

help us...

to help them...

to start again...

Heartcry
appeal

www.jesuscentre.org.uk



people...

Jesus Centres are already making a vast difference to the lives of many people.

Ali

Ali came to the Bridge at Coventry Jesus Centre as an asylum seeker with no support, roofless and addicted to drugs. He got his basic needs met here and called it 'home'. He stayed with a friend that he met here and got himself off drugs. He came to the church and became a Christian; he was dramatically healed of serious stomach problems. We got him into his own accommodation. He has become a trained and valuable volunteer, working in the kitchen. Recently he also obtained an accreditation for literacy at the class which he has attended here for many months. His comment: 'I am very happy.'

// The Jesus Centre changed my direction in life //
– Brad



The doormen: two satisfied clients at the Northampton Jesus Centre

Donna

Donna started drinking at an early age and had developed a bad drinking problem, using alcohol to block out her bad memories. She first visited the Jesus Centre for advice and help to find accommodation and is now enrolled in two life skills courses. The Jesus Centre has changed Donna's life and made her a stronger person; her friends there have given her the courage to start again.

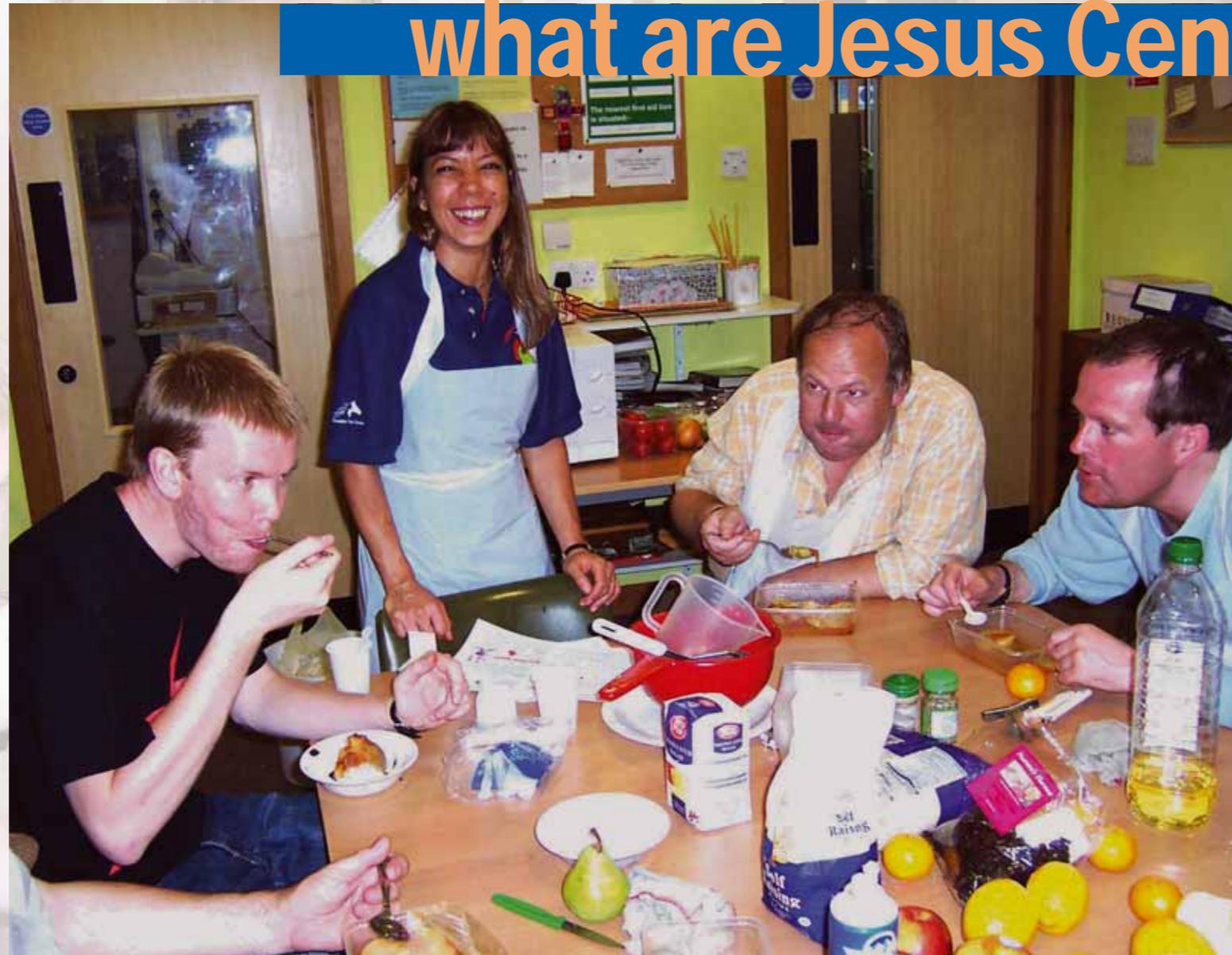
Ian

Ian was homeless, living rough and selling the Big Issue. He has visited the Jesus Centre for a long time. Sometimes he has fallen out with people there, but overall the friendship has survived. Jesus Centre volunteers took him to hospital when he was ill, visited, and picked him up on release and helped him get further medical help. Then they managed to get him into rented accommodation and Support Worker, Val, has worked hard at supporting his tenancy, liaising with Housing Benefit and the landlord. Ian says, 'You lot have helped me a lot'.

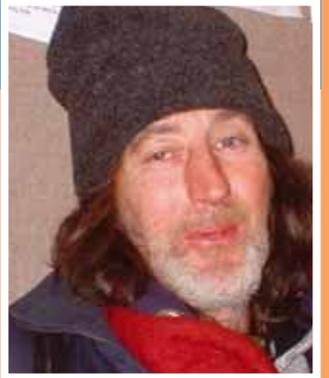
the Heartcry Vision

- To provide Jesus Centres in towns and cities around the UK, with a Christian ethos and atmosphere which are a positive addition to the services and facilities available in the locality.
- To build capacity on a holistic “whole person” basis by offering training and specific facilities to increase life skills.
- To address all kinds of needs including social, practical and spiritual.
- To provide a caring and listening service available to any, without prejudice.
- To provide a “gateway” to other agencies and service providers and work constructively with them to complement their services.
- To use the skills, experience and availability of volunteers to benefit the volunteers themselves.
