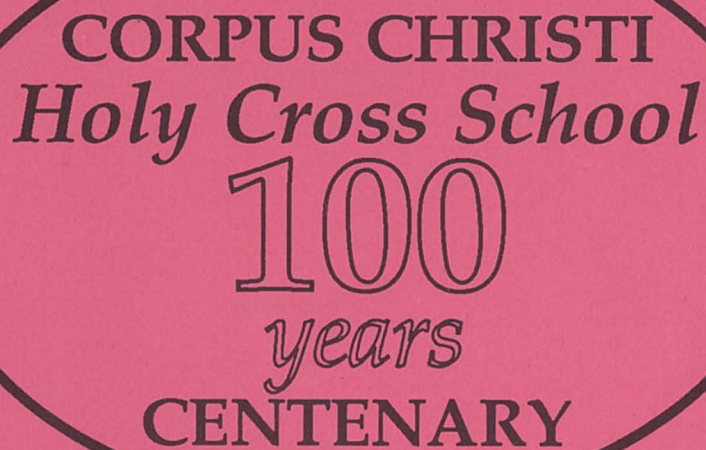


HOLY CROSS TO CORPUS CHRISTI



CORPUS CHRISTI
Holy Cross School
100
years
CENTENARY

**Celebration of 100 years of Catholic Education
in Boscombe**

by John Young

Preface to School Centenary Booklet

In the pages of this booklet, you will discover the story of a school as it has grown from small beginnings to a flourishing family-centred institution.

However, what you will not easily discover is any account of the influence that this school has had on the lives and destiny, the attitudes of mind and outlook on life of all its hundreds of pupils.

Here, to the school, little children have come to learn more deeply about a God who is their loving Father. They have come to learn how to speak to Him and to see Him active and watchful in their lives. They have learnt of the values and outlook that His Son, Jesus, brought to the world, the values that he preached and lived.

Brought up in these traditions, guided by the Holy Spirit, the pupils of Holy Cross (now Corpus Christi) school have left the school, going out into a world in which they in their turn, have made their own small contribution in the building up of the Kingdom of God by putting into practice in their daily lives what they learnt in the classroom, church, chapel and home.

As Parish Priest and Chairman of Governors, I wish a very happy Centenary Celebration to all pupils, past and present, staff and all connected with the school. May it continue its Christlike task for many years to come.

Fr P. GRIFFITHS SJ

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The Staff, January 1988

Head Master: Mr. M. J. Cooper

Deputy Head: Miss I. H. Frith, BA, Dip. Ed.

Teachers:

Mrs. P. Addison
Mrs. J. Broadbent, B.Ed.
Mrs. J. Ferris
Mrs. S. E. Newman
Mrs. D. Perry
Miss A. Wood, ARCM

Mrs. A. L. Botibel, BA
Mrs. J. Cutler
Mrs. M. Edwards
Mrs. R. Hadley
Miss S. Nolan, BA
Miss A. Winiecki, B.Ed.

Secretary: Mrs. R. Sheehan

Welfare Assistant: Mrs. T. Moore

Caretaker: Mr. L. Marsh

Sources

The Log Books of the School

The Bournemouth and Boscombe Catholic Record

The Corpus Christi Calendar

The Minute Books of the Managers and Governors

The Minute Books of the Bournemouth Education Committee

Issues of the Bournemouth Observer

History of Education in Great Britain, Curtis, University Tutorial Press 1953

Educational Documents 1816 - 1968, Maclure, Chapman and Hall 1969

Corpus Christi School

1. General History

Holy Cross School, the name under which Corpus Christi School was known for many years, was founded in 1888 by the Religious of the Cross of St. Quentin. These Sisters had arrived in England from France in 1871, at a time when there was considerable opposition in that country to religious orders, particularly orders engaged in educational work. This was a policy of the government which had been established following the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War.

After receiving the hospitality of the Sisters of Mercy in London the Sisters were encouraged by the Bishop of Southwark, whose diocese then extended to the border of Dorset, and the Jesuits who had come to Bournemouth in 1869, to settle in that rapidly rising town. Bournemouth had a population of almost 5,900 in 1871, which increased to over 16,850 by 1881, and to over 37,000 by 1891.

The Sisters took a house in Branksome Wood Road in which they opened a boarding school for girls. In addition for a number of years some of them taught in St. Walburga's elementary school which had been started in 1877 largely through the efforts of Lady Georgiana Fullerton, and which was situated in Yelverton Road.

Wishing to develop the boarding school, the Sisters decided to move to a larger site and in 1886 they took a house in Parkwood Road as a temporary convent, and purchased an area of about four and a half acres of land between Parkwood Road and the boundary wall of the Wentworth Estate. This land was to be the site of the new convent and school, the foundation stone of which was laid on 6th September 1888.

The first recorded reference to the foundation of an elementary school seems to have been the proposal of the Baroness von Hugel made in February 1887 for the provision of a school/chapel for Boscombe and Pokesdown. The Baroness Pauline suggested that a suitable house might be rented or an iron building obtained for the purpose at a cost of £50 a year, and that a school mistress might be employed for a further £50 a year. After consideration, this proposal was not proceeded with, and in September the Baroness withdrew the suggestion for a school, which she said could be opened later, if required, once a chapel had been established.

So it was in 1888, with the help of the Baroness, that the Sisters opened a small school in Oak Cottage, under the charge of Mother Costello, with about six or eight pupils. The names of six of the children are known; these were four Lamberts — Blanche, Lily, Ruth and Fred — Mary Culverwell and William McArdle. Early in 1889 the school was moved to a large house named Trevone, near the junction of Parkwood and Harvey Roads, a house long since demolished.

To provide a site for a permanent school, a friend of the Community, Mrs. James, gave the Sisters a piece of land of a little over half an acre in extent, between the convent site and St. James's Square, and building of Holy Cross School was started in the summer of 1889.

The foundation stone of the school was laid on Friday, 16th August 1889, when shortly after half past three a procession left the temporary church for the school site. Here Fr. Morford, of Poole, blessed the site and the stone, which was then laid by Miss Maria Pflucker. A full account of this ceremony is set out in the appendix.

A high wall surrounded the school, with an entrance in St. James's Square. The brick building was single storey, with a large 'schoolroom' 59 feet by 23 feet, separate rooms for boys and girls, each 20 feet by 20 feet and with doorways back and front. The school was intended to take about 100 pupils. There is no record of the actual date on which the new buildings were taken into use, but as construction was under way by the date of the foundation stone laying, it is probable that this would have been within a few months.

At the beginning Holy Cross School was independent of any official assistance and was maintained by the Sisters. Although Government grants had been available since 1862, these were subject to the result of an annual inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. Each child had to be examined and to reach a satisfactory standard in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, a system which was generally known as 'payment by results'. Other conditions included the requirement that the school premises be approved, that the school be in the charge of a certificated teacher, and that the girls be taught plain needlework.

The Education Act 1891 provided for an additional grant of ten shillings (50p) a year for each child between the ages of three and fifteen years of age included in the average attendance for each given year. This seems to have influenced the Sisters to apply for the grant, since it is on record that Holy Cross became grant aided in 1892. The conditions relating to the grant included:

The School must be open to inspection by the Inspectors of Schools who were required to make an annual report on each school;

No fee was to be charged to the pupils;

No child might be required to attend religious instruction or worship if the parent objected;

Religious teaching or observance had to take place either at the commencement or ending of a school session, so that a child could be withdrawn if the parent so wished.

The Education Act 1902 made radical changes in the education system. Amongst other alterations, it established the 'dual system' of Council and Church Schools; the former Board Schools became Council Schools, whilst the Church schools became non-provided schools, both categories being administered by the newly created local education authorities. The Bournemouth County Borough became the local education authority for this area, and its Education Committee came into being on 1st July 1903. As a non-provided school, Holy Cross remained in the ownership of the Sisters, who were responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and the site, and for any additions to the buildings which might become necessary. The local authority were responsible for the day-to-day costs of running the school.

A survey of the premises was made in 1903 by the Borough Engineer in connection with these new arrangements, and the following is a summary of this report to the Education Committee:

The School is built with local white facing bricks having red brick dressings and with brick plinth: the windows are furnished with brick sills and arches. The roof is of medium pitch, covered with slates.

