



**Services at Jesus  
Church start at  
10.30am.**

We welcome you and your children to Jesus Church – and you will not be alone – every Sunday the church has many families with young children who come to join in the service and take part in activities appropriate to their ages. Many parents worry that their children will be badly behaved in church and disturb other worshippers, but with a little creative thinking church can be a happy time for all.

#### ALL AGE SERVICES

In school holidays and on the first Sunday of most months the whole church – adults and children - stay in the service in church together. Our famous ‘extended orchestra’ includes all our younger members and there is a specially prepared children’s talk, a picture to colour, and a wordsearch to puzzle over during the next part of the service. There may be interactive prayers where the children are helped to join in and we always invite them to show us their finished artwork. The service lasts under an hour.

#### OTHER SUNDAYS

In term time on the other Sundays most children go to groups appropriate to their age

for the middle part of the service. The groups take place in the vestry and the Charis – our church hall and the children and leaders go out after the instrument song. Pre-school children have a parent/carer with them. Depending on timings children will be brought back into the service during the last hymn or can be collected from their groups.

The pattern of the services does change sometimes around half term or special services so please look at the notice sheet or our website to check.

#### CRECHE

Creche is for the youngest children (babies up to age 2) and it happens in the vestry just through the door at the front of church on the right. The service can be heard from there so this is also a good place to go to settle any upset child during the service. Our creche leaders will have various activities available for the children – this is new at Jesus Church so do try it!

#### TIDDLYWINKS

The next group is Tiddlywinks for 3 and pre-school 4-year-olds in the furthest room in the Charis. Again a parent or carer stays with each child and they have a lively mix of action songs, a story and they make things! In the summer they often use the courtyard for messy play or crafts when the weather is good.

#### JUNIOR CHURCH

When children start school and are more confident to be left without a parent they move up to Junior Church. This is split into two groups for younger and older children – roughly 4-6 and 7-11. We try to move children at the start of a term in a group as they settle better with friends. They have a mix of songs, stories, prayers, crafts and games and we take a collection which goes to Tearfund. The leaders and helpers in these groups have been DBS checked. At the end of the sessions the children are usually brought back in to church to show their work, but they may sometimes wait in the Charis with their leaders for you to collect them there.

#### GENERAL HINTS

Please try not to bring noisy toys with you to church – we know that can be difficult but soft toys that can’t be banged or thrown around, and books, are better than talking or musical toys. We do ask you to keep your children with you in the pew during the service – and generally not to ‘climb’ although sometimes if they want to join in the songs it can help them to stand beside you so they can see the screen. If they do become noisy or upset the vestry is the best place to go - the service is relayed there for you to hear. Feel free to return as soon as they are ready.

Do come up with them for the instrument song or interactive prayers and help them to join in. After a very few visits they will be aware of what happens and running to get their favourite instrument!

#### TOILETS

The toilets are in the Charis Centre and are reached by going through the link and turning immediately right. The larger far end one has wheelchair access and also baby changing facilities.

#### REFRESHMENTS

are served in the Charis Centre after 10.30am services; do stay to meet and chat with other families and find out what is going on – and if you have questions feel free to ask anyone – if they don't know the answer themselves they will help you find the right person.

#### SOME MORE IDEAS...

Have a good look around the church after the service. There are displays on the noticeboards and interesting banners in church, for example.

Look for the table where there are colouring pictures and pencils or crayons to borrow. And there are boxes at the back with children's books for use during the service.

At home, you could say some simple prayers, maybe at bedtime or before a meal. Why not invest in some children's prayer books or Bible storybooks to read at home?

If you have a family difficulty include the children in writing or drawing a prayer for the prayer board in the Charis.

Try and meet others, perhaps those you sit near, or the helpers in Junior Church, or the people serving coffee. Do introduce yourself to the person leading the service!

As they get older do encourage your child to follow the service – they quickly learn to join in the rap we often say at prayer time:

*“Who can help us all the time?  
Jesus can, Jesus can.  
He will help us all the time.  
Thank you, thank you, Jesus”*

And our clergy Ian and Linda and reader Ailsa are always willing to talk and listen and pray with you and for you and your family.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

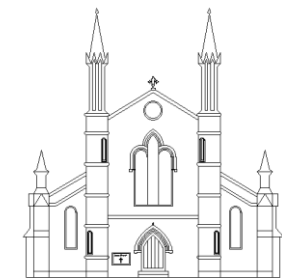
Rev Ian Crofts Tel 020 8363 1935  
email [ian.crofts@gmail.com](mailto:ian.crofts@gmail.com)

Our website

[www.jesuschurch.org.uk](http://www.jesuschurch.org.uk)

## FAMILIES IN CHURCH

(a survivor's guide!)



### Welcome to Jesus Church Forty Hill

We welcome people of all ages. If you have come with young children this leaflet has a few tips and hints to help you.