- To give a high quality and user-friendly service for many people to participate in and benefit from.

what are Jesus Centres?



Jesus Centres are places where the love of Jesus is expressed daily in worship, friendship and care for every type of person. Currently we have Jesus Centres in Coventry and Northampton, with a third Centre due to open in the West End of London around the end of 2006. We expect that eventually Jesus Centres will be found in many major towns and cities around the UK.



// The Jesus
Centre makes
you feel like a
human being
again //

– Paul

Easy as pie: Isabel, a council nutritionist, teaches a cookery class at Coventry Jesus Centre



more about Jesus Centres...

// The drop-in is great and there's support if you need it //
- Liz

Places of care and help

The homeless and disadvantaged find a particular welcome at Jesus Centres. We offer a hand of friendship and a listening ear as well as functioning as a "gateway" to other services and agencies in the locality.

Jesus Centres provide washing facilities, second hand clothing, hair cutting and other amenities. Active listening, medical facilities, life skills and ICT training are also available at various times during the week.



The pen is mightier: a literacy class at Coventry Jesus Centre

Christian centres with a social emphasis

Typically, Jesus Centres feature a café, lounge area and information point.

Reasonably priced food is usually available as well as access to ICT facilities, counselling and training rooms.

People can drop in to meet friends and have a cup of coffee or just pause in a busy day for a few quiet moments in the prayer room.

Worship centres

Most Jesus Centres will, like Coventry and Northampton, be places where the local Jesus Fellowship Church meets and worships, with a daily programme of church and social events at the Centres. The buildings will also contain several other meeting rooms, which will be available for use by other groups.

coventry...

Coventry Jesus Centre, based on a former car showroom, was the first major Jesus Centre; it opened in 2002. The easily reached position of the Coventry Jesus Centre, inside the city's ring road, gives it a city-wide catchment area for practical help or a meeting place for friendship.

The Bridge Drop-In . IT Room . Support
. Women's Session . Cookery classes . Outings
activities . Allotment . Mums & Tots . Upper Well
Literacy Class . Jobs & Training advice . Legal advice
Information . Solid Rock Café event . Church Alive event .

Workers . Nurse Service
Recreation . Creative
Café . Personal Mentoring
Stop Smoking scheme .
Midweek church . Rooms to Hire .