The accommodation consists of:

Main room, divided by sliding partition	53 ft x 22 ft
Two classrooms, each	20 ft x 20 ft
One classroom	20 ft x 17 ft 6 ins

The rooms are 13 ft 3 inches high at the walls, increasing to 17 ft 6 inches at ceiling rafters. They are of fairfaced brick, distempered, with painted dado 3 ft 6 inches high. The school is lighted by gas and heated by open fires. There are separate playgrounds for boys and girls; in the boys' playground which is at the front of the building, there is a small covered area, rather like a verandah, which is paved. The rest of the two playgrounds is unpaved.

The school had accommodation for 240 pupils, there having been an extension to the buildings in 1895. Later, under revised standards of school accommodation set by the Board of Education in 1909, the accommodation was recalculated as 238. When the local authority came into being in July 1903 there were 173 children at Holy Cross, served by five full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. An improvement long delayed was the replacement of the gas lighting by electricity, which did not take place until 1940.

In general terms, the arrangements established by the 1902 Act endured for over forty years; the Education Act 1921 whilst replacing and bringing together earlier legislation, did not materially alter the general organisation of the schools.

The Education Act 1944, which came into operation on 1st April 1945, replaced the previous education acts, and provided a radically revised educational system for England and Wales. The new Act retained the dual system, with the local authority schools, in future to be known as county schools, side by side with the non-provided schools, now called voluntary schools, the majority of the latter were owned either by the Church of England or were Catholic schools.

Each local education authority was required by the 1944 Act to submit to the Minister of Education a Development Plan, showing the intended long-term arrangements for the provision of education in its own area. The plan submitted by the Bournemouth Authority so far as it related to Catholic schools envisaged a future secondary modern school of one form entry, with contributory primary schools, one of which was to be Holy Cross, which was expected to be a four-class primary school for children from five to eleven years.

In April 1945, the date on which the new Act became operable, Holy Cross was an all-age school, with pupils from five to fourteen years of age. The school leaving age was raised to fifteen on 1st April 1947 and, to provide accommodation for the additional pupils, temporary prefabricated classroom units were supplied by the Ministry of Education. A small unit of one classroom was given to Holy Cross School in September 1947, sited across the playground, near to and parallel with the Parkwood Road boundary wall. In connection with the general expansion of the school meals service, the local authority proposed in 1946 that a small kitchen and dining room with capacity to prepare a hundred meals a day be built for the school. The Managers agreed to this, and the kitchen/dining room was built adjoining the hutted classroom mentioned above: this dining room came into use towards the end of 1948. In 1950 the area of paved playground was extended.

The Education Act 1944 gave voluntary school Managers the opportunity to apply for 'aided' status or to become controlled schools. Under aided status the Managers virtually retained the status quo; in the case of controlled status, the local authority took over virtually complete responsibility for the school, and they appointed the majority of the Managers, and religious instruction of a denominational character was reduced to a bare minimum. In common with other Catholic schools, the Managers of Holy Cross applied for aided status, which was granted in 1953.

After prolonged negotiations, the Bournemouth Development Plan was finally published in 1954, and as originally proposed, Holy Cross School was to become a four-class primary school. The Catholic secondary modern school was provisionally to be included in the five-year building programme 1952-56. It was proposed that adaptations to the Holy Cross buildings to bring these up to the standards envisaged in the building regulations laid down by the Ministry were to be included in the 1962 building programme. These provisional dates were not in fact realised; the Holy Cross improvements were carried out earlier, whilst the secondary school did not open until 1962.

The future development of the school posed problems for the Managers. The site was very restricted, about 0.6 of an acre in extent, much below the standard required for a one-form entry school, which the Managers regarded as the correct size of the school, as against the four-class school proposed by the local authority. The number on the roll had risen steadily from 146 in 1946 to 256 in 1954, the year in which the senior pupils were transferred to St. Walburga's School, Holy Cross being reorganised as a primary school. Even so, there were still 219 pupils on roll in September 1954, when the reorganisation came into effect.

In response to pressure from parents, the Managers opened a nursery class in June 1951, adapting for this the hutted classroom provided in 1947. This proved very successful, and it was with dismay that the Managers had to face the proposed closure of all nursery classes by the local authority in 1957. This was due to a national shortage of teachers, which caused the Ministry of Education to ration the number of teachers to be employed by each local authority. As children in a nursery class were under statutory school age, it was felt by the Bournemouth authority that they must be closed to release teachers for general classes. The Managers of Holy Cross suggested that the nursery class be continued on a voluntary basis, not maintained by the local authority, but there proved to be legal difficulties, and it became inevitable that the class be closed in November 1957.

The continued number of children on roll of about 220 decided the Managers to go ahead at an early date with the modernisation of the premises and in particular by extending the classrooms, and providing a small staff and office block. Various plans were considered, and in January 1957 a scheme was submitted to the local authority, by whom it was approved. In April application was made to the Ministry of Education for their approval, and for the inclusion of the project in the Minor Works Building Programme for 1958-59. By June the Ministry had approved the scheme in principle, but at the same time pointed out to the Managers that the site was very sub-standard and should be brought up to standard as soon as possible. The detailed plans were accepted by the Ministry in March 1958.

Tenders for the building work were considered by the Managers in May 1958; unfortunately all of these proved to be above the limit of £10,000 laid down by the Ministry as the maximum amount for a minor works project. An appeal was made to the Ministry for permission to accept a tender over the limit, but this was refused. To reduce the cost, the Managers decided to delete the extension of two of the classrooms; this amendment to the scheme was accepted by the Ministry in October 1958. The Managers were then able to accept the tender of Messrs. Lander Ltd., amounting to just below £10,000, and construction commenced in the last week of November.

Early in 1959 the Ministry raised the cost limit for minor works to £20,000, thus enabling the Managers to reinstate the work deleted. Much of the building was completed in time for occupation in September 1959. In addition to extending the classrooms, two rooms were converted into an assembly hall and replaced by two new classrooms; other new works included a staffroom, Head's and secretary's offices, storerooms and some indoor toilets.

Arising out of the Ministry's comment on the sub-standard nature of the site, the Managers gave thought to the possibility of transferring the school to a new site since it was virtually impossible to extend the existing site. At that stage it seemed very unlikely that a suitable site would be found in the immediate district, and it was felt that there would be too many disadvantages in pursuing the matter.

Numbers of children on roll continued to rise, and during 1962 it became necessary to use the dining room for one class. At a meeting of the Managers in May 1963 the Chairman, Father Enright, put forward an entirely new proposal, namely that a new site on ground adjoining the church be considered. This comprised the site of the parish Guildhall, the land adjoining Christchurch Road, which had been left in trust by the Baroness von Hugel, the house No. 3 St. James's Square, and part of the presbytery garden together with the existing church drive. A new church drive would have to be made, using a further strip of land from the presbytery garden. All these pieces of land added together would provide a sufficient area for a one-form entry school.

The Managers accepted this proposal in principle, and in December 1963 made an application through the local authority for Holy Cross to be included in the three-year building programme for 1965-68; this was not successful. Implicit in the proposal was the recognition of Holy Cross as a one-form entry school. This led to prolonged discussions; eventually the Managers were able to convince the local authority that the numbers at the school were unlikely to fall to four classes, and that numbers fully justified the one-form entry.

As the need for additional accommodation was very pressing, arrangements were made in September 1964 for one class to be accommodated in the premises of the Convent Junior School. This was available for one term only, and in January a class of six-year-olds had to use the dining room in the presbytery as a classroom. In March 1965 the Managers were able to rent the parish guildhall to use as a school hall, and to reconvert the hall in the school to its original two classrooms. This was carried out in time for the class to move from the presbytery to the main school building after Easter.

Seeing little hope of replacing the school buildings as a whole, in June 1968 the Managers made application for permission to build a four-classroom extension as a minor works project, this extension to be placed on the proposed new site. This application was not successful, but when renewed a year later, the Department of Education and Science agreed in April 1970 to the building of a block of three classrooms in temporary construction, at an estimated cost of £9,000. All necessary approvals were obtained, and a unit of three rooms was obtained from the Andover Timber Company; these were erected in time to be taken into use in November 1970, being blessed by Bishop Worlock on the 9th of that month.

