

Sheffield school gets much needed TLC



Volunteers busy at work on the makeover at Pipworth School

A Sheffield primary school received an ambitious one-day makeover – after their application for a new school building was rejected.

Around 120 volunteers descended on Pipworth Community Primary School on Saturday to give the 100-year-old building a much-needed facelift.

“The school hall badly needed painting and some general TLC,” said landscape architect Dan Houghton, who led the volunteers from nearby Hope City Church.

“There was also a neglected courtyard that we wanted to make useable so the students could hold their gardening club out there.

“It was a real challenge getting it all done in one day, but everybody worked so hard and we just hope that the children and staff are pleased with the results.”

Hope City Church's Project 180 volunteers took up the challenge to give the school, on Pipworth Road, a makeover after the local education authority's application for a complete rebuild was turned down last year.

"Project 180 focuses on regenerating disadvantaged communities in Sheffield," said Dan.

"We, as a group, have a passion for regenerating local communities and feel it is important that churches such as ours be seen to be active in their community, and not just talking the talk."

In addition to redecorating the main hall and transforming the courtyard, Dan's team built a new path, added raised beds and a greenhouse for planting vegetables.

Dan added: "The school is located on the edge of the Woodthorpe and Manor estates, in quite a deprived area of the city and the school itself is so old and fell so short of current design guidelines.

"We knew we wanted to pitch in and help make the school a better place, more tidy and more accessible for its students.

"Many of our volunteers specialised in landscaping or decorating and everything was done carefully and without cutting any corners because, at the end of the day, this is a school and the work needs to be top quality."