

# The Jonas Journal

“A look back on the work & ministry of The Jonas Centre in the Yorkshire Dales”

## “Happy 15th Anniversary!”

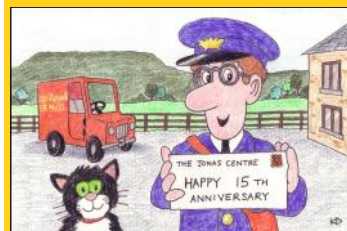
### Autumn 2011 Contents

“Happy 15th Anniversary!”



Co-founders of The Jonas Centre, Jill & George Lihou, Simon Eastwood, Centre Director and Ian Young Chairman of The Jonas Centre trustees

On the 1st of October, celebrations were held for all that has been accomplished here over the last 15 years. It was good to share with so many guests, supporters and members of the local community as we looked back at the origins of The Jonas Centre and all that has been achieved over that period. We were thrilled that we were able to have George and Jill Lihou with us, who were co-founders of The Jonas Centre along with Peter and Jennie Gallant back in 1996.



#### Staff changes

“I have come across no other centre where I have felt as welcomed.”

“The value for money is fantastic and once again we have had another relaxing break”

“The Jonas Centre is the first place we think of to go for refreshment.”

Summary of our financial position

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2012 Prayer requests

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Our final request

Two thanksgiving services were held, along with an enjoyable buffet lunch in Redmire village hall for around 100 people. In his address, George said that it was very encouraging to see so many individuals and groups benefiting from the facilities at The Jonas Centre for whom a break was essential and would otherwise not be affordable. This was one of the original aims of The Jonas Trust which had not been possible to achieve in the early years. He went on to say that by looking back it was evident to see how **God had guided** those involved with the Trust as they listened to Him and responded to His word.

Over the years the trustees and staff had **prayerfully decided** the right course of action. It was then evident, sometimes in miraculous ways, that **God had provided** what was needed especially in finance and manpower.

Now as the implementation of ‘Project Noah’ becomes a reality we pray that **God will guide, People will decide** and we can be confident that **God will provide**.

### Staff changes

- ☺ **Brian Park** has joined the staff team and assists in the office with bookings, the accounts and gift aid returns. He is married to Janet who is the Methodist minister in Hawes.
- ☺ **Ann Smith & Darren Smith (not related!)** joined our volunteers team and have helped out in the office and around the Centre.
- ☺ **Jamie & Shonagh Avis** have joined our board of trustees having been supporters of the work since 1996. They will bring new energies to the overall team as we seek to drive Project Noah forward.

The Jonas Centre  
†  
Wensleydale

**“I have come across no other centre where I have felt as welcomed and where every effort has been made to meet all our requests”**



That was the feedback received from one of the group leaders visiting The Jonas Centre in August 2011.

We regularly receive many comments like this and we continue to be used by a wide range of different groups and organisations.

**We still have some weekends available in 2012 should you or your group wish to make a return visit.**

61 group visits over the last 12 months.

Over 3000 visitors to the Centre this year.

Church groups including Alpha and Youth.

Men's and Ladies Retreats.

Family group celebrations.

Walking and rambling groups.

School residential trips.

Student conferences.

Staff from a large Manchester restaurant enjoying a post Christmas break!

Missionaries on furlough.

**We have welcomed a record number of overseas visitors this year. How many countries do you recognise?**



**“The value for money is fantastic and once again we have had another relaxing break...”**

This was one of the testimonials from another satisfied private guest commenting on her stay here last Christmas. Our midweek breaks remain popular for those wanting short stays from Monday to Friday; (**£160 for 4 nights**). There has not been a day since the 18th March 2011 when no guests have been resident. The first quiet day with no guests staying appears to be the 21st November 2011 but no doubt that will change.



*Whilst the number of visitors this year has decreased slightly, our **occupancy rates have increased by over 11%***

Our most recent permanent residents, namely the pygmy goats and alpacas have also proved a hit with our guests.



Do ask about our animal sponsorship scheme.