Manager, Piers, says:

The Jesus Centre touches many lives. We have met over **2,500 different people** in the drop-in since opening. Over the last year, people have taken about 1,000 showers and had about 1,500 lots of free clothing, used the phone about 1,200 times and the Bridge computer 800 times... The cooked breakfast for 50p is a real winner. (It actually costs us about £1 to produce.) We have served over 22,000 breakfasts since opening in April, 2002. Our 70 or so volunteers and 13 staff (mainly part-time) are also benefitting from playing a part here. They gain confidence, friendships, training and as one put it simply, 'I like joining in with everyone!'



// My own struggle with depression helped me to relate to people's problems. I am believed in by people here and that has meant a lot for me. //
- Val, Coventry Jesus Centre Support Worker

northampton...

The Northampton Jesus Centre opened at the end of 2004 in a restored and refurbished former cinema. The Grade II listed building has been converted to provide not only auditorium space for worship and private hire, but also a friendly café with an info desk and a drop-in lounge.



for Speakers of Other Lan-
ma, poetry, music. Evolution
Form. Filling Needs. Legal Clinic;
als. Healing Rays - spiritual healing.

Parenting Skills. Knowing Me, Knowing You – for women. IT with English. English
guages. Maths for All. Expressive Art. Creative sewing. Creative workshop – dra-
guitar. Multi-cultural evening. The Gallery. New to UK? – support group. Housing &
Basic Trims. Listening Ear. Heartcry Open Doors for ex-prisoners. Lunchtime devotion-
Prayer Group. New Searchers & New Friends' Course – introduction to Christian faith. Fluid
– chilled late night scene. Heart – new style “church”. Worship Celebrations.

Manager, Steve, says:

Since we opened and there have been several challenges to meet.

Challenge 1: the building. Apart from one or two little snags this was completed in late 2004 and – with some trepidation – we opened the doors to the public in December of that year.

Challenge 2: initiating a **range of activities** to maximise the potential of this prime location building for as wide a variety of people as possible.

Challenge 3: to publicise the extent of what is available: Northampton Jesus Centre is open to all.

It's all about people. Many arrive and find a unique, exciting and welcoming place “where the love of Jesus is expressed daily in worship, friendship and care for every kind of person”.



// The Jesus

Centre is a safe and peaceful place to be.

I've met many friends and found faith in

God as a result of coming here. //

– Marcus



who runs the Jesus Centres?

Jason appreciates the mentoring service.
// It has been helpful meeting someone on a regular basis to talk through various things and it is nice to talk in a relaxed atmosphere //
– Jason



Jesus Centres are run by the Jesus Army Charitable Trust (JACT). The Heartcry Appeal has been set up to raise finance for this project. Jesus Centres are the initiative of the Jesus Fellowship Church (modern JESUS army). Jesus Fellowship Church is an evangelical Christian church with a charismatic emphasis. It is part of the Multiply Christian Network and a member of the Evangelical Alliance UK. The modern JESUS army (mJa) is the outreach identity of Jesus Fellowship Church. For over 30 years the Church has been working to help people in backgrounds of addiction, poverty and homelessness. In particular the mJa seeks to help the marginalised and disadvantaged to find stability, friendship and a place in society.

What is the ethos?

Christians believe that God loves all people. The services provided in the Centres will demonstrate this fact in welcoming and serving everyone regardless of race, age, belief or background.

How are we doing?

With Coventry Jesus Centre well established since 2002, Northampton Jesus Centre fully launched in 2004 and the London Jesus Centre due to open around the end of 2006, the vision is proving a success. Thousands of people have been touched by the work of these Centres – whether visitors, volunteers, staff or supporters.

You

can help us to help others through the Jesus Centres (see back cover for details).



Some names have been changed to protect confidentiality

how you can help



www.jesuscentre.org.uk

Hayley and Sherniel are mother and son - both homeless. They often use the Jesus Centre for food, showers, clothing and friendship. You can help us to help people like Hayley and Sherniel by making a donation. We are grateful for all gifts, whether large or small. You can contact us at the address below.

Donations on the Net

For making donations on the Net visit our website at:
gifts.jesuscentre.org.uk

Legacies and wills

For information on this special form of giving, phone the number below or write to us for details.

Ushopugive

Shop online and help others. A vast range of UK retailers will give to the Jesus Army Charitable Trust when you shop online through UshopUgive. Visit shop.jesuscentre.org.uk

For more information please contact: Heartcry Appeal, Jesus Army Charitable Trust, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3LB
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An initiative of the Jesus Fellowship Church