



# The Year of 2020

We began this year with a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church in Thakeham. It was lovely to see so many of our volunteers and supporters join with us to give thanks for the continued blessings seen in our work and the many opportunities for us to spread the good news in so many ways. In complete contrast, a few weeks later we had to suspend all our assemblies and other events due to Covid. Like many organisations, we have worked hard to ensure that we could somehow continue our mission. The team have moved online and like many of you, we have all learnt new skills. We have really missed all the community events we normally host or join - it is such a lovely part of our work to meet with people and chat about what we do. We were unable to run our annual holiday club this year and have really missed the children, their families and our fabulous young leaders. We are hopeful that next year we will come together again. It has been heart-warming to see the continued support for Splash! from all areas of the community and we greatly appreciate all the messages of support.

2020 has also been another year of blessings and opportunities for Splash. Although it has been a challenge to move online, we have found that some things work better this way! We have developed our relationships with schools as we continue to support them through difficult times.

We have held fast this year to the passage in Philippians 4 v19 "*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus*". God has been faithful through all the changes and challenges we have faced this year. Firstly, our finances continue to support all that we need to do to continue our work—an amazing blessing in a year of such upheaval for so many. We are so grateful to all those who continue to support our work and who provide the resources we need, We rely on donations for all that we do and we are grateful for those that are able to support us. Secondly, our team have risen to the need to learn new skills and do things differently and have enjoyed the opportunity to do things in a new way.

As always, there are many who have supported us this year and we especially want to give our thanks to John Lower, to Donorfy and to Dalesdown for their continued support, without which we could not do what we do. We would also like to thank Greenhills Christian Trust, The Karima Christian Trust and the Debar Trust for their support.

Please continue to pray for Splash and all the team—that the new year will bring fresh blessings.

## **Psalm 78**

***"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.... so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God.."***



# Assemblies

Despite 2020 being a year of complete change and re-organisation as far as assemblies are concerned, we have still been able to present or film 3½ assemblies out of the usual 5 we offer each school every year. I say 3½ because our second spring assembly was cut short due to the closing of schools in the middle of March. We are so pleased that despite lockdown and social distancing in the office, schools have still been able to receive good and thought provoking Christian messages from the schools team.



## First Half of Spring Term

“One person can’t change the world, but YOU could change the world for one person.” Our resident puppets, Chip and Marigold, wanted to get rid of the old world as they thought there was so much wrong with it. They tried buying a new, huge blow up globe, but they learned that simply buying a new world for £9.99 didn’t change anything; that changing the world was a huge and impossible task for one person. They did realise that they could change the world for just one person though. The Bible story we used was the parable of The Good Samaritan. That day, the Samaritan didn’t manage to change the world, but he DID change it for one person. We ended the assembly with a demonstration. We showed a bottle, full of clear water, and encouraged the children to imagine that it was a person, full of worries, or troubles, or anxiety. Then we added a small drop of two of red food colouring, which of course, changed all the water in the bottle. We finished by saying “look what a few drops of kindness, or love, or help, can do to one person. It can change their world.”

## Second Half of Spring Term

In this assembly we encouraged the children to think about “developing useful skills”. We started by showing the children some tools and seeing if they knew what they were called and what they were used for. We explained that all the tools are useful for doing certain jobs and that people can be useful too, because without the people, the tools are of no use at all!

We told the story of Moses building the tabernacle; that he used people who had developed their practical skills, who were master craftsmen of their trade. But we didn’t just concentrate on practical skills. We included and recognised that some people are blessed with motivational skills or



communicational skills. We shared with the children a verse from Colossians which says “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” and we finished the assembly by leaving the children with the thought “Usefulness can equal kindness”.

## 1st Half Autumn Term

It was lovely to be back together in September to develop our assemblies in a new way. Rosie (our newest puppet team member!) was introduced and she was very worried about her first day working for Splash. Would she fit in? Would the children like her? Would she remember to bring her lunch? We told the story of Jesus telling his disciples that they needn't worry. They needn't worry about the food they would eat, or the clothes that they wore, and how could worrying add a single hour to their life? We shared some practical advice and some coping strategies if children had worries. We sang "Don't worry, be happy", signing it so the children could join in as singing is not currently allowed! This assembly can be accessed via YouTube and the feedback from schools has been brilliant, with some teachers telling us that the topic was right on point and very helpful.

## 2nd Half Autumn Term

This assembly was about "Light" and used the story of the Wise Travellers. The story we shared concentrated on the Wise Travellers from the East being guided to the new baby King by the new bright star in the sky. We continued by telling the children that the Bible says Jesus is called the Light of the World and that He came to help people to SEE the way to God, that he made blind people SEE again, and he helped people to SEE how they could be kind and loving to others. We sang "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine" and again taught the children the signing for it so they could join in without singing, in their classrooms. We finished the assembly by talking about how WE could be like a light, shining for others; by doing big or small things for people like helping, listening and sharing.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, we know we have been blessed as a team, working well together, each using the gifts that we have been given. All schools continue to be incredibly thankful for our Splash input and look forward to us going back in to present our live assemblies. In the meantime, we will carry on sending out filmed assemblies until we are allowed to be welcomed back. Thank you for your ongoing prayer and support for us.



# Board of Trustees

Our current trustee board is:

Dan Jenkins (Chair)  
Michelle Leach  
Sally Richardson

Ben Sheldon  
Sara-Jane Stevens  
Dani Taylor

More information about our trustees can be found on our website.



Dan  
Jenkins



Michelle  
Leach



Sally  
Richardson



Ben  
Sheldon



Sara-Jane  
Stevens



Dani  
Taylor

## Splash Team

Our team has undergone some changes this year, with Frank leaving us in the summer after many years of working with Splash. He has now moved to Northern Ireland, where I am sure he and Caroline will enjoy the many new adventures ahead.

We have been very blessed to have Nick Woolfenden join us in the autumn to add to our schools team, which now consists of Lois, Julia, Jo and Nick.

Iain Taylor continues as our treasurer—he has given so much time to us this year and we are very grateful for his never ending support for Splash and the time and advice he freely gives.



## Churches and Communities

It was lovely to join with children's and youth workers from the Horsham area in January as part of the Horsham Hub, set up by the Diocese of Chichester to bring workers together to share ideas and support one another. Our heart is to serve and support churches in our locality in their work with families, children and young people. We continue to support our local churches and it is always a pleasure to attend activities to provide drama, puppets, song and craft, to serve those who serve their communities.