



New Beginnings





Who we are

Being located in Westminster in the heart of London gives great opportunity for social diversity: rich or poor; vulnerably housed or very comfortably situated; resident, student or economic migrant.

Be a part of the mix of people at the London Jesus Centre:

- Come and sample our new strong Italian coffee in the Word Tearoom.
- Use the services provided by our Welcome Drop in.
- Use our excellently located facilities for group lettings.
- Improve your English with our ESOL and English Conversation groups.
- Enjoy other social or Christian activities.

For videos, pictures, stories and news:



london.jesuscentre.org.uk



facebook.com/london.jesus.centre



twitter.com/LonJesusCentre



To Hire a Room:
meetingroomslondonW1.com



Our Mission:

Expressing the love of Jesus daily in worship, friendship and help for every kind of person



Mick Haines - Chairman

2013 finished on a tuneful note for the London Jesus Centre team, singing carols at their local Tesco as a "thank you" for its ongoing generous support. We are also pleased to report that our IT infrastructure was extensively upgraded, providing a more reliable and efficient service for our Centre users, and that on our website you'll find our exciting new Jesus Centre video.

Welcome Project has received recognition for its success from the London Housing Foundation and the Housing Justice Forum. In the friendly atmosphere of Word tea room, the local business and student community can now enjoy espresso coffee. In addition ESOL classes are flourishing providing migrants with emotional support and producing confident English speakers.

We are extremely grateful to all who support and work toward the success of the services we provide to the community. Thank you.

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Living out the words of Jesus

Sue Withers reflects on Jesus' command to love the poor.

1.35pm I'm working in Reception at the London Jesus Centre, and our Drop-In is closed.

Two men arrive. A regular bringing his friend.

"Can I have some clothes?"

"Sorry, the session is finished."

The request is timid: "Any water please?"

I come into focus and realise the man is thin, inadequately dressed for a cold June day. Trousers held together by string. Maybe Algerian, possibly an asylum seeker.

"Yes, of course you can have some water."

And we have clothes, donated in abundance.

They take red crosses, and I reflect how good it is that the poor of London are wearing our colours.

They take their leave until tomorrow, and I see hope begin to appear in the new man's eyes.

Such a privilege to live out the words of Jesus: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..." (Matthew 25:35-36)

AIM

1

Meeting Need

To give material help and personal support

"The Jesus Centre has been instrumental in helping me when I didn't have anyone to turn to. I am indebted to this church and organisation, the wonderful and hardworking team."

Eugene Blake (Drop-in visitor)

Asylum Seekers Travel

We began to offer travel expenses to asylum seekers last July, and since then we have been able to help with 122 travel fares for 10 students in English and IT.

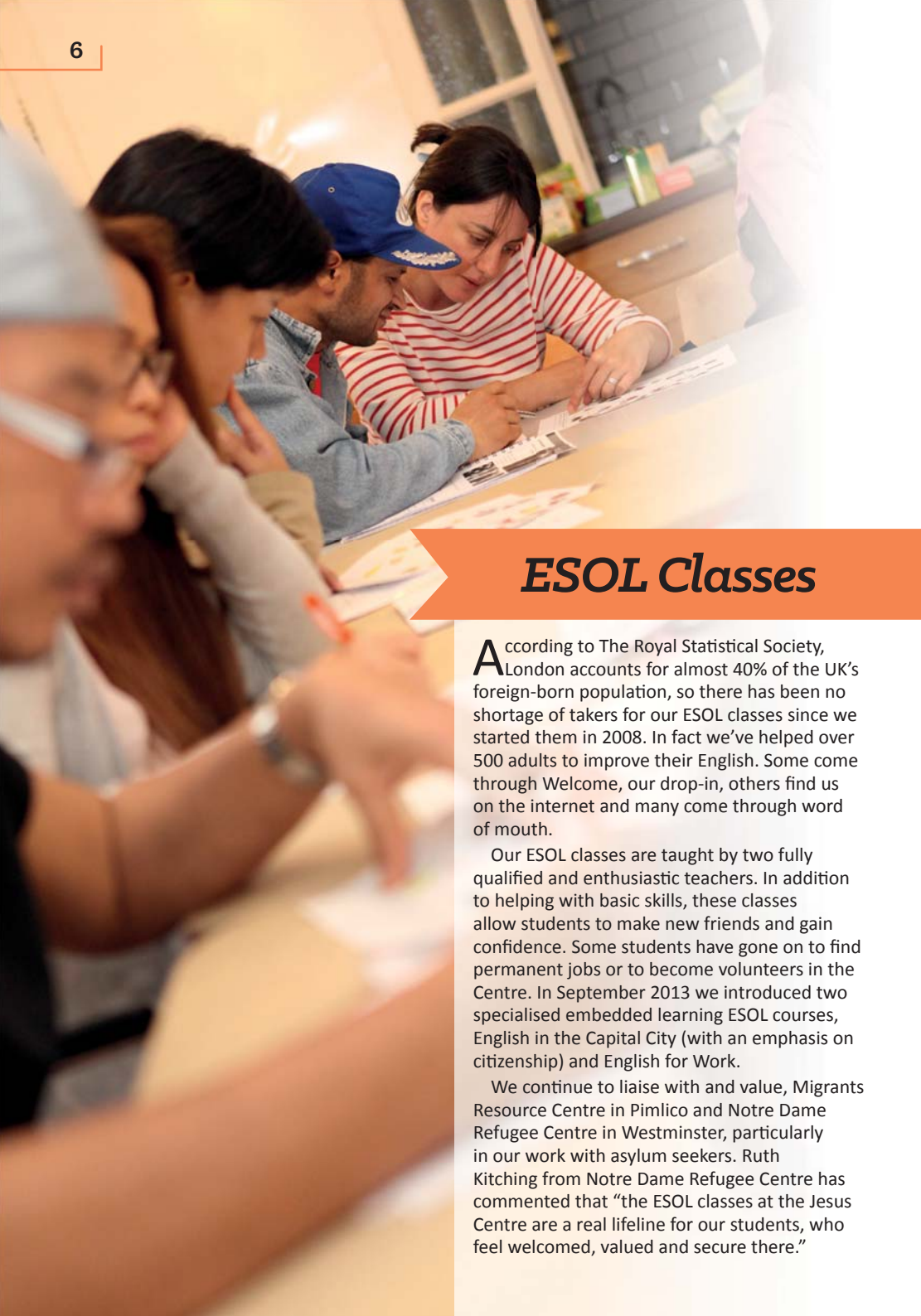
It is often difficult for asylum seekers to join any other classes, and so the cost of travel fares becomes an invaluable way to access learning.

