



## PRESS RELEASE

**Attention: News Editor**

**For immediate release (5.7.10)**

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### **AUSTERITY BUSTERS! SPURGEONS TO OPEN NEW GARDEN FOR CHILDREN IN WARWICKSHIRE (FRIDAY 9 JULY)**

IN DIFFICULT financial times the only way to develop much-needed facilities is to draw on resources of the local community.

That is how Ann Kopczewski, project leader of Spurgeons Rainbow Children Centre in Keresley Newland, went about creating a stunning new outdoor learning centre in the grounds of the local village school. It will be opened officially this Friday (9 July) by the centre's children with the assistance of local MP Dan Byles.

'We had a final budget of just £25,000,' said Ann. 'The closest quote we received was for £75,000, and that didn't include some of the facilities we needed.'

Ann decided the only way to make sure the project got off the ground was to consult local people. Some businesses responded positively and 100 volunteers including six community pay back teams gave up precious leisure time to work non-stop on the project.

'The support we've received from the local community has been amazing,' said Ann. 'The garden features a covered space for outdoor learning in all weathers, a forest area where children can observe wildlife and multi-sensory areas. We've built a centre worth £125,000 for £25,000. In these hard times it is vital community projects like ours make full use of the resources at their disposal.'

Local MP Dan Byles said: 'I am delighted so many volunteers gave up their weekends to get stuck in. This is exactly the sort of hands-on volunteering that builds a strong community.'

The new outdoor learning centre will officially be opened at a garden party this Friday 9 July.

(ends)

#### **Notes for editors**

\* Spurgeons was founded in 1867 when Anne Hillyard, a London widow, read an article by famous Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon and donated £20,000 to found an orphanage for fatherless boys.

\*\* Spurgeons maintains a distinctly Christian ethos with numerous projects working with vulnerable children and young people across the UK and more in a number of locations internationally.

**[www.spurgeons.org](http://www.spurgeons.org)**