

Dedication of a New Outdoor Play Area for the Holy Cross Under 5s Group

1.00pm Saturday 2nd July, 2011



Before!

This was the scene before we built the new play area! A quagmire or unhealthy standing water, mud and an area totally inappropriate to a churchyard and a church.

The decision to go for a complete make-over was a really good decision.

The new outdoor play area is a fresh addition for our Under 5s facility here at Holy Cross and we owe the success of the project to a wide group of people, and I will mention some of them:-

- a grant from Central Government in 2010 which started us thinking;
- the imagination of Kirstie Rowe who wrote a report in November, 2009 which sparked off our enthusiasm;
- the support of Charles Barnard, Ealing Council's Head of Early Years Childcare and Play who kept faith in our ability to deliver the Play Area, despite appearances to the contrary!
- our Member of Parliament Stephen Pound whose support helped us overcome many obstacles;

- the constant support of the Under 5s Committee who all collectively willed the result we see today;
- the backing of the Holy Cross Church Parochial Church Council, which offered continuous support;
- our main contractor Roger Darvell and all the staff who worked with their hands to create such a beautiful and practical result;
- and last but not by any means least, we owe this fine result to the tenacity and determination of Christine Fuller, the Under 5s Committee Chair, who went through several roller-coaster rides of despair and elation, before we finally came to this special day.

With all that happening, we are now so pleased to have dedicated this new play area in the name of God, and for the benefit of our children, both those who will use it today and those who will use it in the future.

It is their young lives, the promise and the potential of our children which is at the heart of our work as those involved with parenting, child care, young people and education.

May God bless the opportunities for learning and development which this play area presents to our children, and may the children of all the world experience every possible joy and fulfilment as they grow up and begin their adult lives.



After

On the following pages you will find more photographs and one of the Opening ceremony.



Driveway before



Driveway after

Christine Fuller,
Chair of the Holy
Cross Under 5s
Committee, and
families and friends
gather,
waiting for the
Opening Ceremony.

Feelings jubilation
mingle with feelings
of disbelief!

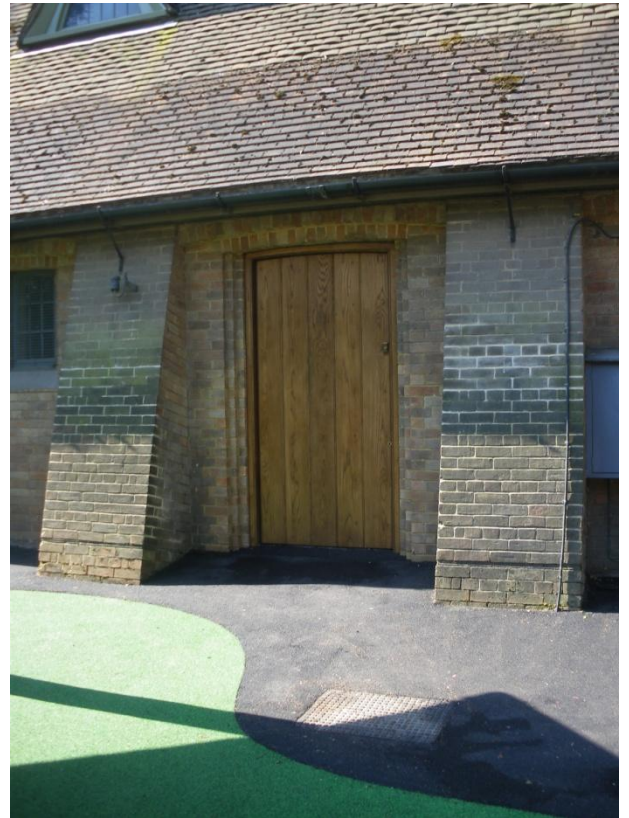


But, yes, this is not a dream! It really is happening, at long last.

What a relief! What an achievement, what joy.



The old north wall before work for the new door



Our new door ready for use

In his own inimitable style, Stephen Pound MP opens the new play area, 2nd July, 2011.

The acclamation of the children was wonderful to hear.



Hearty congratulations to all who made this project happen!

Neil Richardson