We are also able to help them in other ways; we have given out food, clothing, blankets, towels and writing materials to meet immediate needs. Often, even more valuable, we have given time for listening, prayer, friendship and emotional support.



Services include:

**Drop-In (Welcome Project)
Welcome Reception
Asylum Seekers Assistance**



ESOL Classes

According to The Royal Statistical Society, London accounts for almost 40% of the UK's foreign-born population, so there has been no shortage of takers for our ESOL classes since we started them in 2008. In fact we've helped over 500 adults to improve their English. Some come through Welcome, our drop-in, others find us on the internet and many come through word of mouth.

Our ESOL classes are taught by two fully qualified and enthusiastic teachers. In addition to helping with basic skills, these classes allow students to make new friends and gain confidence. Some students have gone on to find permanent jobs or to become volunteers in the Centre. In September 2013 we introduced two specialised embedded learning ESOL courses, English in the Capital City (with an emphasis on citizenship) and English for Work.

We continue to liaise with and value, Migrants Resource Centre in Pimlico and Notre Dame Refugee Centre in Westminster, particularly in our work with asylum seekers. Ruth Kitching from Notre Dame Refugee Centre has commented that "the ESOL classes at the Jesus Centre are a real lifeline for our students, who feel welcomed, valued and secure there."

AIM *Building Capacity*

2

To build capacity on a non prejudiced holistic basis to help individuals to make significant progress in their lives including reduction of addictions and rehabilitation of offenders.



Mustapha

Mustapha from Egypt came here in August this year for an ESOL assessment.

He had talked to someone on Edgware Road who recommended the Jesus Centre English classes.

He says: "I have learnt about geography, many places of London, bonfire and halloween. I can speak better and read. I can write good. My teacher is very nice, feel me confident, and everytime try to help me. She very patient with me, I'm grateful for her."

He has also been able to pray about other needs.



Services include:

ESOL
Gambling referrals
I.T.



Healing Prayer

I have been so grateful for the healing prayer that I have received. For some reason I have lurched from one crisis to another but The Jesus Centre has been with me supporting me all the way. Their Christian love has supported me at all times and I am extremely grateful for it.

Best regards
Beverley Ward

AIM
3

Promoting Christianity

To promote the advancement of the Christian religion by facilitating Jesus Fellowship activities and by the provision of appropriate spiritual services.

*“The session was amazing.
I will never look at life the same again.”*

Usman Azis from the ‘Jesus Club’

New Friends

The New Friends course was held in the Word tea room for eight weeks on a Wednesday evening. We had a ladies’ table, two men’s tables and a mixed table. Two of the tables were mostly Farsi speakers with interpreters. The imagery of the videos and the corresponding pictorial themes in the booklets made it much easier to communicate themes such as reconciliation.

It was great to see the friendships developing around the tables as the weeks went on, and the sense of fellowship in the room. The warm atmosphere of the evening made it easy for people to invite their friends, and several others joined us as the weeks progressed, some of whom had never been in a church before.

Some of the visitors were already attending our Sunday event ‘The Chapel’ but others started coming as a result of the course.



Some new friends we had made didn’t want the course to stop, so we started holding a Bible study at the Centre for Farsi speakers on Wednesday evenings. This has continued ever since, and there are often between 8 and 10 people meeting together to enjoy fellowship and Bible reading.