No sooner had these rooms been taken into use, than in December 1970 the local authority informed the Managers that the Department of Education and Science were anxious to make allocations to authorities for the replacement of old school buildings, built pre 1903, and it seemed probable that Holy Cross could be included in such an allocation.

The Managers had previously, in 1966, requested their Architect, Mr. Max Cross, to prepare plans for a ten-class building, and these had been approved by the Managers on 21st March 1967. Preliminary discussion with the Department of Education and Science resulted in general agreement to the project in principle, although it was evident that it would be necessary for the recently erected temporary block to form part of the new buildings. Since the block was expected to serve for several years.

Formal application was made by the Managers to the Department in November 1971 for permission to build the new premises, and in April 1972 the department notified the Managers that the project was approved and had been placed on the preliminary building list for 1972-73 as a school for 320 pupils aged 5 to 11 years. A month later, on 16th May, the Department formally advised the Managers that the three temporary classrooms were to be retained as part of the 320-place school. In the following July an order was sealed constituting the new premises as a 'transferred' school within the meaning of the Education Act 1944; that is, the existing Holy Cross School was to be transferred to new buildings on a new site.

A year later, the project was placed in the Department's design list for 1973-74, which enabled the Managers to proceed with the detailed planning. All was going well, when in December 1973 the Chancellor of the Exchequer called a halt to the programme for replacing old school buildings, and it was not until May 1976 that the Managers were given permission to start building. Tenders for the work were obtained by the Managers in the autumn of 1976, when the contract for the work was awarded to Messrs. W. Hayward, Ltd., building being due to commence in February 1977. The last school assembly in the Guildhall took place on 4th February, and immediately afterwards the hall was demolished, and site works commenced. Work proceeded rapidly, and by May 1978 the Managers were able to inspect the new building. Arrangements were made for the furniture and equipment to be moved in on 1st and 2nd June, and the new buildings were taken into use on 5th June 1978.

With its transfer to the new building Holy Cross School was renamed Corpus Christi. The school was blessed by Bishop Emery of Bournemouth at a formal ceremony on 9th December 1978. The former school buildings and their site were transferred from the Religious of the Cross, who were their owners, to Trustees on behalf of the parish, to become the site for a new parish centre. Part of the old school was demolished, but a considerable part, particularly the new sections built in 1957, was retained and incorporated into the Centre.

The new Corpus Christi School provides accommodation for 320 pupils, 200 in the new buildings and a further 120 in the already existing temporary block. The buildings include assembly hall, Head's office, Deputy Head's room, school office, staffroom and an entrance hall incorporating a display and exhibition area. There is a flat for a resident caretaker. The school is built in traditional type construction with warm brown external bricks.

There was a gradual decline in the number of pupils in the school during the years from 1973 to 1982, when the number of roll dropped to 206. In the years since 1982, this trend has been reversed, so that by the spring of 1987 the number of children had risen to 366.

Having regard to the continuing increase in numbers and to the increasing cost of maintaining the temporary classroom block, an application was made in the summer of 1985 to the Department of Education and Science for inclusion in the 1986-87 building programme of a four-classroom block; three rooms to replace the temporary

building plus an additional classroom to accommodate the increased number of pupils in the school. As the project was not included in the Programme, representatives of the Governors and of the Diocesan Schools Commission met Officers of the Department in July 1986 to urge the reconsideration of the proposal, which had the support of the local education authority. Having regard to the strict limits on capital expenditure laid down by the Government, the Officers could not hold out any hope of the project being included in the 1986-87 programme; it would be further considered for the next succeeding programme.

With the number of children continuing to rise, an additional class was formed in February 1986, and this had to be accommodated in a room in the nearby Parish Centre. Numbers in September 1986 were high enough to make the additional class necessary for the whole school year, and yet another class was formed in February 1987, making it necessary to use a second room in the centre.

At this stage the Governors decided, with great reluctance, to limit the number on roll to 366, which they considered was the maximum number of children who could be accommodated. After discussions with officers of the local education authority and with representatives of the Diocese, the Governors decided to make application to the Department of Education and Science for the size of the school to be increased from one form entry to two form entry and so provide accommodation for 420 children. To provide the additional premises, it was proposed, after consultation with the Parish Council, to take over from the Parish Centre the accommodation which was formerly part of Holy Cross School. With some adaptation, this would provide four classrooms and ancillary accommodation, as modernised in 1957. To effect this change it is necessary to follow the procedures laid down in the Education Act 1980, and this is now in the process of being followed.

2. The School in 1895

The School Log Book dates back to 1892, and records many incidents in the life of the school; to give some idea of day-to-day events in the early existence of the school, a summary of happenings in the year 1895 is given. The school re-opened after the Christmas holiday on 14th January, when attendance was poor owing to the severe weather. Early in February the attendance was again affected by bad weather, and on the 11th of that month it was necessary to close the school as the outside toilets had frozen. The school was open again by 15th February, and attendance gradually improved during the rest of the month. On 18th February the school was closed to enable teachers and children to attend the funeral of the Mother Superior of the Convent.

During most of March there were considerable absences of pupils due to illness, mostly influenza, and one case of scarlet fever was notified. The Mother Superior of the Order, Mother de St. Preux, visited the school on 8th March, and a visit is recorded of Father de Lapasture SJ, the priest responsible for the district. Little of note is recorded in April, when the school was closed for the Easter holiday from 10th to 17th.

May 3rd was a holiday in honour of the Feast of the Holy Cross. In that first week of May Mrs. O'Brien visited the school and afterwards sent sweets for the children. Extra recreation was given on 24th May in recognition of the birthday of Queen Victoria. There were absences due to mumps during the second part of May. On 31st May the Bishop, Mgr. Vertue, visited the school accompanied by Fr. J. Cooney SJ parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish, of which Boscombe was then a part.

A half-day holiday was given on Whit Monday, and a further holiday on 12th June in celebration of the visit to Bournemouth of Prince Henry of Battenburg, husband of Princess Beatrice, the Queen's youngest daughter. The next day, 13th June, being the feast of Corpus Christi, the school was closed. Miss Doyle, the Head Mistress, resigned on 14th June, and Mother Lyons took charge for the rest of the summer term. Attendance was adversely affected on various days during the latter part of June and July on account of children going on various annual treats and outings. Visitors to the school included the baroness Pauline von Hugel, Fr. de Zulueta SJ and the Superior General of the Nuns.

After the summer holidays Miss Helen Cunliffe took charge as Head Mistress. The term commenced on 3rd September, but on the next day there was a poor attendance due to the Regatta in Boscombe. The boys had their drawing examination on 18th October; this examination had been required by the Government Inspector. Father Provincial of the Jesuits and Fr. Cooney came to the school on 28th October, after the examination.

The annual inspection by Mr. Morgan Pryce, the Inspector of Schools, took place on 4th November. Nothing of note occurred for the rest of the term, and the Christmas holiday commenced on 19th December.

In his report on the school Mr. Pryce comments favourably on the work in general, although he suggests that the singing might be improved by some part songs instead of unison only. Discipline was good in the upper school, but he thought the infants seemed restless — there were over fifty children in the one class!

A list of the object lessons to be given to the infants during the year included such diverse articles as a needle, lion, teeth, window, orange, soap, candle, soldiers, wood, a loaf of bread, sugar, plum-pudding, tea, money and bells. For children in Standard III subjects for similar lessons included quicksilver, mustard, skin, coal, soap bubbles, heavenly bodies.

3. The School 1888 to 1988

As has been seen from the events of 1895, life was in many ways very different in those days from the present time. In the early days, the summer holiday was known as 'harvest' holiday, as in the 19th century children and parents often helped in the gathering of the harvest. From time to time visitors would come to the school, often leaving sweets or fruit for the children. These included Miss Yateman, Lady Fielding, the Baroness Pauline von Hugel, Mrs. O'Brien, the Mother General of the Sisters and the Father Provincial of the Jesuits. A regular visitor was Father de Lapasture who became parish priest of Corpus Christi in 1897.

Mr. Martyn Pryce and Mr. Whittaker conducted the first of the Government Inspections on 20th November 1893, and in the report on this, reference was made to the good discipline and excellent tone of the school. Reading was stated to be good, spelling satisfactory, whilst English and geography were fair.

