



Annual Report November 2008

Leader's report

The **Pre-School staff** team has grown this year with Gill Vince joining the team to support children with additional needs. Carly and Annabel have begun their training to work in childcare. Debbie completed her BA Hon. Degree in Early Childhood Studies; Karen and Sandra completed their NVQ Level 3 awards in Childcare and Education and Margaret and Khezimie have begun the same award. Congratulations to all of them!

All the staff have undertaken in-service training, contributing to their professional and personal development, particularly increasing their understanding of the new Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, which we are now delivering. I would like to record my thanks to all the staff who have worked very hard to make Pre-School a success.

The care and education of Pre-School **children** is our main object and we have continued to be full this year with just under 50 children registered. Generally parents opted for more sessions when their children received free nursery education funding, and a number of children remained with us for a second year, leaving to go directly to school. We made some adjustments to our planning to take account of these changes.

The most exciting events of the past year have been focused around the construction and use of the **Outdoor Area**. The children have been very keen to be outside as much as possible and the staff have enjoyed observing the depth of concentration and the additional learning opportunities that have resulted from this additional resource. We continue to develop this learning environment as we assess the possibilities and purchase new equipment.



Once again **celebrations** at Christmas and the end of school year were well attended by children and parents and marked the transition on to nursery or reception class for our children. This year we also had an event to mark 40 years of Pre-School / Playgroup activity here and the opening of the Outdoor Area. This was well supported by staff, children and parents, both present and past. The children enjoyed preparing for the day by decorating pennants for bunting that fluttered well in the breeze.

We have enjoyed **visits** to the local park and on one occasion combined this with fundraising for Action Medical Research, using their Paddington Bear materials. We also went to the library, the market and Standalone Farm Park. This year as well as visiting Minsden, the local residential home for the elderly at Christmas, the activities organiser invited us to an 'Easter Egg Hunt' in March. She arranged a lovely session for the children and they sang nursery songs, which some of the residents remembered and join in.

We have **worked in partnership** with Young in Herts, taking part in training, information days and completing forms and census reports for the county and central government. We attended an information session about the government pathfinder to offer 15 hours of nursery education flexibly and following consultation with staff, parents and management, we applied to participate and were accepted. This is an exciting and demanding exercise, which has meant opening for more hours from September 2008. We continue to work closely with other agencies to support children with additional needs, seeking to be an inclusive setting.

Thank you to all the management committee and others within the church and local community who continue to support us, and a special thank you to Janet Impey who has continued to give so much in so many ways.

Gill Matthews

Minister's perspective



Tilehouse Street Pre-school, whilst a charity in its own right, is also an important part of the life of Tilehouse Street Baptist Church and one of the ways the church seeks to reflect God's concern for children. This is something we see very clearly in the words and deeds of Jesus Christ, who welcomed children who were brought to him.

Another way the church expresses this concern is through the work of Sharon Beck, our Family Worker, who is always ready to offer a listening ear. Comments made to me by parents show both how much the children enjoy coming to the Pre-School and how much the parents feel they benefit by coming.

I am glad to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the staff, for it is they who make the Pre-School what it is, and to thank them for all that they have done during the past year. I would also like to thank the management committee whose role is less obvious but very important, not least in helping to ensure that what seems to be an increasing number of rules and regulations are adhered to.

John Matthews
Minister
Tilehouse Street Baptist Church

Treasurer's report for the year ending 31/08/08

A brief summary of this year's accounts is shown below. If you would like more detail, a full copy of the accounts in paper format is available on request. They will also be posted on our website in due course. Previous year's accounts can be viewed at www.charity-commission.gov.uk under our registration number 1102492.

Janet Impey
Treasurer

Summary of accounts for the year ending 31st August 2008

	General Fund	Outdoor Area Project
Receipts	£	£
Fees	41,766	0
Fundraising activities	0	4,489
Donations & gift aid	0	5,086
Grants	7,321	5,000
Other income	2,233	100
Total receipts	51,320	14,675
Payments		
Running costs	48,618	0
Fundraising costs	0	1,332
Outdoor area cost	0	33,140
Total payments	48,618	34,472
Surplus for year	2,702	-19,797

NB: The Outdoor Area fund shows a deficit this year reflecting the cost of building the new play area and garden from funds raised during previous years.

Thanks are expressed to Anne Ellison, the Finance Director of Schofield Lothian who was the Independent Examiner of the accounts.

Policy review programme

Our policies set out our approach to operating and managing Pre-School. In the last year existing policies have been reviewed and new policies implemented to ensure that they are up to date and reflect legal requirements and educational good practice.