**“The Jonas Centre is the first place we think of to go for refreshment.”**

We continue to be encouraged by our subsidised holidays scheme and the changes that this has had on the lives of so many. Just a few days away from difficult home situations has meant that people have gone home with a renewed strength to face the challenges in their individual lives. The list of those we help grows each year and we have been able to offer subsidised breaks to the following people:

**Children with special needs**

**The bereaved & their families**

**Those suffering from mental illness**

**Those faced with debt & bankruptcy**

**The terminally ill**

**Referrals from Social Services**

**Those diagnosed with Alzheimer's**

**Asylum seekers & refugees**

**Young people from inner cities**

**Full Time Carers in need of a break**

**Ex-Offenders**

**The disabled (mentally & physically)**

**Single parents**

**Vulnerable adults**

**Victims of domestic violence**

**Those struggling with addiction**

**“Bringing individuals and families closer together”**

Our prayer is that despite the economic situation we can continue to provide for all those individuals who enjoy the peace and tranquillity of The Jonas Centre. We are thankful to God for **all** that has been achieved over the last 15 years.

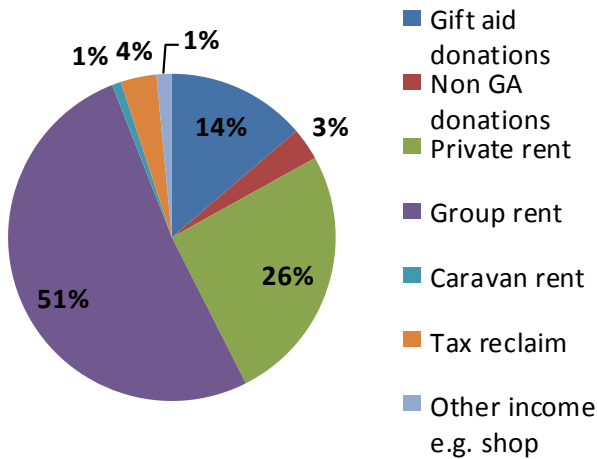
**Since 2004 we have provided over 580 subsidised holidays to over 1400 adults and over 1000 children so they might experience a break from the strains and stresses of their every day lives.**

We expect this area of our ministry to continue to grow over the coming years. Subsidised holidays attract a discount of 80% on our normal holiday rates which equates to a cost to The Jonas Centre of around £8,500 this year.

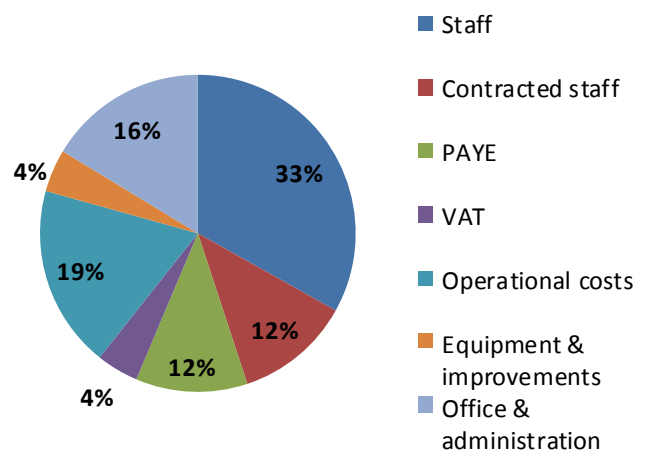
## Summary of our financial position

The information below is provided to indicate to our supporters how our funds were obtained and spent up to 30th September 2010. They are based on draft and un-audited figures. You will clearly see that without the generous donations from individuals and churches, our income would be reduced by 21% and the work of The Jonas Centre would just not happen.

### Income 2010



### Expenditure 2010



## Project Noah - 2011 Update



Potential design of new cabins



Our new community building

We are pleased to report that draft contracts and valuations are now being prepared to enable our lower land to be sold to our neighbours and generate funds for the start of the project. The final designs are yet to be decided but we are now favouring the option of 24 log cabins which will hopefully be quicker to build yet will provide us with greater longevity.