A half-day's holiday was given on 6th July 1893 to celebrate the wedding of the Duke of York (later King George V) and Princess May, and a similar holiday on 12th June 1895 marked the visit of Prince Henry of Battenburg to Bournemouth.

In his report on the inspection held on 7th November 1894, the Inspector noted that although the elder boys were taught drawing, they had not been examined by the Science and Art Department, and he requested that an examination be arranged; this was held on 18th October 1895. The following year Mr. Pryce felt that the children in the infant class were rather restless and inattentive; as a result in January 1896 the infant classes were reorganised as a separate department under their own Head Mistress.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by two days' holiday on 22nd and 23rd June 1897. The infant children living in the Bournemouth area were assembled in the playground in mid-morning and each was given a medal of the Queen, a bun and an orange and a bag of sweets. The older children from Bournemouth attended a Fete in Meyrick Park. The children living in Pokesdown were marched to the Cricket Field in Castlemain Road (now Castlemain Avenue) where there were games and sports and a tea party and each child received a Jubilee mug.

By the end of 1897 the Inspector was pleased with the improvement in the infants' classes, and he remarked that the tone and discipline of the older children were very pleasing. A grant of £20 was received in January 1898 for "improving staff and providing apparatus" in both departments of the school.

Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster, spent a few days in Bournemouth in April 1899 on medical advice, and he visited the Convent on 23rd April, when the older pupils assembled to see his departure.

The Boer War had its impact; the school celebrated the relief of Ladysmith on 1st March 1900, and on 23rd May there was a day's holiday for the Relief of Mafeking. A few days later the children attended the requiem mass in the church for the deceased Bishop Vertue of Portsmouth. Many of the children took part in the procession and other events held in connection with the opening of the Boscombe Overcliff Gardens, the gift of the Shelley family, on 6th June 1900, and the school was closed for the afternoon. The new Bishop, Mgr. Cahill, visited the school on 13th March 1901. A fortnight later on 29th March the Baroness Pauline von Hugel, part founder and benefactor of the school died, and on 1st April the children attended her requiem mass in the church.

In the report on the school for 1901, the Inspector stated that the girls' playground ought to be separated from that of the boys by a partition, as boys and girls should not mix! A course of military drill for the boys was started in April 1902; drill for the girls was arranged from March 1904. A letter was received from the Mayor of Bournemouth giving hearty congratulations for the contribution of the school to the Children's Fete held in Meyrick Park in July 1905, and thanking the teachers for the hard work involved in the organisation. Arrangements were made in February 1904 for the older girls to attend regular cookery classes.

The Managers reached an agreement with the local authority in November 1904 for the children to attend Mass in the church at 9 o'clock on All Souls Day, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, the Feast of St. Joseph and the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady each year. This was in place of the religious instruction period on those days.

On the day of the funeral of King Edward VII on 20th May 1910 there were special prayers and hymns, and a talk was given about the late King. In July 1910 Bournemouth celebrated the centenary of its foundation, and all the schools were closed for two weeks from 5th July. The Mayor, Councillor Bridge, visited Holy Cross on 30th June and presented a souvenir medal to each child. For the Coronation of King George V on 22nd June 1911 each child was given a beaker; the weather was so bad that the Children's Fete to be held in Meyrick Park had to be postponed for a week.

Occasionally a paragraph in the Bournemouth and Boscombe Catholic Record gives a glimpse of the activities of the school. In the summer of 1908 there was an outing when the children were taken in three horse-drawn char-a-bancs to the New Forest. There was a picnic lunch in the Forest and later tea, after which they went to the church in Lyndhurst for Benediction, and returned home at 9.30 in the evening.

Similarly, we are told that children from Holy Cross took part in the town's Empire Pageant held in 1911, and were in the section representing India; they were dressed in costume to represent an Indian prince and his attendants, and also some appeared as peoples of Burma and Malaya. In January 1911 there is an account of an entertainment given by the children in the Guildhall on 27th December 1910. There were two plays, interspersed with recitations and dances. The elocution was very good and distinct, and the operetta 'Little Snow White' afforded an opportunity for acting and varied costumes. The highest praise of all is due to the good nuns who taught and prepared the children so admirably.

Due to the rapid development of the area beyond Fisherman's Walk and the Stourfield Estate down to Cranleigh Road there was a shortage of school accommodation in the district. As there was room at Holy Cross, quite a number of children from the area were admitted to the school, and arrangements were made for those non-Catholic children whose parents so requested to be withdrawn from religious instruction, and given Bible lessons elsewhere. In his report made in June 1910, the Inspector commented that as a result of being the only school in the neighbourhood with any spare room available, the school was admitting a number of older and backward children, who seemed for various reasons to have been passed from school to school. These children were poor attenders, and posed a problem for the school; the Inspector felt that special teaching for them should be provided by the local authority. When the Stourfield Council School opened in November 1912 about sixty children were transferred to it from Holy Cross.

A scheme sponsored by the Bournemouth Distress Committee for feeding necessitous children was introduced in January 1912, and renewed in December 1912; over fifty of the children in the school were eligible for these meals.

The outbreak of war in August 1914 had little direct effect upon the school. A few Belgian children were admitted during the autumn, refugees from their own country, and as the war continued there were difficulties in obtaining supplies of various equipment, particularly of paper. On 4th July 1917 Bishop Cotter visited the school in connection with his Silver Jubilee as a priest; he had been a Manager of the school from 1903 to 1905, and the children were given a day's holiday.

There were Peace Celebrations on 18th July 1919; the children attended a service in the Church, and then had the rest of the day as a holiday. A celebration was held for all infant children in the town at Dean Park in the afternoon, whilst the older children had their own event on 21st July. Souvenir medals were given to all children. When on 30th October 1919 Lord Beatty and Lord Haig came to Bournemouth to receive the Freedom of the Borough, children were paraded on the Undercliff Drive to see the two celebrities drive by, and then had the rest of the day as a holiday.



Mother Egan with some of the pupils circa 1961.



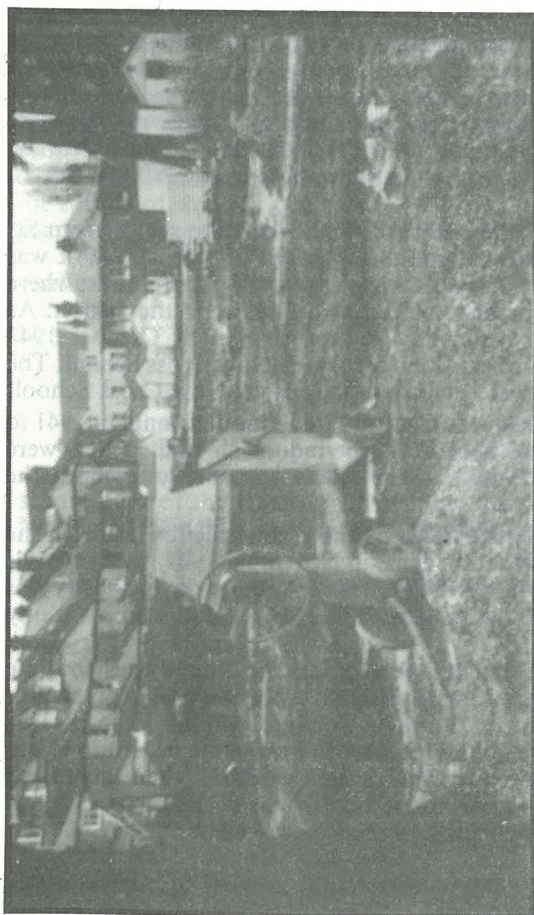
A group of French soldiers who were billeted in the school after the evacuation from Dunkirk.