Our thanks go to Belinda Copson who, until stepping down as a committee member, led this task with help from Gill Matthews, Paula McCrystal and Sarah O'Reilly. Belinda's work has been appreciated. She was dedicated to the task and used her gifts and experience in ensuring that the reviews were carried out promptly and are fit for our setting.

If you have not seen the policies but would like to do so please ask Gill or one of the members of staff who will make copies available.

Fundraising report

During this financial year we have raised over £4,400 from events and activities. This great achievement was realised through the hard work and support of many people but there's more to it than that – we also had a lot of fun!

Many of you will have attended our 40th anniversary, joining in the fun and games and enjoying the sunshine on our new Outdoor Play Area. Our chair person entered into political spin when he blindfolded Peter Lilley and directed him to put the door handle on the Pre-School house!

At the Craft Fair the children made use of the toys and playdough while the adults browsed and shopped.

The cakes sold at Christmas and the end of term party were delicious as usual. Our coffee mornings included pancakes on one occasion and bric-a-brac stalls on another.

For those who like a challenge, the quiz sheets proved to be popular once again.

The biggest event in terms of fun and money raised was the Sponsored Bunny Hop. Exhausting for the staff, as the children like to go round the course many times, but well worth while.

For me the best was the Indulgence Evening – a rare opportunity to sit back and relax!

Janet Impey

Outdoor Play Area

After much fundraising we were delighted that phase one, the Outdoor Play Area, was completed enabling the children to play and learn in the fresh air. It was officially opened by the Rt Hon Peter Lilley MP on 26th April when we also celebrated the Pre-School's 40th anniversary.



Both past and present pre-schoolers, staff and supporters joined in the fun and games. More details and photos can be seen on our website at www.tilehousetreetpreschool.org.uk.

Since then the children have used the area whenever the weather allows. The slugs and insects in the garden have drawn a lot of interest, but I prefer the sunflowers that have grown well above the back wall. Fundraising continues for a roof over part of the play area to allow the children to go outside whatever the weather, and to provide new toilets with direct access from the Pre-School room.

Janet Impey



View from a parent

I have been on the Tilehouse Street Pre-School committee for over 2 years now while both my girls attended.

Gill and her team do a marvellous job and what goes on behind the scenes would amaze you! All the staff are dedicated and hard working. You can approach anyone of them for a friendly chat or moan about what a terrible night's sleep you had the night before.

The school is well organised with lots to do and make each day; all the educational toys make learning through play fun. The Outdoor Play Area is a real 'star attraction', well done to all.

Well now it is time for me step down and let another parent have their say and help the committee in any way they can. I have really enjoyed being a part of the committee, the other members are a credit to themselves and the Pre-School, I wish them all well.

Sarah O'Reilly



Chair's comments

I would like to start by expressing my thanks to Gill and her dedicated staff, and also to the management and fundraising committees.

This year it would seem that we have been as busy as ever and over the past 12 months a lot has been achieved and ground prepared for future changes. Some of these changes are enforced by legislation changes. Gill and her team have risen to the challenge of this and my thanks go to them all for their continued professionalism.

Congratulations to all those staff who have gained new qualifications and are continuing with their professional development.

It is not only Gill and her team who need to be thanked but also the management committee. All of them give of their time to attend the full committee meetings as well as extra time on the administration, finances, policies and fundraising.

There are always opportunities for other people who might want to get involved in some capacity. If you have wanted to give something back but are not sure what or how, please talk to one of the committee members who will be happy to share with you their experiences and encourage you to participate.

This year Belinda Copson stood down from the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her insight, dedication and input which I personally have found helpful.

My thanks too to the other members of the committee – Sarah O'Reilly, Paula McCrystal, Meg Granger and Janet Impey. Thanks also to 'Gill Matthews who attends meetings as the Pre-School leader and John Matthews as the Minister of the church.

Stephen Deller

Tilehouse Pre-School is governed by the constitution dated 22 September 2003. The objects are: The advancement of the education (including spiritual development) of children primarily under statutory school age and the provision of facilities for recreation for such children in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The Trustees during the period to 31 August 2008 were
Stephen Deller – Moderator
Meg Granger - Secretary
Janet Impey – Treasurer
Belinda Copson – Committee Member
Sarah O'Reilly - Committee Member
Paula McCrystal - Committee Member

Four of the trustees are elected by Tilehouse Street Baptist Church to serve for 12 months and two are co-opted by the committee.

I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:
. the trustees have approved the report above; and
. have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Stephen John Deller
Moderator
Date: