



PRAIZIN' HANDS PUPPET GROUP

NEWSLETTER - JULY 2020 - ISSUE: 04

COVID-19

The restrictions put in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic stopped our normal activities overnight so over the last few months we have needed to evolve to still be able to continue the work of the puppet group. We have included in this newsletter details of some of the exciting activities we have been doing and also have planned.

We are currently working on a COVID-19 policy and risk assessment in line with government guidelines so that we are able to return to rehearsals as soon as permitted.

PRAYER FOCUS

For protection of all three teams over the summer.

For guidance as Praizin' Hands seek a suitable building for storage and rehearsals.

For clear guidance of when each of the teams can resume in visiting schools / churches / other events.

For schools as they prepare for the return of all children in September.

For the children as they go back to school.

For the Puppet Project team as they film the new presentation 'Returning to School after Lockdown' and that this presentation will help many children with any worries that they may be experiencing.

For our local churches as some start to return or start to prepare for the return of their congregations.

LOCKDOWN PRESENTATION

Over the summer, the Project team will be putting together a new presentation called 'Returning to school after Lockdown'. This will be rehearsed and filmed (socially distanced) and be put on a DVD which will be sent to schools ready for the first week in September when all children are expected to return to school. We already have a number of schools requesting this DVD.

Many children will be anxious about going back to school and will have lots of different feelings about it. The presentation will serve as an ideal discussion starter for teachers to talk to their children in their bubbles. It will explain what bubbles are and cover many feelings the children may be experiencing and will hopefully encourage the children to open up and talk about how things are different at the moment. It also includes the children who have continued to go to school throughout Lockdown. As normal, our presentation will include music and drama. We have targeted this presentation for year 1 to year 4 but schools may find it to be suitable for other year groups, too.

As this presentation will be on a DVD it means other schools who are not normally in the usual geographic area that we cover are able to have a copy if they would like one.

BIG HANDS TEAM UPDATE

At this moment in time, there is some doubt whether Big Hands will be back in schools this Christmas time. We are hoping to have a clearer way forward for this team by the beginning of September.

If we are unable to visit schools but are able to meet as a team, socially distanced then we still plan to work on a Christmas programme but film the presentation and send it to schools on DVD instead.

SCHOOLS PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

Sadly, all the presentations that this team had booked in for the summer had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

The Project team will not be able to visit schools initially in September due to covid-19 and we await to hear the latest government guidelines about when we are likely to return.

They are currently working on the new lockdown presentation that will be on DVD.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Our website is currently 'under construction' as we work on updating it to reflect how the puppet group has changed since our original website was launched nine years ago.

The new website which will be launched in August will include more details of the puppet groups work, including testimonials and photos.

Once it is launched, please let us know what you think!

ADOPT A PUPPET

Thank you to Jan Sherlock who has adopted 'Sam', Margaret Kitcher who has adopted 'Scruff' and David Kitcher who has adopted 'Colin'.

If you would like to know more about the scheme please email info@praizinhands.org.uk and we will send you an information pack.

REBRANDING

Our puppet van has now been rebranded with our new logo, which was changed when we became a charity. This was the last major item that needed to be rebranded.

Look out for the van once we are out of lockdown and give us a wave when you see us!

LITTLE HANDS PUPPET TEAM UPDATE

It has been a difficult time not being able to meet with our Little Hands team face to face over the Lockdown period. However, we have had a fortnightly Zoom session which has been a great way to keep in touch. Each session we have been able to play a game, have a chat about what they have been up to and have a prayer time.

We are very much hoping to be able to update this team, at the beginning of September on when we will be able to meet back again at St. Francis Church.

PUPPETS ON YOUTUBE

We have been filming a puppet song and putting it on our Praizin' Hands YouTube channel each week during Lockdown. Have you subscribed yet?

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvnoGUxSPIIZ-Mk2Fa6DEnA>

Jacob has been working hard editing all the videos each week and the songs have also been going on our Facebook page with a short message each week. We hope to continue releasing a song a week throughout the summer.

Several churches (near and further afield) are using some of our puppet songs in their online services, Zoom meetings and social media sites so it has been a great way of serving the churches in this 'new' way of doing things.

We are also pleased to hear that several schools are using the puppet songs in their 'bubbles' at school with the children. Some schools have even given the link to parents so they can watch them too.

Why not send the YouTube link to your friends and family?

A BIG THANK YOU!

Praizin' Hands would like to say 'thank you' to all those who pray regularly for the ministry.

The puppet group is extremely grateful for all the one-off donations and direct debits they receive so they can continue their work of reaching out into the community with God's love. Thank you to all those who support us both in prayer and financially.

Thank you to St. Andrew's Church Dibden PCC for their generous donation of £1,067.21 as part of their 2019 tithe. This has helped the group enormously as we continue to put things in place as a charity and we move forward in a new and exciting phase of its mission and outreach.
