

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Free Publications:

modern Jesus army Streetpaper, an evangelistic paper (free mailing: every four months).

Jesus Life, the magazine of the Multiply Network and the Jesus Fellowship/Jesus Army (free mailing: every four months).

Books:

Church Alive! a full colour introduction to the Jesus Fellowship (free).

Fire in Our Hearts, the account of the Jesus Fellowship (Multiply, 384 pages) £4.99

One Heart and Soul, Christian community for the 21st Century (Multiply, 109 pages) £5.99

Covenant People, A vision for Christian

commitment today (Multiply, 121 pages) £4.99

Seven Silver Rings, Celibacy in the Jesus Fellowship (Multiply, 143 pages) £3.99

Pilgrims of a Common Life, a history of Christian Community, (Herald Press, 207 pages) £4.99

Worship CDs and DVDs:

Live worship from the Jesus Fellowship. A series of DVDs are also available.

All these are available by post from Jesus People Shop (address as Jesus Fellowship, see below).

Visitors are always welcome to participate in the worship meetings of the Church, or to visit the Community Houses (contact us - see below).

CONTACT US

Jesus Fellowship groups around the UK:

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Birmingham	0845 166 8153	London West	0845 833 1319
Bournemouth	0845 123 5558	London South	0845 226 1972
Brighton	0845 166 8151	Manchester	0845 166 8169
Bristol	0845 123 5339	Milton Keynes	0845 166 8159
Coventry	0845 166 8154	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0845 166 8187
Croydon	0845 226 1972	Northampton	0845 166 8161
Chester/ North Wales	0845 123 5561	Norwich	0845 166 8162
Hastings	0845 123 5551	Nottingham	0845 166 8163
Huntingdon	0845 166 2697	Oxford	0845 166 8164
Ipswich	0845 166 8156	Preston	0845 123 5554
Kettering	0845 166 8157	Sheffield	0845 166 8183
Leeds	0845 166 8167	Stoke-on-Trent	0845 123 5334
Leicester	0845 644 9705	Swansea	0845 123 5556
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Some details about the Jesus Fellowship ← - - - - -

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JESUS:

THE NAME
THE FOUNDATION



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

INTRODUCTION TO THE JESUS FELLOWSHIP

The **Jesus Fellowship Church** is an evangelical church with a charismatic emphasis. The Church is orthodox in doctrine and upholds the historic Christian creeds. It is well-known to many for its **Jesus Army** outreach.

Members of the church are active in evangelism throughout much of the UK and sometimes further afield. The Fellowship has adopted its high-profile **modern Jesus army** identity for this gospel campaigning.

The **modern Jesus army** involves all the members of the Church. It aims to bring the power and life of the Christian gospel to the notice of many, particularly those in need. Members are readily recognisable on the streets by their colourful uniform jackets and badges, as well as the banners and flags used on Jesus Marches in towns and cities.

The basic units of the Fellowship are local congregations (of between 50 and 700), church households (of up to 30, usually led by two or three elders) and cell groups (of three to twelve members).

About a fourth of the Church live as a residential Christian Community, the **New Creation Christian Community**. The houses of the Community often form the focus of the church households. The Community consists of both marrieds and singles, and follows the principles of sharing and equality adopted by the Christians in the first Church.

Community members pool their income in the community house 'common purse', and any

BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Jesus Fellowship Church, which is also known as the Jesus Army and includes the New Creation Christian Community, upholds the historic Christian faith, being reformed, evangelical and charismatic.

It practises believer's baptism and the New Testament reality of Christ's Church; believing in Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; in the full divinity, atoning death and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the Bible as God's Word, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit.

This Church desires to witness to the Lordship

capital is pooled in a central fund, the Jesus Fellowship Community Trust.

Community living is not a requirement for membership of the Jesus Fellowship, and the majority of members live in their own accommodation and retain full personal control of their finances.

Many members make a voluntary covenant commitment on joining the Church. Within that covenant there is a range of different 'styles of membership':

Style 1: This membership is similar to 'normal' church membership in many churches.

Style 2: Commitment to giving regularly a portion of their income to the church or to Jesus Army Charitable Trust.

Style 3: Full common-purse community, with all income, wealth and possessions shared and a community lifestyle embraced.

Style 4: Includes members at a distance in the UK or overseas who are unable to fully practise their commitment to the Fellowship.

Baptised Members join the church without making a covenant commitment but are welcomed, recognised and accepted as full members.

Cell and congregational members are members who generally only attend the church on Sundays or Wednesday evenings.

The Fellowship sponsors the **Multiply Network** of Christian churches and groups linking to promote living, charismatic Christianity. Multiply partners are to be found in the UK and overseas.

of Jesus Christ over and in His Church; and by holy character, righteous society and evangelical testimony to declare that Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only Saviour, is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and through Him alone can men find and enter the Kingdom of God.

This Church proclaims free grace, justification by faith in Christ and the sealing and sanctifying baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Church's full Statement of Faith and Practice is also available on request.

THE NEW CREATION CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The New Creation Christian Community is an integral part of the Jesus Fellowship, and all members of the Community are Covenant Members of the Church. Most prospective community members are usually either already non-resident ('Style 1' or 'Style 2') Covenant Members of the Church, or temporary guests staying in the Community, and so are well acquainted with the Community.

Others, however, will need to spend some time visiting the Community and sharing with leaders and others in order to fully understand the faith and practice of the Church and Community before taking the major step of embarking on community living.

Full residential community living ('Style 3') starts with a probationary period of Associate Membership which lasts between 12 and 24 months. The full 24 months is regarded in any case as a time when prospective members can test their call to live in Christian community.

The probationary period involves full participation in the life of a Community House, including sharing all income in the common purse. Associate members retain ownership of their goods, vehicles and money (if any), although these may be loaned to the Community.

At the end of this stage, members are asked to read carefully the Trust Deed which governs the Community's finances and to take independent advice before contributing any capital to the Trust, and pledging any items that it is not possible to contribute at that stage.

Those who have no capital to contribute also become Contributing Members at the end of this period, and are on an equal footing with those who had been better off.

To guard against allegations of pressure on young people, the Trustees are not allowed to receive capital contributions from those under 21, nor are those under 18 allowed to become probationary members of the Trust.

THE JESUS FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY TRUST

The Jesus Fellowship Community Trust is responsible for the assets of the members of the Community. Under the legal provisions of its Trust Deed, its Trustees are responsible to the Members for their financial administration, and present the audited accounts to the Annual Meeting.

The Trustees are empowered to return capital contributions to any member who should decide to leave the Community. The Trust is administered in such a way as to maintain the value of this capital.

In addition to responsibility for more than 60 Community Houses together with their contents and the purchase and upkeep of the Community's vehicles, the Trust is also responsible for a number of Community-owned businesses.

These help both to provide a stable financial

foundation for the Community and to give employment for some 250 members of the Community in an atmosphere of Christian brotherhood.

Naturally the businesses comply with all relevant legal requirements as limited companies.

These businesses include: **House of Goodness** (farming, wholefood wholesale and retail outlets), **Skaino Atmos** (building, painting, heating and plumbing, and vehicle repairs), **Towcester Building Supplies** (builders' merchants) and **White & Bishop** (outdoor wear retail outlet).

In addition medical and legal practices are run by fully-committed members of the Community, although professional ethics require that these cannot be owned by the Fellowship.

THE MANIFESTO OF THE MODERN JESUS ARMY

The **modern Jesus army** is the evangelistic campaigning identity of the Jesus Fellowship. This 'manifesto' sets out its aims:

- **The modern Jesus army** brings the Christian gospel to the searchers in today's spiritual culture, to those trapped in social evils and to victims of poverty and injustice.
- **The modern Jesus army** will go anywhere to help men and women in need through addiction, degradation or unfortunate circumstances. The modern Jesus army will offer the saving life of Jesus to any person and help them in their need.
- **The modern Jesus army** offers friendship, without discrimination and prejudice, and identifies with all people groups, meeting them in UK cities and towns and showing the love and life of Jesus.
- **The modern Jesus army** respects all religious faiths and supports all lawful authority, working with police, probation and social services.
- **The modern Jesus army** brings people into the spiritual experiences of repentance, faith in Christ, freedom from sin's guilt, new birth, water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism, leading into a life of godly power and purity.
- **The modern Jesus army** brings healing to the sick and deliverance to the oppressed in the power of the Name and Blood of Jesus, fighting against the moral and social evils which grip society.
- **The modern Jesus army** is charismatic in worship-style and shows a living, rather than a religious Christianity. The modern Jesus army members have entered into a covenant of loyalty to the cause, being available for any service, as they love the lost and build the church of Jesus Christ.
- **The modern Jesus army** desires to unite believers into holy, loving and just church-communities, which show the end of social and racial divisions and demonstrate a new sharing lifestyle as the brotherhood of Jesus, shining as 'light to the world'.
- **The modern Jesus army** members are committed to growth in holy character and steadfastness, and to sacrifice and hardship for the cause of Jesus.
- **The modern Jesus army** upholds the Biblical, evangelical faith, as set out in the Statement of Faith and Practice of the Jesus Fellowship Church. mJa holds to the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
- **The modern Jesus army** members wear distinctive jackets with the slogan "Love, Power and Sacrifice". They are also identified by other distinctive clothing and by the wearing of red crosses.
- **The modern Jesus army** is the campaigning arm of Jesus Fellowship Church or Jesus People. The modern Jesus army has been created in response to the call of God for His Church to be an army of His Kingdom fighting and conquering the Satanic, spiritual powers of darkness and, as Jesus said, "releasing the captives".