Services include:

Jesus Club
Sunday night at the Chapel
New Friends Course
Healing Prayer



Word tea room

With friendly faces behind the counter, wifi, books available and an intriguing backdrop, Word tea room has more to offer than just tea or coffee - good though it is.

Here are a few snippets from the scrapbook:

Two customers from the local area who have been coming regularly for several years recently relocated their work premises to a different area.

Before leaving they paid a visit to the Christian community house that is the home of Word staff and volunteers to show their appreciation of the warmth they have found in the tea room. They have become friends of many of us and will be staying in touch.

Locking up one evening Curd, the tea room manager, was surprised by a man approaching and asking: "Do you remember me?"

He didn't, but more than a year ago the man had been working as a chauffeur in the street outside Word. He was waiting, had no money, and was dying for a coffee.

To his amazement Curd asked him if he wanted a coffee. It was a special moment, and even a year later he came back to say thanks.

This week a regular customer came in, and wasn't able to sit in her usual seat by the window. Sitting by the bookcase a book caught her eye: *The curious incident of the dog in the night time*. It was the very book she had been searching for on the internet that morning since discussing it in the book club she attends. She has borrowed it, and left elated.

4

AIM

Developing Social Skills

To increase social skills and cohesion through the provision of recreational and community facilities

"I have been helped by working with and talking to new people.

I have also learnt how to act in busy and stressful situations; I have been able to handle a fast environment at lunchtimes here. I have kind of learnt how to handle a till...

Overall a good experience"

Su Lin Etherington, volunteer in the Word Café



Services include:

Word tea room
Conversation classes
Art room classes or activities
Film Club
Social Club



Outreach Opportunities

Collaborating with the Jesus centre has proven very positive and it has allowed me to meet clients in an environment where they feel comfortable, outside the ordinary outreach setting

Lidia Picom (St Mungo's Outreach Worker)

AIM

5a

Being an effective charity

To operate as an effective and efficient charity

*“I am pleased that you are a **regular attender** at the meetings of the quarterly conferences of the ‘London Churches Refugee Network’. The meetings are beneficial as a wide range of **refugee, asylum seeker and immigration** issues are included in the conferences.”*

Geoffrey Duncan



Services include:

Training internal/external
Lettings
Agency Partners



Developing Volunteers

Volunteering is a confidence-building experience, as many testify. People make new friends, gain new skills and enjoy contributing to the work of the Jesus Centre. It is good to be able to make a difference personally.

Benjamin volunteers in our Welcome drop-in every week as a team leader, having responsibility for other volunteers at the session. He has a passion to serve people as Jesus did. For him, being there for people and encouraging them goes alongside meeting their practical needs. "A smile alone can lift someone up," he says.

Benjamin also appreciates the volunteer training he has received. He has learnt to deal with different types of people, manage conflict, listen to visitors and says his communication skills have improved.

AIM 5b

Being an effective charity

Working constructively with other agencies and benefiting volunteers and staff by utilising and developing their skills and expertise.

Rachid Kaci

Rachid helps regularly in the Centre with cleaning and laundry, and also in Welcome drop-in when needed. He is in accommodation while he prepares his immigration case, but says the support he receives through the Centre is beyond words. Helping others makes him realise how fortunate he is and keeping busy helps him to stay balanced. "It's good to be part of something positive," Rachid says.



Thank you

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors of goods or money to the Jesus Centre (sorry if we have missed any out):

Central Dairy - Bread
 Coutts and Co. Charitable Trust - Money
 Edward Harvist Trust - Money
 His Church Charity - Food
 London Churches Refugee (Hardship) Fund - Money
 Pret a Manger - Food
 Pret Foundation Trust - Money
 Radisson Blu Edwardian Kenilworth Hotel - Toiletries
 Sainsbury's - Vouchers and money
 Strand Parishes Trust - Money
 St Dominic's School - Volunteers
 Swiss Bread - Bread
 Tesco - Vouchers
 tt-exchange - Computer software
 Voluntary Action Westminster - Training



london.jesuscentre.org.uk



Contact Us

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Opening Hours

Monday - Friday
10.00am - 3.30pm

Heartcry appeal

Jesus Army Charitable Trust
Nether Heyford Northampton, NN7 3LB
Tel: **0845 166 8174** • Fax: 0845 166 8178

Where are we?



Venue for Hire

We hire out rooms at the Jesus Centre as a social facility, and to raise revenue. Information about lettings is available on request, or at meetingroomslondonW1.com

There are Jesus Centres in Coventry (02476 550033), Northampton (0845 1668202) and Sheffield (0114 2521155). National Jesus Centre information is available from www.jesuscentre.org.uk. Jesus Centres are set up and run by the Jesus Army Charitable Trust. JACT is a registered charity (no. 1091912) and a Faithworks Affiliate. JACT is an initiative of the Jesus Fellowship Church which is a member of the Evangelical Alliance.