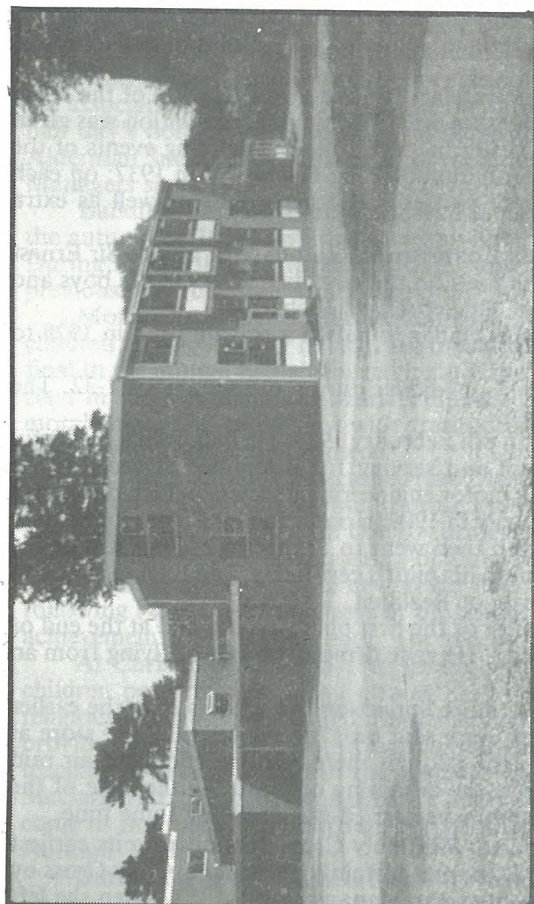
The school staff 1986-87.



Holy Cross circa 1930.



Work begins on the new school.



Corpus Christi School today.



Children at play at Holy Cross.



Holy Cross School as viewed from the church tower.

During the twenty years from the Peace of 1919 to the outbreak of war in 1939, the school pursued a generally regular round of events; Empire Day in May and Armistice Day in November, the annual town school sports, the football and netball tournaments, the school selection examination, regular visits by the school nurse, the medical officer and the dentist. There was an annual talk on temperance, given in all schools by Mr. Jolliffe, and a talk on the work of the League of Nations.

National celebrations included holidays for the wedding of Princess Mary in February 1922, and of the Duke of York to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (now the Queen Mother) on 26th April 1923; similar recognition was given to the marriage of the Duke of Kent in 1934 and the Duke of Gloucester in 1935. Two outstanding events of the period were the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 and the Coronation of King George VI in 1937; on each occasion souvenir beakers were given to the children and there were parties and other events as well as extra holidays.

In May 1920 the older pupils were taken to the Electric Cinema in Commercial Road to see a film of Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Polar Expedition: the girls went one day and the boys on the next day. By 1938 the boys and girls were taken together to the Pavilion to attend a performance of Shakespeare's Richard II.

Concerned at the undernourishment of some of the children, the Managers raised a private fund in 1928 to provide each child with milk during the winter months 1928-29.

The school football team benefited from coaching given by Fr. Cary-Elwes during the season 1931-32. The next season a netball team for the girls was formed by Mother Egan.

William McArdle, one of the original pupils of the school died on 8th February 1935. He had been a colourful character, well known locally as 'Motor Mac'. After leaving school and serving for a number of years in the merchant navy, McArdle had returned to Bournemouth and started a motor engineering business, which developed into a large garage in Holdenhurst Road named Motor Mac. This he sold in 1909 in order to make a practical study of aviation. With the help of a Mr. Gould he built a monoplane, and then went to France to become a pupil of Louis Bleriot. At Pau he passed the three flying tests necessary to obtain his pilot's certificate, and then returned to this country to set up a flying school together with Armstrong Drexel at Beaulieu.

At the Southbourne flying meeting of July 1910 McArdle was pilot of the first plane to land and at the end of the meeting he was also pilot of the last flight which closed the meeting. He gave demonstrations of flying from an airfield which was established at Talbot Village.

The war which commenced in September 1939 had considerably more impact on the schools than the earlier one. As the shadow of the war drew ever nearer, the senior children were sent on 17th July 1939 to the store at Grovely Manor (now Shelley Park) to be fitted with gas masks. In the autumn there were practices for air raid warnings, and on 29th November the pupils were taken to shelters in the adjoining convent. As the pace of the conflict quickened, from 10th May 1940 air raid practice commenced to be carried out daily for some time.

Mother B. Crofton died in October 1939. She had been associated with Holy Cross School from its earliest days. Having joined the Religious of the Cross at St. Quentin in 1888, she was certainly a teacher at Holy Cross by 1892. Mother Crofton was a Manager in 1903 and was Correspondent to the Managers until 1912, when she left Boscombe to go to the Ryde Convent of the Order. Returning to Boscombe in 1919, she resumed membership of the Managers, and again became Correspondent, an office which she continued to hold until her death. The school had a special holiday on 3rd May 1938 in honour of Mother Crofton's Golden Jubilee. At her requiem in the Convent chapel children from Holy Cross formed a guard of honour. The Bournemouth Education Committee when they were notified of Mother Crofton's death recorded their high appreciation of her services in the cause of education.

On 21st May 1940 the school closed to allow the premises to be used as emergency accommodation for French troops evacuated from the Low Countries through Dunkirk; this emergency lasted for about two weeks, the school being reopened on 12th June. To protect children from the possibility of flying glass in the event of air raids, strips of paper one inch wide were stuck on all the windows during the last week of June. From that time onwards there were frequent air raid warnings until the late autumn, and these continued to occur from time to time until the Spring of 1945. These interrupted lessons, sometimes delayed the opening of the school, and often affected attendance.

When the evacuation of children from London took place at the outbreak of the war, the pupils from St. Boniface's R.C. School at Tooting were dispersed amongst several villages in Sussex. In February 1940 it was agreed to gather them together and settle them in one locality, and the school was moved to Bournemouth, where the Temperance Hall in Boscombe was hired for them. The children were placed with families in the district. As time went by quite a number of them drifted back to their own homes in London, so that by October 1942 discussions took place regarding a merger of the remaining children of St. Boniface's with Holy Cross School. The outcome was that on 3rd November 51 of the evacuated children were placed on the roll of Holy Cross School.

The Head Mistress, Miss McCaffery, and Miss F. Kent attended at the Central Fire Station in January 1941 to receive instruction in the use of the stirrup fire pump. In June 1943 Morrison-type indoor air raid shelters were erected in five of the classrooms. Then at long last on 8th and 9th May 1945 the school was able to celebrate the victory in Europe.

After this the school gradually settled down to cope with the problems of the reconstruction period. The remaining children from Tooting returned home. A moment of celebration came in November 1947, when a day's holiday was given in honour of the wedding of the Princess Elizabeth (now our Queen). Another day's holiday was allowed on 31st March 1950 when Bournemouth commemorated the golden jubilee of its status as a County Borough.

Miss McCaffrey retired at the end of April 1950, having been Head Mistress for 25 years, and a teacher in the school for 41 years. She was succeeded as Head Mistress by Mother Margaret Egan, who had been a teacher at Holy Cross for seventeen years until the end of 1945, when she went to the Ryde Convent. Mother Egan became Head at a time when the nation was looking forward towards a more hopeful future, following the frustrations and shortages of the postwar period. This hope was symbolised in the Festival of Britain in 1951, when there were celebrations throughout the country. The children of Holy Cross took part in the local events of the Festival. A few months later the school joined in the national mourning on 15th February 1952, the day of the funeral of King George VI.

One result of the opening of the nursery class in 1951 was a general increase in the number of pupils on roll, over and above the children in the class itself, and in 1952 it became possible to appoint an extra teacher. For the first time an assistant master was appointed, in the person of Mr. Eustace Brooks.

The summer of 1953 saw the celebrations in June for the Queen's Coronation, when the children each received a souvenir beaker, and there were special holidays. The infants were given a party, whilst the older children were taken to the Carlton cinema to see the film of the Coronation ceremony. In July the school held its first sports, in King's Park, and this became an annual event.

Mother Egan encouraged the formation of a parent teacher association, which was formed in November 1953; the association's first activity was the organisation of a Christmas party for the children in the same year. A special half day's holiday was given on 2nd November 1954 to mark the presentation of the Freedom of the Borough to Alderman Summerbee, Chairman of the Education Committee, who had been a member of the Holy Cross School Managers since 1916.

Building work on a programme of modernisation of the school started in December 1957, and continued into the autumn of 1958, resulting in many difficulties in keeping the school going during the consequent disruption. During much of 1958 Mother Shelley was absent owing to illness, and she died on 2nd December; a few days previously the children in her class sang for her beneath the window of her room in the convent.

