



PRAIZIN' HANDS PUPPET GROUP

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2023 – ISSUE: 16

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

As we start the summer holidays all the puppets are packed away and looking forward to a rest! While they relax, the planning starts for 2024!

We give thanks for a full and busy year we have had so far. Each of the puppet teams deserve a well-earned break over the summer.

ST ANDREWS

We would like to thank St. Andrews church for their donation of £1,020 which is part of their annual giving out. We have used the donation to purchase some new Biblical puppets for future presentations and can't wait to be able to use them.



PUPPET GROUP AGM

Thank you to all those who attended the Praizin' Hands AGM on 11th July. We hope it gave those who attended an insight to how Praizin' Hands works and information on each of the 3 teams.

20 YEAR CELEBRATION

On Saturday 20th May, all 3 teams came together to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Praizin' Hands Puppet Group. We had a wonderful afternoon of fun, food, quizzes and skittles at the Ship Inn in Redbridge.

SAD FAREWELL

It was with great sadness that we had to say farewell to one of our stage crew members of many years on 21st June. David Kitcher passed away on 2nd May and we were honoured to be asked by Margaret and the family to perform 'You Raise Me Up' at his funeral. This was David's favourite puppet song. Thank you for all your support over the years, David. You are greatly missed. Rest in Peace.



PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray for new members for the Big Hands team and pray for the Taster Day on 30th August.

Please pray for new members for the Little Hands team and pray for the Taster Day on 7th September.

Please pray for Big Hands as they start to learn a new Christmas programme.

Please pray for the PSHE Project team as they prepare to take 'Looking after our world' into infant schools.

For God's guidance for the Trustees as they seek the right paths for the future of Praizin' Hands.

For the Prayer group and for Maz who leads this, that God will do powerful things through their faithful praying.

YOUNG VOICE ACTORS

It was great to be able to work with 3 young people at Wildground Federation, in June, as we recorded their voices for our brand new presentation 'Wellbeing' which will be ready to go into schools from February 2024. This is a very sought after topic by many schools and we look forward to going on tour with this presentation in the new year.



LITTLE HANDS PUPPET TEAM UPDATE

Little Hands have worked hard over the year and were awarded their medals at the Praizin' Hands AGM. Well done to them all:

Jenai	- Level 2	Alanna	- Level 3
Hannah	- Level 2	Larissa	- Level 3
Naomi	- Level 2	Matilda	- Level 6



This team are now meeting at Blackfield Baptist Church and enjoying the facilities of both the indoors and outside space. We are very grateful to the church for being so accommodating in allowing us to use their premises.

Our Little Hands team took part at the Totton Family Day on 10th June and then led the service at St. John's Church, Hythe on 25th June as part of their Patronal Festival. Sadly, we had to cancel puppets at the Relay For Life event in Portsmouth on 15th July due to high winds.

Various games and activities have taken place as well as learning about all the different people Jesus met, in the Bible, and how He can meet with each one of us today, too.

On our last evening before the summer, we went to Ferny Crofts and enjoyed varied ways of tackling the adventure course. Our Little Hands team meet back after the summer on Thursday 7th September which will be a 'Taster Day' for any new prospective puppeteers who would like to join.

ADOPT A PUPPET

Thank you to Women's Guild who has adopted 'Gilda' for a further year.

If you would like to know more about the scheme, please email

info@praizinhands.org.uk and we will send you details.

BIG HANDS TEAM UPDATE

Our Big Hands Puppet team have a couple of training days planned over the summer, one on 26th July and one on 23rd August. Once we start rehearsing for Christmas and Easter Assemblies, we find that there is never time to perfect our puppetry skills so we thought it would be a good idea to learn a few skills over the summer in an informal manner and before we start back for Christmas!

The Big Hands Taster Day is on Wednesday 30th August for any new prospective puppeteers looking for a new challenge. Please see information elsewhere in the newsletter.

Christmas begins on Wednesday 6th September in Praizin' Hands, as this is when we start to learn the new material for our Christmas assemblies. This team will also be having their weekly rehearsals at Blackfield Baptist Church and we are very grateful to be able to use the church.



PSHE SCHOOLS PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

The PSHE Schools Project Team has worked very hard over the last few months taking 'Internet Safety' (for KS1) to various schools on the Waterside and in Southampton. The presentation was well received by enthusiastic children who enjoyed joining in the safety rhyme throughout the presentation whilst they learned important rules to keep them safe when using the internet.

Thank you to Laura, one of the Little Hands leaders who stepped in and helped the team out with these presentations. We couldn't have done it without her.

This team meets back after the summer on Monday 4th September at Lyndhurst Baptist Church who very kindly let us use their premises for rehearsals.

We will be spending a few weeks rehearsing for our 'Looking after our world' presentation, when we go back, ready for touring 12 Infant schools from October onwards.



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 7th September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Please ask a parent or carer to email beverly@praizinhands.org.uk for more information.

BIG HANDS TASTER DAY

How about being part of sharing the Christmas story with many schools? 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 on Wednesday 30th 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