



That Puppet Advent App

That Puppet Advent App is being designed to provide for you and the family with a Christian advent calendar with daily video clips explaining the truth behind Christmas, the nativity and other aspects of Christian message, through song, drama, craft, cracker jokes, puzzles and illusions!

The puppets (performing as teachers) form a serial story around- Little Puddle Primary School's mis-adventure through advent and their coping with it - finding out themselves all sorts of new things along the way.

All this delivers a friendly and entertaining way for your family to enjoy the countdown to Christmas this coming year. So remember to download the app and join in the fun.



PROGRESS SINCE APRIL NEWSLETTER!!!

It's been all hands on deck since the April Newsletter! And I don't think Alistair's hands have left the deck either!

VOCALS

We are able to say, that with all the hard work of recording the vocals for the puppet characters we have now reached the editing stage! Thanks to our vocal artists Robert Lee Cook, Daniel Sherrington, Alistair Mitchell, Sue Mitchell, Daniel Cole and of course Dave Whitelock and Henry Willard at Lana Banana Studios! We unfortunately had one of our vocal artists unable to support due to the pressures of moving house, but others stepped into new parts to get this covered! So it's not just the puppet teachers that are under pressure!



THE SET

Work on the set has been progressing well with the talented support of Mark Jones, giving Alistair more than just a helping hand! Dorothy wouldn't have her desk without Mark's enthusiasm, or doors for the rooms. Then he said was there anything else we wanted done? One kitchen unit for the common room and 8 scenery supports later... the set is now fully built. Set decorating began a while back, with a thank you to many fake bricks imported from China, going on top of a lot of pre-preparation painting. We also have laser cut school lettering and logos out of MDF to paint and fix on.



THE SCHEDULE

The knock on effect of a longer duration needed for the vocals and set building is that the actual filming of the puppets has been put back till after the summer, mainly due to other commitments from others work, holidays and other projects kicking in. That said however, and in the light of being further forward on the app design and construction, this timetable re-shuffle has not lost us time overall - in fact, I think we have benefitted from not filming when we thought we should. This means better planning for 'extra' puppeteers, enabling of some new ideas for props, more research on costuming and a re-evaluation of advertising. We are still confident that the advent deadline is still very much achievable. Less now our timetable and more the Lord's, the way in which things have been falling into place at the 'right' time.

THE HALL

And we'd like to thank our brothers and sisters at Woodlands Church who are generously hiring the hall to us over this period very reasonably. Thank you for understanding our 'changing' needs, storing the set for filming and being adaptable. As a small church who don't use their hall as much as they'd like too, they have been excited to be able to help us out. For us, given the length of time involved, it's been a great blessing. Alistair has already spent a week there with John Hardwick, shooting his own 'green-screened' advent calendar DVD coming out this year. Being in between towns, in the quiet north downs, it's a lovely peaceful place to work.

THE APP DESIGN

So... the app design has progressed far faster than we thought thanks to Mark Goodspeed, (as in name as in delivery!). It's been hard to keep up at times with him in the past two months. From a chat round the Mitchell's earlier in the year, it's been a delight to have Mark's enthusiasm and speed onboard! The first build of the app has been approved by Apple for beta testing, so please pray that all this continues to go well!

WEBSITE RE-VAMP

On top of this we have also been revamping our supporter's website in the background, designed to allow those looking for the first time, an easier navigation through the pages. Should be straight forward to keep updated on all our progress, needs and news. Having a dedicated server, another change, also helps us with some back end (technical jargon) stuff, that helps ensure encryption, 'google' verification and ties in solidly with 'Mail Chimp' that we've started to use for the newsletters. All compliant with GDPR! So watch out for when we notify that this is up and running!



Miss Fiona Fitness

Ms Fitness is South African and in charge of schools sports, particularly the use of the School Hall, of which she is very protective. She can be quite intimidating but has a good heart and wants to push the children to succeed. She likes to get involved in most things, even if they are not sports related. Her zeal goes before her. She runs after school, and runs the netball, football and gym clubs. In fact she runs to school too. She has been on the staff at St Peters in the Water now for 7 years.

Jomel Caspe

My name is Jomel Caspe. I am from the Philippines. I am a National Staff of the Chi Alpha Philippines, a Campus Ministry of the Assemblies of God. As a student/campus missionary, financial support is very important to me as it is one way for me to meet the financial needs of the ministry, and God was gracious enough for bringing Daniel Cole and Alistair Mitchell as they are supporting me financially in return of the support I am giving. I am working 15 hours every week on the "That Advent Puppet Calendar" project. I thank God for using Daniel and Alistair who gave me this opportunity to work for them in which I have learn many things I haven't done before and at the same I was able to support my family and the work that God has entrusted.



COME JOIN US!!!

Finally, during our time of filming, we would like to have a few open evenings when we can't get folk to help puppeteer, to allow those of you who would like see what's going on, to visit us for a meal and a chat. This is a large project being done on limited means, but we'd love to take the time to show you part of it 'in-the-making'. News of that later.

NEEDS:

- We are still in need for set props for the puppet sets. If you are in the south east or local to Sevenoaks and have anything that you think could be in a school reception and staffroom then please let us know! For example, I'm thinking glass-style cups and saucers, biscuit bin, taps (for fake sink), mirror, flower vase, cutlery, stationery tray/s, calendar, folders, coffee-tea-sugar jars, etc etc
- We are also looking for more willing puppeteers that would be available towards the end of the summer who would be able to travel to the place of filming in the Sevenoaks, Kent area. We are hiring a hall for about 2-3 weeks (date to be confirmed). During the day we can get on with shooting individual characters, but for group scenes, as in the common room, more folk are needed to be in shot. Evenings will be the main time to do this, when most people are free to come along for a couple of hours. If you are able to help, (and thank you to Steve and friends who have been in contact - Beth as well), then please do get in contact to have a chat. We expect to give our best but have a lot of fun too. And we can provide food if necessary to help folk spend more time with us.
- We are getting a School Honours Board engraved for part of the set, and thought it would be cool to have some names from our supporters included detailed as past years. As your first and last name is Data now governed by the GDPR we will need your extra permission to use this in this way, as its not covered under our general use of data. If you want your name included in the board then please can you email us back with confirmation that you are happy for us to include you!



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