Mother Egan instituted a regular concert each December for the parents and friends of the school, giving the children an opportunity to sing, recite and perform before an audience. In March 1963 the girls' team reached the final in the annual netball tournament in the town, and in the following July the School Choir came second in its class in the Bournemouth Music Festival. Thus Mother Egan was able to retire in July 1963 with the school's morale high, and could view with gratitude and satisfaction her tenure of the Headship of the school to which she was so wholeheartedly devoted.

Mr. Peter McGargle became Head Master in September 1963, when the school had 260 pupils on the roll, the highest up to that date. In fact, during the whole nine years of his headship Mr. McGargle had to cope with the shortage of accommodation due to further increases in numbers of children.

A small orchestra, consisting of three recorder players, violinist and pianist, accompanied the assembly on 15th October 1963, and the new Head hoped that it would be possible to make this a frequent practice. In the following November three boys of the school were selected for the town junior football eleven — a very satisfying achievement for a small school. The school team again reached the final of the Netball Tournament in 1964.

At Christmas time 1964, the school sang carols for housebound or bedridden parishioners, and some of the children performed in a live crib at St. Peter's Church in Bournemouth. A year later the school performed a religious pageant in the church, and a similar event became a regular feature. On 27th November 1966 the school provided the choir for a Confirmation Mass in the church. The school shared in the local authority's scheme for the teaching of French as part of the normal syllabus, and in April 1968 a party of pupils spent a week in France. Mr. McGargle left the school in August 1972 to take up another appointment. His successor, Mr. Winstanley, could not come to Bournemouth until January 1973, so Mrs. Lambert, the Deputy Head, took charge of the school for the Autumn Term.

During the ten years in which Mr. Winstanley was Head Master the school continued its annual round of Passion Pageant, annual sports, Christmas parties and orchestral concerts. There were more visits to London, Southampton Zoo, Corfe Castle and other centres of interest. Groups of pupils attended short residential courses at Leeson House, near Swanage, and at Brecon. There were drama courses including visits to the Drama Centre, and instruction in road safety and, by arrangement with the Head Master of St. Peter's School, swimming galas were held on several occasions in the St. Peter's School swimming pool. From time to time there were meetings with parents to discuss the future organisation of Catholic schools in the area, and in general there was considerable consultation with the parents. Mr. Winstanley retired in August 1982.

The new Head Master, Mr. M. Cooper, was able to take up the post in September 1982, and one of the major preoccupations since then has been to cope with the problems raised by the steady and considerable increase in the number of pupils in the school. The school benefits from the presence of a strong and active Parent Teacher Association which has assisted in many ways in helping the school. Individual parents have given assistance to the school in a variety of ways. Pupils and their parents are active in supporting various charities, both in connection with those organised by the Church, and those of the general local community; a typical example of this has been the raising of some £1,000 plus in 1987 for guide dogs for the blind. Teachers and parents are fully involved each year in the preparation of children for First Communion.

The school is an active living community and at the end of the first hundred years is able to look forward with confidence to a future in preparing children in the early stage for their future as whole people.

4. The Head Teachers

There is no record of the Head Teachers before 1892; the following table lists the Heads since then, with a separate list of the Heads of the Infants Department. There is no record as to whether any of the Heads prior to Mother McLoughlin in 1903 were members of the Religious of the Cross, but it is quite possible that some were.

Name of Head	Period of Office	
Miss K. C. Harring	6. 6.1892	31.12.1893
Miss A. Doyle	1. 1.1894	14. 6.1895
Miss Helen Cunliffe	2. 9.1895	31.10.1898
Miss Kathleen Rayner	1.11.1898	8.10.1901
Miss Marion Almond	9.10.1901	31.12.1902
Mother M. McLoughlin	1. 1.1903	31.10.1919
Mother J. O'Connell	3.11.1919	31. 3.1925
Miss A. McCaffrey	1. 4.1925	30. 4.1950
Mother Margaret Egan	1. 5.1950	31. 8.1963
Mr. P. McGargle	1. 9.1963	31. 7.1972
Mr. H. Winstanley	1. 1.1973	31. 8.1982
Mr. M. Cooper	1. 9.1982	31. 8.1982

During the Autumn Term 1972 the Deputy Head, Mrs. I. Lambert was in charge of the school.

It was decided in January 1896 to separate the Infants classes from the rest of the school as a self-contained department, with Miss A. Bobbett as Head Mistress, together with one teacher to assist her. The Infants Department was reunited with the main school in November 1900. The Heads of the Infants Department were:

Miss A. Bobbett	7. 1.1896	30.11.1898
Miss Julia Taylor	1.12.1898	6. 7.1900

Between July and November 1900 Mother V. Bristol took charge of the Infants Department.

There is very little recorded about the earlier Heads. Mother McLoughlin had to retire prematurely in 1919 owing to increasing deafness. Mother O'Connell became seriously ill towards the end of 1924, and she had to resign at the end of March 1925, by which time she was dying; in fact she lived only until 2nd April. Miss McCaffrey served the school for 41 years, 25 of which were as Head Mistress. During her period as Head, Miss McCaffrey had to meet the special difficulties caused by the war from 1939 to 1945, an outline of which is given elsewhere.

From 1950 to 1963 Mother Margaret Egan had charge of the school, during which period the school was reorganised as a primary school, and a considerable amount of rebuilding work was carried out. Mother Egan was devoted to the children, and was notable for her firm, yet kindly, leadership. New ground was broken in 1963 by the appointment of Mr. P. McGargle, the first Head Master. During his term of office the number on roll increased to beyond 300, posing considerable organisational problems. Mr. McGargle was also very much involved in the planning of the new school buildings. He left in July 1972, and until January 1973 the Deputy Head Mrs. I. Lambert acted as Head Mistress. The new Head, Mr. H. Winstanley, took up the appointment at the beginning of 1973. He was very much involved in the detailed planning of the new buildings, and in June 1978 made the arrangements for the removal of the school into its new premises, at which date the name of the school was changed from Holy Cross to Corpus Christi. When Mr. Winstanley retired in August 1982, Mr. Michael Cooper was appointed Head Master.

5. Managers and Governors

Under the terms of the Education Act 1902 a body of Managers was appointed to be responsible for the school, consisting of four foundation managers appointed by the Catholic Trustees, together with two representative managers appointed by the local education authority. The representative managers were exempted from any financial liability in relation to the responsibilities of the Managers as a body. The Managers appointed in 1903 were:

Very Rev. Canon T. Cotter
Fr. C. de Lapasture SJ
Mother B. Crofton
Mr. C. Hoste
Alderman Bolton and Councillor Corbin Harris

Father de Lapasture became Chairman of the Managers, an office he continued to hold until 1923. Alderman W. Bolton was a well-known figure in Pokesdown, having been the local postmaster since 1865, and a former Chairman of the Pokesdown Urban District Council. Mr. Corbin Harris was a local builder and also a former Chairman of the U.D.C. It may be noted that Holy Cross School was situated in the area of the Pokesdown Urban District Council, having come within Bournemouth only in 1901.

Mother Afchain replaced Mr. Hoste, probably in 1904, and Canon Cotter resigned in 1905, when he became auxiliary Bishop to Bishop Cahill of Portsmouth, whom he succeeded as Bishop in 1910. Father Payne, parish priest of Corpus Christi, replaced the Canon, and after his sudden death in September his successor, Father Hayden, became a Manager. Late in 1910 Father Hayden left Boscombe and once again Mr. Clinton Hoste became a Manager. There were several changes in 1912: Mr. Hoste died, Mother Crofton left Boscombe to go to the Ryde Convent, and Mother Afchain ceased to be a Manager. As a result, the foundation managers in 1913 were Father de Lapasture, Fr. Clayton, Mother Costello, Mother de Namuroy. The changes in regard to Representative Managers are set out in the table which follows.

It is, however, appropriate to mention that in 1914 Councillor Sparkes and Councillor Summerbee became representative managers, commencing a very long association with the school. Both were local personalities, Mr. Sparkes being a local builder and Mr. Summerbee a greengrocer in Pokesdown. Father Clayton died in 1914 and his place was taken by Fr. Widdowson. In 1919 Mr. E. J. Charles succeeded Fr. Widdowson, and Mother Crofton resumed membership of the Managers on her return to the Boscombe Convent, in place of Mother de Namuroy.

