

Friends 20th Anniversary 2015

This year marks 20 years of 'Friends' fundraising at Sacred Heart. Fundraising has always been a part of the life of a Catholic school and provides the 'extras' for our children - no event is complete without a raffle! I have dug into records, my photos/memories and written a brief overview of our church, school and 'Friends'.

Background

The Parish of Sacred Heart can be traced back to 1865, when the residents would hear Mass in the stable loft above the Star & Garter pub in Tyldesley, said by the first Parish Priest Father Dawber. In 1868 Lord Lilford granted the parishioners a piece of land in Hindsford. Donations and voluntary local labour help build the 400 person church and it was opened in 1869 - the mother church serving Hindsford, Tyldesley, Atherton, Boothstown and Astley. In 1888 the foundation stone was laid for a school, on the site adjacent to the church, for the children of the area. In 1955 the new infant department was opened at the end of Lodge Lane - the present school site.



Sacred Heart Church today



Old Junior School - last day in use 1996



Old Junior School Foundation Stone

Why did we need the Friends?

In 1994 Governors decided to combine both departments at the 'Infant' site. This decision was made in the light of the poor condition of the 'Junior' school building, lack of funding for repair - in those days the Parish was responsible for the school building repair and maintenance - split site logistics and running costs. Governors petitioned the local Authority to help transfer all pupils to one site. We were successful, but had to raise £10 000 urgently. The then new head, Mrs Stewart, formed an official fundraising body, i.e. 'Friends of Sacred Heart', to help raise the school contribution. The Governors, school, parents, children, family, friends and parishioners pulled together to reach our target and records show the first monies were paid in March 1995. Building and dedication took place in 1996, with all the children on one site. The foundation stone for the demolished junior school was placed near the front entrance to the present school. The 'Friends' success would continue to provide money in the future for schools' disposal.



Original Infant Department
Winter 1995



Junior Extension Building
under construction 1996



Dedication
June 1997

Money Raised and Spent

Over the past 20 years we have raised **over £90 000**. The '200 club', bingo, fairs, race nights, discos, fun days, quiz nights, barn dance, beetles drives, calendars, tea towels, donations and many other events contributed to this total. Since the initial £10 000 Governor contribution, we have help to provide glazing, security fencing, IT screens, computers, hall curtains, furniture, books, dining room furniture, staging, reception equipment/canopy, playground refurbishments, sports equipment, cycle racks and much more. Again with 'Friends' help, Governors have added 2 new classrooms, library and in 2012 the new staff room, circulation space, quiet rooms, front entrance/office.

The 'Friends' are still going strong today, with a dedicated band of members working tirelessly to provide events for us all to enjoy. Your donations go towards the current needs of our children, as identified by the school. Please continue with your support financially and practically, to ensure we can provide the children of Sacred Heart with a bright future. Thanks to everyone, past and present, involved in our wonderful school.

Judith Bayley
Governor