



# PRAIZIN' HANDS PUPPET GROUP

## NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2023 - ISSUE: 15

### GIVING THANKS FOR 20 YEARS!

This year, the puppet group celebrate their 20th anniversary. From our initial beginning with just 2 puppets and a stage made out of plastic drain pipes, we continue to grow to share God's love within the community.

This is a bumper issue of our newsletter as we have so much exciting news to share with you....



### FORD BRITAIN TRUST GRANT

We have, this month, been awarded a grant of £1,000 to purchase a new sound system for when we are working in schools. Our current portable system must be approximately 10 years old so it will be great to have a new, more reliable system.

The Ford Britain Trust specifically supports the local communities around their factories. Although the transit factory in Southampton closed they still support the local area, enabling us to apply for the grant.

### PRAYER SUPPORT

A small prayer group has been set up for Praizin' Hands and they will meet to pray for various aspects of the puppet ministry in a social setting, over coffee and cake! If you would like to be part of this group, who meet in person, please get in touch as they will be very happy to welcome you to the group.

A Praizin' Hands Prayer WhatsApp group has also been set up. If you would like to be part of this group and receive prayer requests, again it will be lovely to hear from you so we can add you to the group. Prayer is so vital for the puppet ministry and so the more people who are willing to pray the better. Thank you.

### PRAYER FOCUS

Give thanks to God for the past 20 years of Praizin' Hands Puppet Group and ask for God's guidance as the Trustees plan for the coming years.

Give thanks to God for the recent Grant received and for our faithful monthly givers.

Please pray for new members for both our Big Hands team and our Little Hands teams.

Please pray for Little Hands, for their upcoming events. (Please see elsewhere in the newsletter)

Please pray for the PSHE Schools Project Team and their Internet Safety Presentation tour for KS1 (Please see dates and schools elsewhere in the newsletter)

Please pray for all our local schools and for their staff who are under such terrific pressure.

### PUPPET GROUP AGM

A date for your diary. Our Puppet Group AGM, which is open to all, will be held on **Tuesday 11 July at 7:00pm**, venue TBC.

If you are planning to attend please can you let us know, please email [nigel@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:nigel@praizinhands.org.uk).

All the puppet group membership will be sent an invitation, with an agenda and annual report nearer to this date.



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## LITTLE HANDS PUPPET TEAM UPDATE

It was great to be at St. Andrews, Dibden Purlieu in February. We were warmly welcomed and it was great for our Youth team to be able to lead their All age service. Well done, Little Hands and thank you to all those who came along and supported the team.

We have taken part in lots of different games and activities alongside our Devotional times and learning puppetry. It was wonderful to see the team working well together to choreograph their own song. As well as choreography, they had to plan and choose which puppets they would use, the costumes, the back drops, the instruments etc and it was a great team building exercise. The song they had put together was superb and the leaders enjoyed watching their final performance.



On 25<sup>th</sup> March, our Little Hands team went to Ferny Crofts and took part in Pedal Karting. This was a fun activity where the young people took part in a wide range of races.

Dates that are coming up for Little Hands are:  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Totton Fun Day  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June – St. John's Church, Hythe – Patronal Festival  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Portsmouth Relay for Life



We have an exciting and varied programme, for our Little Hands team, planned for over the summer term including a trip to an Adventure Course.

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## BIG HANDS TEAM UPDATE

Our Big Hands Puppet Team have had a very busy Easter, visiting schools over a period of 4 weeks, with their Easter Presentation. They have performed to approximately 3,500 children and staff, sharing the message of hope of the very first Easter over 2,000 years ago. The team have been amazing, so has our 'Up

Front' people who do a great job of following the story through and answering any questions the children may have. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a wonderful team. Thank you to you all.



Our Big Hands team will be enjoying a well-deserved break over the summer term until we meet back again in September to start learning a new programme for Christmas 2023.

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## PSHE SCHOOLS PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

The Project team will be doing an 'Internet Safety' tour which is suitable for KS1 (Infant School children) in the summer term. We are delighted that Laura, one of our Little Hands Leaders will be helping the team with this.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Blackfield Primary School  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Marchwood Infant School  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Calmore Infant School  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June – St. Monica Primary School  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Eling Infant School  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Manor CE Infant School  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Orchard Infant School  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Wildground Infant School  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Lydlynch Infant School  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Hythe Primary School



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## BIG HANDS TASTER DAY

How about being part of sharing the Christmas story with many schools, this Christmas? Would you like to be part of a very friendly ladies team and do something worthwhile and exciting, in the lead up to Christmas? We will be running a taster day for our Big Hands Team on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August** from 10am to 12 noon. This is a time to learn some basic puppetry skills, have 'a go' with a puppet, learn about the work Praizin' Hands do and see if this is something you would like to be part of. Please email [beverly@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:beverly@praizinhands.org.uk) for more information.

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## PUPPET WORKSHOPS

The School's Project team were invited to Wildground Infant School in March to run workshops for their Year 2 children. The children showed us their fantastic puppets they had made and told us about the characters they had created for their stories. The children were able to compare their puppets to our puppets and finished off by performing a song behind our puppet stage with their own hand puppets and then performing another song using one of the Praizin' Hands Puppets.



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## YOUTUBE VIDEOS

During the COVID lock downs we recorded a number of puppet videos and uploaded them to our YouTube channel. On a recent review on the number of times they have been viewed below are our top three videos.

1. Resurrection - 74,000 Views
2. O Jesus I have promised- 19,000 views
3. Joy to the World - 15,000 views

It is amazing to think that one of our videos has been watched 74,000 times!, all over the world. Many have been watched in India and Indonesia.

If you like to watch the videos please search for Praizin' Hands on YouTube.

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## ADOPT A PUPPET

Thank you to Joan who has adopted 'Ronnie' for a further year.

If you would like to know more about the scheme please email [info@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:info@praizinhands.org.uk) and we will send you details.

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## LITTLE HANDS TASTER DAY

Any young person, who would like to join the team in September, (In school years 7 to 13), we will be holding a Taster Day on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Please ask a parent or carer to email [beverly@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:beverly@praizinhands.org.uk) for more information.

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## VOICE ACTORS NEEDED!

We are looking for a wide range of voice actors to record their voices for Praizin' Hands on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**. We need a variety of voices, male and female, children, teenagers and adults so we can compile a 'voice library' so when we need to record future scripts, we can match a suitable voice to a particular character.

If you could help us with this, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch and we can send you a very short script we would like you to read so we can record your voice. We will give you a 15-minute time slot on the day and that is all you need to do. Please don't be shy! We need your help, and you may even find that you enjoy it! Please email [beverly@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:beverly@praizinhands.org.uk) for more information. Thank you.

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## END OF AMAZON SMILE

Thank you to all those of you who have supported us by using Amazon Smile in the past, which has now been discontinued by Amazon. With your help we have raised £103.00 for the puppet group.

We are registered with Easy Fundraising so although Smile has stopped we can still receive a small donation when you buy from Amazon if you use Easy Fundraising. This also applies for 1,000 of other retailers like eBay, Argos and John Lewis etc.

Please search for Easyfundrasing online to find out more.

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## TESCO BLUE TOKEN PUPPETS

Thank you to all those who put Tesco blue tokens in the Praizin' Hands box, in our 3 local Tesco stores, last summer. We are excited to have been able to purchase 7 new puppets for the School's PSHE Project team.

Please meet Georgia, Leroy, Ebony, Ryan, Olivia, Brad and Max who are eagerly awaiting to go on an adventure.....

