

# Jesus Fellowship Church ● Jesus Army

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## About the New Creation Christian Community

The New Creation Christian Community is part of the Jesus Fellowship Church, which is also known as the Jesus Army. The Fellowship is an evangelical Christian church with a charismatic emphasis and Baptist roots and is orthodox in doctrine, upholding the universally-accepted Christian creeds. It is linked with other churches and groups in the UK and overseas through the Multiply Christian Network and is a member of the Evangelical Alliance UK.

The church numbers around 2,500, over 600 of whom live in Christian Community in 70 or so large and small houses around the UK. Each community house is home to anything up to forty residents, who live as a large 'family'. The community houses act as the 'training and service' centres of the church. The community welcomes many hundreds of visitors and guests every year.

### Community businesses

The Jesus Fellowship has pioneered co-operative Christian businesses which provide paid employment for many members, including a good number who were previously unemployed. The businesses are also able to offer others limited opportunities to help on a temporary and voluntary basis. This is often of a therapeutic or work experience nature.

### Financial

The finances of the Community are distinct from those of Jesus Fellowship Church itself. The 'church' funds deal with normal 'church' expenses, such as those connected with public events, and are financed through members' donations. There is a separate charitable fund for the Jesus Centres.

The community's businesses, houses and other assets are owned by the members, and held in a legally-constituted non-charitable Trust Fund administered by a group of Trustees on behalf of the members. The accounts are audited annually by external accountants and presented to the members at the AGM.

Within the community, each house has a 'common purse' arrangement, with members pooling their income to meet all personal and household expenses. The community works on a principle of equality, and all members are on an equal footing, with no privileges or extra financial incentives being accorded to anyone.

### Temporary Guests

Community houses are open to receive visitors on a temporary basis for up to six months (which can in certain circumstances be extended to up to 12 months). If their stay is longer than a week, they are asked to pay a modest board and lodging charge, but the remainder of their income is at their disposal.

### Membership

The vast majority of new members joining the church do so without becoming part of the New Creation Christian Community. For those who do join the Community there are a number of safeguards incorporated.

Before embarking on full community membership there is a probationary period of up to two years (which must extend at least up to the age of 21). During this time, income is pooled with other members of the community house, and capital assets (if any) are loaned to the Trust. In many cases new members have no assets, or even have debts which the Trust pays off.

At the end of probationary membership, the member may either withdraw from community living, or confirm their status as full 'Contributing Members' of the Trust. Any assets they have are then contributed to the Trust fund and entered in a legal register against their name.

If they should later wish to withdraw from community membership, they may request a refund of this capital contribution. Many of those who do decide to withdraw continue to take an active part in church activities; others may join another church.

### More information

NCCC pages on the Internet are to be found at [www.newcreation.org.uk](http://www.newcreation.org.uk).

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