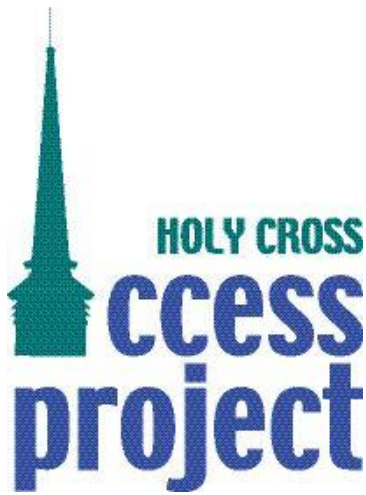


Retrospective...Access to our Churches

Using material seen in Magna from 2003- the present day, here is a report as the final building stages of the Access Project come to a successful conclusion in the summer of 2011.



Project progress so far... from 2003

After a splendid September launch, there has been a lot of activity in and around the church and community of Holy Cross.

A combination of fund-raising and fun-making has resulted in the following amounts being banked for the Access Fund.

25th June 2003	£1028.61
16th July 2003	£1104.00
4th September 2003	£ 160.00
1st October 2003	£1182.24
8th October 2003	£ 927.00
21st October 2003	£ 717.87
Total	£5119.72

The activities have been varied and here is a list of most of them: Sale of Suttons Seeds, Lunch and book sale, Thyme Restaurants, Cake sales at lunch club, Honey sales, Sponsored silence, in memoriam Connie Johnson, individual donations, Sales of cards and CDs, Choir concert, Open House weekend, Caribbean evening, Auction of Harvest goods... and more to be added in very soon.

The list will, of course grow and grow as the bank balance grows and grows.

Some of the money has already been spent, even if you haven't noticed anything happening on the ground. Projects of this nature require start-up funding, such as fees for services, fees for planning permission, etc. The first thing you will probably notice is work being done of the drains which run underneath the pathways around the church. This work, although below ground and invisible, is obviously vital to the well-being of the new paths and access road.

The Auction of Promises planned for November has been moved to 2004 in order to allow us a better period for preparation. And by the way, if you can think of someone who can offer a spectacular promise, please let us know as soon as possible.

So, people are getting involved, organising activities which are enjoyable and raise money and the targets are slowly but definitely moving towards us!

I hope that everyone will think how they can contribute to this project in the next few months and take the initiative to make a difference.

Neil Richardson

Access work is making progress (2006)



The path to the porch of the Old Church from the ramped path between the churches



The ramp to the main door is in progress



Looking in both a southerly and northerly direction from the entrance to the Parish Room



The ramp to the Parish Room door is in progress.

Photographs taken on 5th February, 2006

Almost There!

As you can see, from these pictures, the work has almost been completed in the churchyard approaches to the Old and New churches. Not quite, but getting there! These photographs were taken on Monday 1st May, 2006.



Members of the congregation, led by the zealous Sexton, alias Malcolm Ede, have worked on the garden and created a lighter, more approachable vista for the public to walk through. That is quite an important change. It makes the place look more attractive and it will certainly be safer.



Mothers and fathers with buggies, wheel chair users and anyone with a mobility problem can now wheel themselves up to the entrance and into the church where the ground floor is all on one level.



However, there is yet considerable work to be done. Having achieved access to the building, the issues now are to provide a car parking area with access to the ramp, good signage, inside and outside the building, and to complete it all, a change in our mind-set to see where this is leading in terms of truly being a place where people of all kinds are not only able to gain access, but find here things that will inspire and encourage them!

To put the fine details on the job will take time. BUT! Here is a photograph of Tarquin Wildridge (plus dog!) installing the new gate, a replica of the old one, which he made especially for us!

It has the words Holy Cross and two crosses inscribed upon it and makes a fine welcome to our many visitors.

Thanks Tarquin!

Neil Richardson

Photos taken 8th May, 2006



Summer 2011 - There or thereabouts!



It started in 2002 in a Parochial Church Council discussion. We were then faced with a number of people for whom access to the churches was a real problem. The PCC was concerned about:

- inaccessible toilet cubicles
- inaccessible steps into the churches
- inaccessible paths around the churchyard
- inaccessibility due to having no car parking close to a ramped entrance for those with disabilities
- inaccessibility for those with hearing problems

We decided that something had to be done and so we launched an Access Project with a nice new logo designed by Neill Pollard. We had a staged approach as we were unable to find enough money to tackle it all in one fell swoop. An Access Fund was set up and managed by Malcolm Ede, our Treasurer and slowly but surely, we were pleased to see real progress.

The first issue to be tackled was the toilets as these were in need of work in any case. The original 1941 cubicles and urinals were demolished and three unisex cubicles installed, one with a door wide enough for a wheelchair. There was a slight loss of facility involved but this has not in practice proved a problem.

Then the ramps were built, one at the main entrance and one at the entrance mainly used, to the Parish Room. The paths were re-laid and the long route from Ferrymead Gardens to the parish Room was rid of the steps by way of a slow upwardly rising ramping effect.

We installed new equipment for those with hearing problems, one in the Old and in the New Church. In 2008, we also installed a new kitchen in the New Church which adds facility, although not in the Access project.

In 2010, we started the final phase of building works. There were actually three areas of work involved. As the Under 5s Committee were installing an Outdoor Play Area with Government grant aid, the PCC decided to bite the bullet and using the same contractor, update the driveway with new drainage, and add the parking bay with access to the main entrance ramp included. The flower cupboard door is also ramped now.



The photographs on the other page shows the work in progress and there are also some showing the completed driveway. It has been a long eight year project, but one which has seen Holy Cross Church being effective in raising money, dealing with the niggles which arose, and putting up with some inconvenience, but for all that, it has to said that we are now there, or thereabouts!

Well done to everyone involved.

Neil Richardson