Father de Lapasture, who had been associated with the school since its inception, died in May 1923, and his place was taken by Fr. O'Hare, who died in 1925. For a short while Fr. Wolfe became a Manager, but he had to retire after a few months owing to ill health, and in 1926 the new parish priest, Fr. Ralph Baines, became Chairman of the Managers. At about the same time Mother M. Kelly replaced Mother Costello. In 1936 Alderman Sparkes retired from the Town Council and Alderman Jones became a representative manager. Fr. Walter Gibbons took the place of Fr. Baines in 1936.

When Mother Crofton died in the autumn of 1939 her place was filled by the appointment of Mother A. Kelly. After Mr. Charles had to give up on account of his health Mr. C. Morton became a Manager, and in 1946 Fr. John Baron replaced Fr. Gibbons. By 1950 Mr. T. Browning, senior, was a Manager instead of Mr. Morton, and Mother Howe replaced Mother A. Kelly.

The Instrument of Management giving Holy Cross Aided Status was sealed by the Ministry of Education on 25th August 1953. In the Instrument it was laid down that the four Foundation Managers were to be appointed by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. The Trustees decided that they should consist of the Superior for the time being of the Jesuits at Corpus Christi Church, the Superior for the time being of the Convent of the Cross, plus two other Catholics. The local authority were to continue making the appointment of the two representative managers. The Managers appointed in 1953 under the new Instrument were:

Fr. J. Baron Rev. Mother Howe
Mother M. Kelly Mr. T. Browning
Alderman Summerbee Alderman Turner

When Alderman Summerbee retired in 1955 the Managers recorded their appreciation of his interest in the school during the period of over forty years in which he had been a Manager. Mother M. Kelly died in 1955, when Mother Gillard was appointed, and a year later on the death of Mr. Browning, Mrs. Walsh became a Manager.

Further changes took place in 1959, in which year Mother McEvoy and Mr. Frank Murphy became Managers, replacing Mother Gillard and Mother Howe. Mother McEvoy's tenure was brief, as she left Boscombe in 1960, and the new Superior Mother Helen joined the Managers. On Fr. Baron's departure in 1961, Fr. Gegan became parish priest; he attended only one meeting of the Managers before his sudden death in January 1962. Fr. B. Enright then became Chairman, continuing until a breakdown in health forced him to resign late in 1964, when Fr. O. Fishwick took office. A year later Fr. J. Moore, parish priest of Iford, joined the Managers instead of Mr. Murphy, who continued to act as Correspondent to the Managers.

During the 1970s there were several changes of parish priest, commencing with the appointment of Fr. W. Maher in 1970, to be followed in 1974 by Fr. P. Knott, who was in turn succeeded by Fr. M. P. Hackett in 1977. Mother Helen resigned in 1971, and consequent upon the withdrawal from Boscombe of the Religious of the Cross the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. Simonis. After serving for a three-year period Mr. Simonis did not seek re-appointment, and his place was taken by Mr. Bell; he also after three years was succeeded by Mr. May. It may be noted that the name of the school was changed from Holy Cross to Corpus Christi in 1978.

The Education Act 1980 required a complete restructuring of Managers, who were henceforward to be designated Governors, in line with their counterparts for the secondary schools. A new Instrument of Government was to be issued by the Department of Education and Science for each school, and it was not until 1985 that the new Instrument for Corpus Christi was made. In the meantime Fr. T. Dunphy became parish priest and Chairman of Governors in 1980, and in 1981 the Governors were:

Fr. Dunphy	Canon J. Moore
Mr. P. Lane	Mr. J. A. Young
Councillor Day	Mrs. Inscoe

Mrs. Inscoe was a representative governor appointed by the Dorset L.E.A. and Councillor Day represented the Bournemouth Borough Council. On Councillor Day's resignation, Councillor Wotton was appointed by the Borough Council in 1984. This governing body ceased to hold office on 31st August 1985, and was replaced by a new body from 1st September of that year.

	Foundation Managers	Representative Managers
1903	Fr. C. de Lapasture Canon T. Cotter Mother B. Crofton Mr. Clinton Hoste	Alderman Bolton Councillor Corbin Harris
1904	Mother Afchain vice Mr. Hoste	
1905	Fr. F. Payne vice Canon Cotter	Cllr. Slade vice Cllr. Harris
1906	Fr. P. Hayden vice Fr. Payne	
1908		Cllr. Giles vice Ald. Bolton
1910	Mr. C. Hoste vice Fr. Hayden	Cllr. Mackenzie vice Cllr. Giles
1911		Cllr. Abbot vice Cllr. Mackenzie
1912	Mother Costello vice Mother Crofton	Cllr. Godfrey vice Cllr. Abbot
1913	Fr. J. Clayton vice Mr. Hoste Mother de Namuroy vice Mother Afchain	
1914	Fr. Widdowson vice Fr. Clayton	Cllr. Sparkes vice Cllr. Godfrey Cllr. Summerbee vice Ald. Slade
1919	Mother Crofton vice Mother de Namuroy Mr. E. J. Charles vice Fr. Widdowson	
1923	Fr. O'Hare vice Fr. de Lapasture	
1925	Fr. Wolfe vice Fr. O'Hare	
1926	Fr. Baines, Mother Crofton, Mother M. Kelly, Mr. Charles	
1936	Fr. Gibbons vice Fr. Baines	Ald. Jones vice Ald. Sparkes
1939	Mother A. Kelly vice Mother Crofton	
1946	Fr. Baron vice Fr. Gibbons Mr. C. Morton vice Mr. Charles	Cllr. J. Turner vice Ald. Jones
1950	Mother Howe vice Mother A. Kelly Mr. T. Browning vice Mr. Morton	
1954	Mother Gillard vice Mother M. Kelly	Cllr. Barnes vice Ald. Turner
1955		Cllr. H. Brown vice Ald. Summerbee
1956	Mrs. Walsh vice Mr. Browning	Cllr. Holliday vice Cllr. Barnes
1959	Mother McEvoy vice Mother Howe Mr. F. Murphy vice Mother Gillard	
1961	Fr. Gegan vice Fr. Baron	
1962	Fr. Enright vice Fr. Gegan	
1963		Cllr. Browning vice Ald. Brown
1964	Fr. Fishwick vice Fr. Enright	Cllr. Mooney vice Cllr. Browning
1965	Mother Helen vice Mother Howe	Cllr. Holloway vice Cllr. Mooney Cllr. W. Turner vice Cllr. Holloway
1969	Fr. Moore vice Mr. Murphy	
1970	Fr. Maher vice Fr. Fishwick	Cllr. Anstee vice Cllr. Holloway
1971	Mr. Simonis vice Mother Helen	
1974	Fr. Knott vice Fr. Maher	

1975	Mr. M. Bell vice Mr. Simonis	Cllr. Day vice Cllr. Anstee Mr. F. McKinney vice Cllr. Turner
1977	Fr. M. Hackett vice Fr. Knott	
1978	Mr. V. May vice Mr. Bell	
1980	Fr. T. Dunphy vice Fr. Hackett	Vacancy vice Mr. McKinney
1981	Mr. P. Lane vice Mr. May Mr. J. Young vice Mrs. Walsh	
1983	Mrs. M. Inscow filled vacancy Cllr. Wotton vice Cllr. Day	

Governors reconstituted under new Instrument of Government September 1985.

8 Foundation Governors appointed by the Trustees of the Diocese, one of whom on appointment must be a parent of a registered pupil at the school:

Fr. T. Dunphy, Canon J. Moore, Mrs. M. Costello, Mrs. M. Griffin, Mr. P. Lane, Mrs. C. Longrigg, Mr. R. Weston, Mr. J. Young.

The Head Master — Mr. M. Cooper.

2 Representative Governors appointed by the L.E.A., Mr. J. Golding, Mrs. M. Inscow.

1 Representative Governor appointed by Bournemouth District Council, Councillor R. Wotton.

1 Parent Governor elected by the parents of registered pupils, Mrs. E. Lochhead.

2 Teacher Governors elected by the Teachers, Miss I. Frith, Miss A. Winiecki.

1987 Fr. P. Griffiths vice Fr. T. Dunphy

6. The Number of Pupils on the School Roll

Statistics kept since 1903 give annual details of the number of pupils on the School Roll. For the years up to 1945 these statistics relate to the average number on roll each January, and in this connection it should be noted that there would be a further intake of children for the summer term, so that the numbers quoted are not necessarily the highest for any given year.