JESUS CENTRES

In connection with the modern Jesus army's outreach work, the church has founded a charity (Jesus Army Charitable Trust) and opened Jesus Centres. They are "places where the love of Jesus is expressed daily in worship and help for every type of person". Currently Jesus Centres are located in Northampton, Coventry, and Central London, with vision to start others in other cities.

The homeless and disadvantaged find a particular welcome at Jesus Centres. They offer a hand of friendship and a listening ear as well as function as a gateway to other services and agencies.

Jesus Centres are also places where the local Jesus Fellowship Church meets and worships, with a daily programme of church and social events at the Centres.

"WE ARE A COVENANT PEOPLE"

The Peoplehood Declaration of the Jesus Fellowship sets out the commitment to trust, love and brotherhood which needs to lie at the centre of life as a covenant people:

We are a Covenant People, born of God the Holy Spirit through repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, buried and raised with Christ in baptism, walking together in newness of life and witnessing to Christ's kingly power and rule.

We are a Covenant People where each individual is needed, having identity, personality and ministry; a Church where all are united through God's covenant grace in a lifelong commitment to Christ and to one another, functioning together as fellow-members of Christ's Body, corporately displaying righteous oneness in the Holy Spirit.

We are a Covenant People, mutually submissive in Christ, where all are His ministers and where leadership service is given in authority to uphold the holiness of God and to guard the flock of Christ, but always in humility and compassion for the good of all; a people manifesting security and peace, where holy discipleship produces growth and maturity in Christ, so that His Church is built strong and sure.

We are a Covenant People in which holy manhood and fatherhood, holy womanhood and motherhood, is revered and family life honoured; where God's call to celibacy or marriage is recognised; where marriage sanctity is upheld and children brought up in godliness; where infants are received in Christ's Name and where the aged and needy are esteemed and cared for in Christ's Name.

We are a Covenant People displaying Christ's love in holy fellowship, where all race and class distinctions are abolished and amongst whom a full sharing of wealth and possessions is practised, according to each individual's ability and call; a people of a new heart and a new spirit, where the righteousness of God is demonstrated, in the Holy Spirit's power, through a lifestyle of simplicity, integrity, purity, equality and harmony; a people dedicated to excellence in crafts and commerce, and where disciplined, responsible, loyal people work together to provide prosperity, stability and charity.

We are a Covenant People where Jesus Christ is Lord and where His divinity, virgin birth, atoning death, bodily resurrection, high-priestly ministry and second coming in glory are upheld; a people where the authority of the Bible as God's revealed Word is recognised; a society of worship, vision, faith, victory and selfless service, manifesting the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit; a people where the Spirit of Christ gives direction and inspiration.

We are a Covenant People desiring to hold fast the Word of Life and to shine as lights in the world; a people bringing testimony and ministry to the world through the holy life of Christ's Church and through active campaigning as a united, vigorous and compassionate army; a people reaching the lost with the gospel of the Kingdom and raising a standard for righteousness, holiness and Christian commitment among the nations.

We are a Covenant People, with vision and determination to show God's Kingdom and advance the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will respect all true Christian churches and, standing together with other evangelical Christian churches and networks, recognising each other's righteous distinctives, we will love, forgive and encourage one another, in order that fires of revival may break out in church and nation, to the glory of the name of Jesus.

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The Jesus Fellowship has different styles of membership, depending on the level of commitment to the church that each member chooses. All members of the church have been baptised as Christian believers. In accordance with biblical teaching, baptism is by full immersion as adult believers. Those who have been validly baptised elsewhere are received into membership through a reaffirmation of their baptismal promises.

Some remain as “Baptised Members”, members of the Jesus Fellowship and of their particular church household with no further stated commitment.

Some members become “Covenant Members”, members of the Jesus Fellowship and of

their particular church household who pledge to live according to the Church’s “Sevenfold Covenant”.

This Covenant expresses New Testament truths and is similar to those entered into by many Christians over the centuries.

Covenant membership is open to those who have been born of God through repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, been baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit, and who wish to become part of the committed core of the Jesus Fellowship.

Those becoming Covenant Members are received into Covenant Membership by the Right Hand of Fellowship.

THE SEVENFOLD COVENANT

1. Staying True To The Faith

I covenant, along with all the covenant members of this Church, to be true to the Christian faith, made known in the Bible and committed to us in the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is at the centre of this faith: I believe that He is the Son of God, our Saviour, Lord and High Priest. I accept the Church’s Statement of Faith and Practice and I will support the vision and practice of this Church as she moves on, directed by God’s Spirit, within biblical truth.