**Over £50,000 of bookings have been turned away this year as a result of continued demand for our facilities.**

## Prayer requests for 2012

- ◆ To **thank God**, that we have continued to meet our commitments this year and provided for all those in need of a peaceful break in the Yorkshire Dales.
- ◆ That **sufficient funds** from the sale of our lower site will enable the first stage of the Project Noah to happen.
- ◆ To pray that **God will provide** the people and resources to enable the Centre to continue to expand in 2012.
- ◆ For Simon (full-time Centre Director) and his wife Jo-Ann, and their two sons, Isaac and Theo.
- ◆ For our **part-time staff**, Liz (administrator), Brian (office support), Ash (housekeeper), Joe, Jayne & Ann (Centre support), Matt, Robin, Eric & Neil. (maintenance & grounds), Geraldine, Joan & Kelly (cleaners), Helen (animal welfare).
- ◆ For **God's blessing** on the many groups (old and new) and private guests using the Centre over the forthcoming year.

◆ Thank you, again, so much, for your support, and your prayers.

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29 verse 11.**

## Response to our last financial appeal



Last year we asked for donations to help us to :-

- Continue to provide disadvantaged families and groups with reduced rate holidays.
- Make repairs to the hairpin bend following the harsh winter weather.
- Replace our out-dated computers in the office.
- Improve our facilities for guests with disabilities.

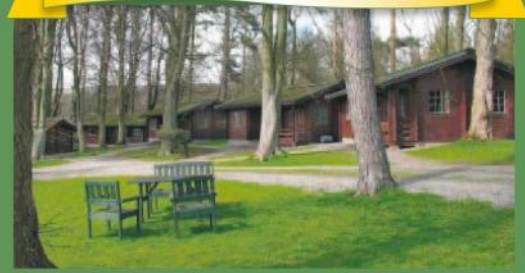
We are eternally grateful to all those who continue to support us financially and through prayer on a regular basis, and we hope that you are continuing to see the Centre making a real difference to so many lives. The above picture shows the improvements to the landscaping in Elm Wood as a result of your support.

**Your donations last year enabled us to achieve all of the above objectives and more.**

**We have been able to make many improvements all of which could not have been achieved without the generous donations of those who support The Jonas Centre.**

## Treat yourself to a well earned break!

*The best value accommodation in the Yorkshire Dales*



**Special Offer**

4 nights midweek or a weekend for only

**£160** per cabin.

Self Catering Log Cabins in peace and tranquility of Wensleydale



Friendly accommodation and facilities for the whole family.

Open all year round for private holidays, family celebrations, school residentials, training and conferences.

**Call us now to reserve your cabin!**

**01969 624900**

THE JONAS CENTRE,  
Redmire Leyburn, DL8 4EW  
[www.jonascentre.org](http://www.jonascentre.org)

## Our Final Request

As you would expect there are still projects that need funding over and above our day to day expenditure. We would love to receive many of the enclosed forms returned with a contribution to meet some of our immediate needs detailed below.

- £350 would provide a disadvantaged family with a week's holiday at the Centre.
- 34 gifts of £250 would replenish our subsidised holidays fund. (£8500 in subsidies in 2010).
- £130 would provide a weekend break for a family in crisis.
- 36 gifts of £10 would enable us to provide additional conference chairs for the Granary Barn meeting room.
- 20 gifts of £20 would enable us to replace our leaf blower to keep the grounds free of Autumn leaves, (of which there are many!).
- 20 gifts of £25 would pay for a small grit spreader to help keep the paths and roads clear of snow and ice.
- 24 gifts of £125 would complete the remaining repairs on the Centre roads and hairpin bend.

We recognise this can be a difficult time of year and the current economic conditions are a great concern to many families.

If you are able, and after you have considered the needs of your family and your church, please prayerfully consider making a donation to support the work of The Jonas Centre in Wensleydale.

**"My God will supply your every need"**

**Philippians 4 v 19**

The  
Jonas Centre  
†  
Wensleydale

GIFT VOUCHERS



**The Jonas Centre, Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4EW**  
**(Registered Charity Number 1049167, VAT Registration Number: 660 3056 62)**  
**[www.jonascentre.org](http://www.jonascentre.org) [stay@jonascentre.org](mailto:stay@jonascentre.org) Telephone 01969 624900**

**Centre Director - Simon Eastwood**

Patrons: The Rt Rev John Packer, Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, The Rt Rev Gavin Reid OBE.

Trustees: Ian Young (Chairman), Ian Coombs, John Henson MBE,  
Peter Eastwood, Joanna Slade, Jamie & Shonagh Avis.