When these records commenced in 1903 there were 173 children on roll; from 1908 to 1912 there was a steady increase to over 200, mainly due to the shortage of school places in the district caused by the rapid development of the Stourfield area. With the opening of Stourfield School in 1912 about 60 children transferred to the new school, and the number of children at Holy Cross dropped to 146. Numbers increased during the 1914-1918 war, and then dropped to an all-time low of 114 in 1926. There followed a gradual increase to 186 by 1939. One effect of the war was the intake of 51 children from a London school in 1943; the Tooting R.C. School had been evacuated to Bournemouth in 1940, and as the children gradually drifted back to London, it was decided to transfer those remaining to Holy Cross School.

After the end of the war in 1945, numbers again fell to 146, and then there was a steady increase to 256 by 1954, the year in which the school was reorganised, all the seniors being transferred to St. Walburga's School in September of that year. This reduced the number of pupils to 219, and with some fluctuations numbers gradually rose to a peak of 314 in 1972, with a brief drop which followed the closure of the nursery class. Between 1973 and 1976 there was a considerable drop, and not until 1982 did the numbers really begin to recover; since then there has been a quite spectacular increase to reach 366 in March 1987.

Numbers on Roll

1903	173	1931	161	1960	212
1904	171	1932	167	1961	217
1905	167	1933	166	1962	226
1906	169	1934	158	1963	258
1907	168	1935	174	1964	278
1908	204	1936	159	1965	274
1909	209	1937	147	1966	278
1910	203	1938	149	1967	274
1911	203	1939	186	1968	286
1912	190	1940	187	1969	287
1913	146	1941	143	1970	301
1914	146	1942		1971	303
1915	167	1943		1972	314
1916	164	1944	170	1973	306
1917	187	1945	169	1974	282
1918	173	1946	140	1975	272
1919	173	1947	144	1976	219
1920	164	1948	144	1977	209
1921	161	1949	145	1978	222
1922	165	1950	160	1979	222
1923	140	1951	173	1980	235
1924	144	1952	203	1981	225
1925	130	1953	240	1982	209
1926	114	1954	256	1983	217
1927	118	1955	219	1984	250
1928	121	1956	226	1985	276
1929	126	1957	225	1986	312
1930	127	1958	195	1987	339
		1959	207	1988	366

Notes: No figures are available for 1942 and 1943.

The figures for the years since 1945 are taken from the annual return to the Department of Education and Science, and are the number on roll in January of the year named. As there is another intake of infants after January, these figures do not represent the maximum number on roll for the particular year.

7. Appendix

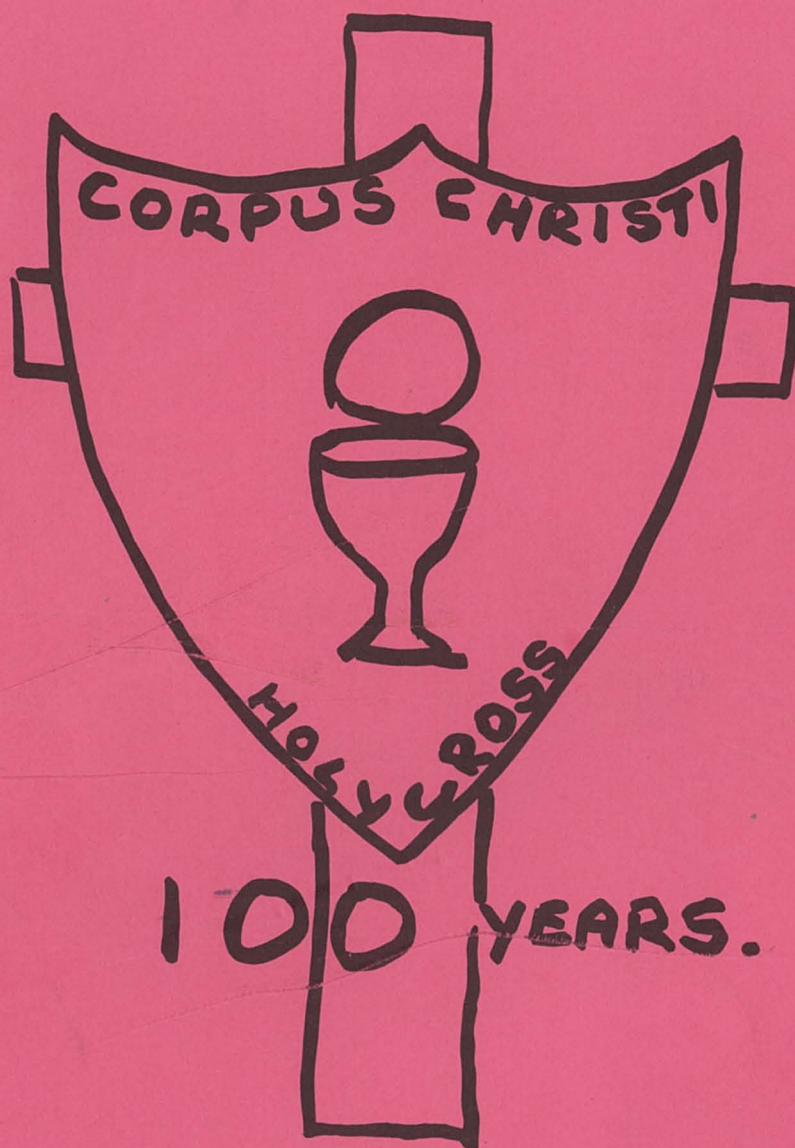
Summary of report on the laying of the Foundation Stone of the school in 1889.

On Friday afternoon (i.e. 16th August) in connection with the Convent of Holy Cross, Boscombe Park, the ceremony of laying and blessing the foundation stone of the boys' and girls' school took place. The weather was fine, and a large number of people witnessed the proceedings. The school which is being erected on the north side of the Convent and is surrounded with a high stone wall with an entrance into St. James's Square is to contain separate rooms for boys and girls 59 ft. by 23 ft. and an infants' school 20 ft. by 18 ft. Lobbies are also to be placed at each end with doorways back and front. It is a single storey building and a portion of the erection, already being rapidly proceeded with by Messrs W. Hoare & Sons, builders, on the site recently purchased by the sisters will be well in keeping with the large stone pile adjoining. Shortly after half past three o'clock a procession left the Convent. Gay flags hung from tree to tree around the site and little coloured flags were also stuck in the ground marking the route of the procession. A portion of the walls of the new building were already visible a foot or two above the ground level, and the corner stone was suspended from a strong scaffolding, waiting to be lowered to its place. A rough wooden platform had been erected in front. Shortly after half past three a procession from the iron Chapel made its way slowly round the boundaries of the proposed schools. It was led by a thurifer, carrying an incense bowl; then followed a cross bearer, attended by two acolytes with lighted candles. A procession of children, to the number of about 80, with veils of white tulle, followed. Then came the sisters and nuns, the Rev. Father Morford of Poole wearing a yellow cope and the Rev. Father Johnson SJ of Richmond Hill, Bournemouth. The rosary was sung as the procession proceeded round the site, the priest blessing the place and sprinkling holy water upon the stones. After marching round the boundaries, the procession formed in front of the stone, which was carved with the figure of a cross at each end. They sang while forming in front of it the hymn "Faith of our Fathrs". The priest advanced to the platform, and Father Morford sprinkled the stone with holy water and blessed it. After this the stone was laid by Miss Maria Julia Pflucker. Amongst others present were the Mesdames Pflucker, the Misses Pflucker, Mr. and Mrs. Tidmarsh and family, Mrs. Arden. Mrs. McCarthy, Major Linton, Misses Hustler, Madame Concoureux, Mlle. Concoureux, Mrs. Weller and the Misses Weller etc. The Rev. Father Johnson in the course of a short address referred to the recent ceremonies connected with the laying of the stones of the Church and the Convent, and appealed for support in their undertaking, which was begun in order to carry out the commands of God to teach and train up the young. Afterwards a benediction service was held in the Church adjoining. Collections were taken in aid of the building fund.

The School wishes to thank

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