddiq)

Crèche Report - Prem Kaur & Lizzie Quinn



Prem and Lizzie are running the creche, which is Ofsted registered and they follow EYFS standards. They have currently completed mandatory training in safeguarding, first aid, food hygiene, assessment planning and cohort training. Lizzie is also studying for her level 3 in childcare.

Creche

We have introduced a settle in policy, which is free of charge, for all children that attend the creche, until children and parents are completely satisfied, that their child has settled.

We do weekly planning, based on observations of children to meet every child's need. We plan for their age and stage of development around curriculum areas of literacy, numeracy, understanding the world and design. Children who are attending the creche regularly are reaching their goals, they develop their own ideas and make independent choices.

Over 200 parents, and their children, of course, have benefited from the creche provision between September 2014 – present.



Wednesday Stay & Play

We run a Stay & Play session each Wednesday morning 10-11.30am for parents and under 5's. It is a very successful session, and there's high demand, plus a decreasing number of drop-in play sessions in the local area. We are aiming to fundraise for additional equipment.

Children who attend our Stay & Play are becoming more confident each week. Parents have noticed a big difference at home, as they too are learning how to play, when we demonstrate how to join in an activity. Children are also learning how to tidy up and look after toys. Parents also enjoy bringing children to our Stay & Play as they observe that they are interacting with other children, and adults.



We have noticed children who achieve something at creche/stay & play are proud of themselves, they take credit for their work and want to show parents and staff members what they have achieved. The children also enjoy taking their creations home to show others and to be put on display.

What Parent have said

"Staff lovely, very welcoming – maybe better with bigger room." – Na Hamitouch

"The ladies have been very kind and helpful. Their welcoming is the best thing, and my child goes happy to them." – Tasneem

"This creche and the staff are brilliant. My daughter loves coming here." – A Hains

Development Worker's Report - Elaine Eland



My job is very varied, running events and activities for families with children, bringing the community together. Some of the activities this year have been:-

This Place is full of Angels – 265 Angels were made and hidden around Old Trafford. We wanted to reach out into the community and allow other people to recognise Old Trafford is a caring community where good intentions, and people helping each other, outweigh the bad. By finding a random angel it would give people a lift. (287 took part)



International Women's Day – Working with WEA and the learners from Dressmaking, plus Birds of Paradise project "Colour Trafford Beautiful" a day of colour themed activities (34 women attended)

Open Gardens – Working with Love Old Trafford St. John's became one of the key venues on the day. 20+ local residents opened their gardens to the public. People bought maps and visited sites at their own pace. St. John's provided a haven for refreshments - Old Trafford WI doing a sterling job. We had a garden treasure hunt, make your own fresh juice with a juice bike, an arts and crafts area and plant swap/shop stall. (approx. 119 people took part)



Summer School

2 weeks of activities for children aged 8+. We worked with sessional staff and volunteers to offer arts and crafts themed round Pirates and Make a Noise. Lunch was provided for everyone each day. 9 volunteers supported the work, including 6 very capable young volunteers aged 15-17yrs. Salford Foundation worked alongside us for week 1, with 15 young people aged 16-17yrs undertaking their National Citizenship Service. The Suman College provided a cultural day with 15 young people from Beijing presenting Chinese arts, crafts and culture. Pirate week included designing and painting pirate flags; creating the pirates' code of behaviour; t-shirt design; treasure chest group challenge; kayaking and

sailing trips; visit to Manchester courts and a mock trial. Make a Noise week included making Drums; Dhol drumming; trip to Jump Nation and circus skills. (80 children had fun, and were kept safe & busy, over 2 weeks)

Statistics

Money raised through the development work post for projects in 2015 was £10,622

The number of people recorded as attending events and activities was 726.

(This is not individuals- one person might have come to 2 different events).



With Partners & Associates 2013/14

St John's Church
Manchester Diocese
St John's Sunshine
Love Old Trafford
Trafford Council
Trafford College
VCAT
Workers Education Assoc.
Trafford Housing Trust
Old Trafford Partnership
Old Trafford Community Panel
Peoples Health Trust

Friday 14 November