2. The Holy Church Of Brotherhood

I see this Church as separated from the world to shine as light in darkness and to show that Jesus Christ is Lord. I reject selfish and worldly attitudes and behaviour and I promise to be loyal to the Church and her way of life. The Holy Spirit joins me to the Church through Jesus the Cornerstone as living stone to living stone. We are built together to become God’s dwelling place – His Zion, a city of God. I commit myself to this holy covenant people. I will submit to this brotherhood and its leadership. I see this Church as a new society of brotherhood, freed from evil: the Kingdom of God displayed for all to see. We are set free from sin by God’s grace, accepted by Him and set apart for Him, chosen by Him and loyal to Him. I want Jesus and this Church to be my first love and ‘above my highest joy’.

3. The Holy Lifestyle Of A Servant

I covenant to commit all of myself to God: spirit, soul and body. I want to live as one who is born of God and baptised in water and Spirit; a new creation in Christ. As a member of this Body of Christ, I want to serve Him by committing my whole lifestyle to Him. I will deny myself and take up my cross to follow Him. I will use all my natural strengths and abilities and all my spiritual gifts and ministries to advance Christ’s cause and build Christ’s Church. I will be committed to the meetings and events of the Church, taking part in the weekly Agape covenant meal. I will seek to grow in my walk with God through prayer, reading the Bible and other spiritual disciplines. I promise to confess my faith in Christ openly and to tell others about Christ’s love and the saving power of the gospel.

As far as I am able, I covenant to be true to the Bible’s standards of marriage and family life as taught and practised by this Church. If I do marry, I want only to marry within this sevenfold covenant so that husband and wife can be fully united.

4. The Community Life Of God’s People

I will seek to obey the command of Jesus to love one another as He loves us. As far as I am able, I will share my possessions and money with my brothers and sisters as the first Church was directed by the Spirit to do. In the same way, I want

to share with my brothers and sisters so that we can make sure that this Church bears the fruit of the Spirit and shows the marks of the Kingdom of God: equality, simplicity, righteousness and perfect love. Having entered the Kingdom, I intend to live its new lifestyle, serving and worshipping God every day. I commit myself to the Covenant Declaration of the style of membership to which I belong.

5. Suffering With Christ

I covenant to stand with my brothers and sisters, without compromise, for the faith and practice of this Church. United with them, I will be firm and not frightened by any opposition. I promise to be quick to defend our faith and to support brothers and sisters who face persecution. Together we will put on the full armour of God and resist the schemes of the devil and the forces of evil.

I accept that this will cause me, with my brothers and sisters, to be opposed and hated and I will be ready to suffer with Christ for the sake of His Church in this way. As I take up my cross to follow Jesus, I will be joyful when spoken against. I will not take revenge, but instead will love and forgive, always seeking to overcome evil with good.

6. Discipling, Accountability And Discipline

I covenant to accept discipling and wisdom in the Spirit from other members of the Church to help me grow in holiness and become a stronger disciple of Christ. I will confess my faults to my brothers and sisters just as they will confess their

faults to me. I understand that there must be full openness within the brotherhood and that all must be accountable to each other. I will aim to welcome correction humbly and to easily forgive and be forgiven.

In the Spirit of Christ I want to build positive, trusting relationships. I will not hate or speak evil of my brother or sister. I intend to ‘walk in the light’ openly and honestly with my brothers and sisters. With gentleness and patience, I will be keen to keep the oneness of the Spirit within the covenant of brotherhood.

I accept that there may be a need for discipline, as the Bible teaches, if I should break the holy standards of this sevenfold covenant. I want to be true to this sevenfold covenant and never to abandon any aspect of it even if others may do so.

7. The Vow Of Covenant

I now covenant to enter into perfect oneness with my brothers and sisters, as Jesus prayed. In this way, we may be God’s holy people, forever joined together by His eternal covenant of grace. I desire to love and to serve in this Church with full loyalty and commitment. I am restless for this Zion’s good and I long for her to be a Church of beauty which pleases God.

Knowing that we are together in Christ never to part, I promise to be committed to every aspect of this sevenfold covenant. My intention is that for all my earthly life I shall be a covenant member of this Church and a soldier in the modern Jesus army.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The above covenant is for converted Christian men and women who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ and chosen in heart and spirit to serve Him in this Church. Those entering into this Covenant have freely exercised their right to choose the form and practice of their religion. This Church supports declarations of Human Rights, such as the following:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948 Article 18): Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion: this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1985 Article 9.2): Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, and the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of rights and freedoms of others.