



PRAIZIN' HANDS PUPPET GROUP

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024 - ISSUE: 18

A NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD.....

As we begin a new year, we give thanks to God for the blessings He has poured on Praizin' Hands throughout 2023. We put our trust in Him as we look forward to 2024 with new opportunities ahead, new schools, new care homes, new material to share.

We thank you for walking the journey with us and for praying for Praizin' Hands, as we go forward excited to see what God has planned.

PUPPETRY COMPETITION

We are delighted to have come 1st in the Equip Festival Puppetry competition in Rugby in November. The Little Hands team leaders and the PSHE Project team worked together and performed a song at the Equip Festival. Well done to the whole team.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

A BIG thank you to Cary, Sue, Karen, Sheila and Liz who knitted one or more of the puppet Christmas jumpers.

As you can see, the puppets loved their new Christmas jumpers.



PRAYER FOCUS

Give thanks to God for all His blessings on Praizin' Hands over the past 20 years and ask Him for guidance as we move forward into a new year.

Please pray for the Trustees as they lead the charity forward into 2024 and that they will make wise decisions.

Please pray for our Little Hands team and their families.

Please pray for our Big Hands team as they take the Easter message into various venues. (Dates and venues elsewhere in newsletter)

Please pray for our PSHE Schools Project team as they begin their new 'Wellbeing and Mental Health' presentation in Junior Schools. Pray for the children and staff who watch and provide opportunities for them to talk if they need to. (Dates and schools elsewhere in newsletter)

Please pray that Praizin' Hands can find a new suitable building, for people to be willing to actively look out for local buildings, as well as people to commit to praying for an urgent solution. Pray that finances will also be provided for this, as we step out in faith, trusting God.

BIG HANDS TEAM UPDATE

After a delayed start due to COVID and having to cancel the first few presentations, our Big Hands team had a very busy Christmas schedule. They used Beryl the Brussel sprout and Cedric the Carrot, two custom built puppets, to tell the Christmas story. These custom puppets along with some of the other puppets and props have been paid for by a grant we received from the Benefact Trust for £750. We will be using this same presentation for Christmas 2024.

Sadly, our new puppeteer, Sue had an accident and was unable to complete the Christmas presentations, however we are pleased to say she is back with us for Easter, albeit with her left arm but she is a very determined puppeteer. Several members of the team, including one of our 'up Front' members struggled on through the Christmas presentations, even though they were feeling very poorly towards the end of the tour, and we managed to complete them all. Well done and thank you to our Big Hands team and 'up front' people who are all such a brilliant team.

Big Hands are now busy rehearsing for the Easter presentation, and the venues and dates that we currently have booked are listed here:

Wednesday 28 th February	– Dress Rehearsal at Blackfield Baptist Church
Thursday 29 th February	– Fawley Infants
Monday 4 th March	– Orchard Infants
Wednesday 6 th March	– Minstead Lodge
Monday 11 th March	– Oaklands Rest Home
Thursday 14 th March	– Calmore Infants
Monday 18 th March	– Lymington CE Infants
Wednesday 20 th March	– Cadland Primary
Thursday 21 st March	– Eling Infants
Friday 22 nd March	– Rosewood School – 2 performances
Monday 25 th March	– Naomi House and Jackspace
Thursday 28 th March	– New Forest School, Landford, – Easter Service with parents



PSHE SCHOOLS PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

The PSHE Schools Project Team worked very hard in taking the 'Looking after our world' presentation to 12 different schools, in the weeks leading up to the Christmas presentations. It was great to be able to share with the children, lots of ways in which we can all play a part in looking after our world.

The team is busy working on a brand-new presentation on 'Wellbeing and Mental Health' for KS2 (Junior age children). The dates and schools we will be visiting are as follows:

Thursday 1st February	– Wildground Juniors
Monday 5th February	– Orchard Juniors – 2 Performances
Thursday 8th February	– St. Monica's Primary
Friday 9th February	– Blackfield Primary
Thursday 22nd February	– Shirley Warren Primary
Monday 26th February	– Kanes Hill Primary



We are delighted that Serena Merritt has chosen to do her work placement with Praizin' Hands as part of her ordination training. Serena has been learning some puppetry skills and will be using these skills in a couple of these presentations.

It has been great to work alongside Wildground Federation, once again whilst recording another new presentation, this time 'Wellbeing for KS1' (Infants). We were blessed with 3 enthusiastic and talented voice actors, and we will be visiting schools with this new presentation, after Easter.

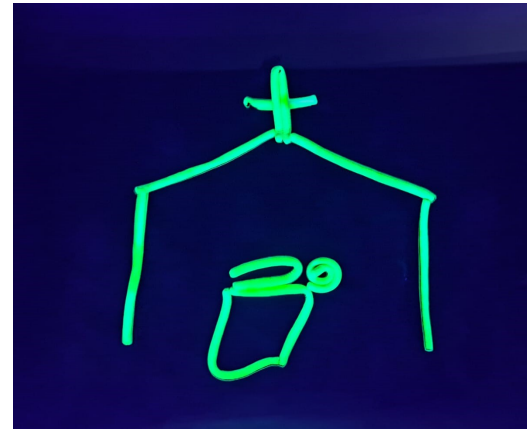
LITTLE HANDS PUPPET TEAM UPDATE

Our Little Hands team worked very hard on 2 songs using puppetry and creative arts, before Christmas. They performed the songs to their families and some of the Big Hands team. Well done to them all.

They enjoyed their bowling trip at the end of November and the Christmas party in December.

Little Hands are now working on new songs and scripts for their programme in 2024. They have a trip coming up in February half term where we will be going to the Putt club (indoor crazy golf).

We have had some very good discussions about God and life in general, with our young people and as a follow up to this we are inviting various people to Little Hands over the next few months to discuss these questions further with the group.



WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION

We have been working on two presentations for use in schools, one for Key stage 1 and the other Key stage 2. Both these presentations have been made possible following a grant for £995 that we received from Sovereign Network Group as part of their World Mental Health Day Fund. This grant has enabled us to purchase the puppets and props needed for these new presentations.



The scripts for both of these new presentations have been recorded using the voices of pupils from Wildground School Federation. Our initial tour for the KS2 presentation will be in February and the KS1 presentation will be on tour in May visiting various schools.

