



# PRAIZIN' HANDS PUPPET GROUP

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2021 - ISSUE: 06

### A YEAR ON..... (WHERE HAS THE FIRST YEAR GONE?)

The 17th of December was the first anniversary of the puppet group being its own charity. How this year has changed the way we operate in a COVID-19 world! In 2020, we produced two DVD's as we could not do our presentations in schools, churches, care homes etc. We sent out 140 of our Christmas presentation DVD to all over the UK. These have been used in schools, church services, children's work and care homes. Also, due to the lockdown we have needed to meet on Zoom, when meeting in person had not been possible.

The puppet group started in 2003 so this year we will be celebrating the 18th birthday of the puppet group.



### ARE YOU UP FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

Are you fed up with the lockdown and looking for a new challenge when restrictions are lifted? Have you ever thought or prayed about joining one of the puppet teams? We are currently looking for ladies to join our Big Hands team and young people in years 7 or 13 to join our Little Hands team. Or, if you feel puppetry is not for you, how about joining our stage crew?

If you are interested in volunteering, don't wait until things are back to 'normal' please email [beverly@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:beverly@praizinhands.org.uk) or call 07842 142269 to find out more info.

### THE SEARCH CONTINUES.....

The trustees are continuing the search to find a new location to store all the puppet equipment. Over the last few months we have had various possibilities, but unfortunately none of them have materialised into a solution so the search continues.

If you know of any premises that may be suitable for use as storage, preferably with rehearsal space, please can you contact us.

### PRAYER FOCUS

Give thanks to God for His continual blessings on the puppet group and ask for His protection on the ministry.

Please pray for each puppet team member in all 3 teams and ask God to ignite them with new passion for puppetry/creative arts and an eagerness to get back to some sort of normality (when the time comes) after such a long period of time.

Please pray for the trustees as they seek new ways to develop the puppet charity.

Please pray that a suitable building will become available for Praizin' Hands and that many people will feel led to support the charity by way of monthly giving for guaranteed security rather than having to rely on grants.

Please pray for the young people in our Little Hands team who struggle with disrupted school/college work and the cancellation of important exams.

Please pray that there will be enough time for the Big Hands team to film an Easter presentation so schools /care homes / churches will be able to access something of the Easter message this year.

Please pray for the PSHE project team to get the two presentations filmed and put on YouTube for schools to access.

Please pray for new puppet team members for Little Hands, Big Hands and stage crew to come forward.

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## BIG HANDS TEAM UPDATE

God has enabled our Big Hands puppet team to reach out to even more people, this Christmas. One hundred and forty copies of our Christmas DVD have been sent out to various schools, churches, care homes and other groups all around the country including Wales and the Republic of Ireland. This is more than we ever expected so we are thankful to God for giving Praizin' Hands new opportunities. Good feedback has been received from various places which is an encouragement to our puppet team.

Big Hands have started rehearsing on zoom and although this way of rehearsing has many challenges, it has been wonderful to have time together and keep going! There is uncertainty to when the national lockdown will be lifted to allow the puppeteers to meet and rehearse properly but we are determined to get 'something' ready for Easter. Sadly, there is not enough time to get DVD's produced however, we plan to put an Easter presentation on our YouTube channel for the Easter week allowing schools, care homes and churches to access it. If the restrictions do not allow us to achieve this, then we will film it in the summer and put the Easter presentation on a DVD ready for Easter 2022. We will hopefully be back doing live performances in schools by then, but this means we will have a DVD for care homes and places further afield as well.

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## PSHE SCHOOLS PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

Our PSHE Schools project puppet team are currently meeting on Zoom to rehearse. We are working on our 'Internet Safety for KS1' presentation which is suitable for infant school children. Once the restrictions are lifted, we will be filming this presentation and putting it on YouTube so schools can access it for their children. It is important that children of all ages know how to keep themselves safe on the internet.

The project team are also working on a 'Talking about Problems' presentation suitable for KS2 children (Junior School). We are going to put this presentation on YouTube for schools to access. We felt that there is so much uncertainty in the world at the moment, that helping children to understand the importance of talking over problems with someone they can trust, is as important as ever.

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## LITTLE HANDS PUPPET TEAM UPDATE

Sadly, meeting in person with our Little Hands team was short lived as we had to make the decision to revert to meeting back on Zoom when the pandemic restrictions were tightened, once again. This means, Little Hands were unable to film their song in the forest as planned for the beginning of November. This will still happen but when the restrictions are lifted once again. However, we continue to meet on Zoom to practise puppetry skills, play games and share a devotional together and pray. We have a lovely group of young people and we long for the day we can meet back again in person.



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## MONTHLY SUPPORT

Have you ever considered giving a regular monthly donation to the puppet group?

Thank you to all those who have kindly set up monthly direct debits in 2020. This way of giving has greatly supported our work and it is very much appreciated.

As we continue the search to find suitable premises, please can we ask if you are in a position to prayerfully consider a monthly donation towards the work of Praizin' Hands. Monthly giving provides added security of covering the cost of hiring premises, rather than having to rely on applying for grants.

Just as an example, if 20 people were able to give £10 a month, this would mean Praizin' Hands would have an extra £200 towards hiring a building.

As a charity we are registered for Gift Aid so if you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim this back on the donation you make which increases the value of the donation you make.

If you would like to make a monthly donation, please contact us. Thank you.

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## WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

While we are in Lockdown, we are hoping to put together a 'new' list of voice actors who we can call upon to help us record puppet scripts in the future.

We need to update many of our current scripts, as well as record new scripts, so we are looking for confident readers of all ages; men, women, boys and girls who can record their voice so we can keep it on file and match it to one of our puppet characters. (under 18's will need parental permission to record their voice) For more information please email [beverly@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:beverly@praizinhands.org.uk) or call 07842 142269. The more voices we have, the more characters we can cater for. We would love to hear from you!

\*If you have signed up for this in previous years, please do contact us again as you will need to be added to our new list - thanks!

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