



Bright Sparks Music and Drama Club

The Club is run within the chapel under the direction of Hilary Daniel B A (Open), Dip Mus, ALCM, PGCE and her team of 9 regular helpers. We currently have 32 members aged from 7 – 14.

The Club has very clear aims:

enabling young people to enjoy

- Learning general acting and speaking skills
- Developing singing and musical skills
- Planning and rehearsing for performances
- Performing for audiences

We aim to develop long-term skills that are valuable in a range of contexts e.g. oral language skills at GCSE, job interviews, making great presentations at school or work. Building confidence is at the core of what we seek to do.

We are open-access, we don't audition to join and we charge £1 per week to ensure money is never a barrier to participation.

Covid had an impact for Bright Sparks for a long time. Our performances of Cinderella, the pop-up panto had to be delayed from April 2022 to May 2022 because three of our main actors contracted the virus just before the show.

Nonetheless the production was a huge success performed to two full audiences. It was described as a pop-up panto because it started as a one-off weekly meeting activity that snowballed into a full production thanks to the script writing of Peter Daniel.

We were delighted to perform the Platinum Jubilee Song outdoors at the fantastic community picnic celebration on the playing field and at the Sunday morning service at the Parish Church. We were especially grateful to Steve Wassall who taught the children how to sign the chorus of the song in British Sign Language.

After the Jubilee until the summer break and then through the Autumn term, we worked simultaneously towards a variety show “Putting on the Ritz” and a production of the famous Matilda musical.

We performed “Putting on the Ritz” in November. The variety shows are fantastic entertainment for our audiences but also a wonderful opportunity for our youngsters as everyone has an opportunity to choose what they would like to do.



Over Christmas the Bright Sparks youngsters led our all-age worship at the Chapel. A very different performance experience that the youngsters enthusiastically embraced. The service included “Bethlehem Rhapsody”, our first puppet production. This was so successful we are currently fund-raising to buy our own set of puppets.



Since Christmas the Club has been working full-on for Matilda Jr. It is a major, exciting production and the youngsters are loving preparing for it. We are performing Matilda Jr. on 13 May 6.30pm, 20 May 6.30pm and 21 May 3pm. Tickets are available from 01288 341317 or brightsparkstickets@gmail.com.

There are many people who enable Bright Sparks to happen: Hilary Daniel, our Director, the regular helper team, show volunteers and the amazing, talented young people. We would also like to thank Noteorious band who play live the backing music for most of our productions.

We are very grateful to Week St Mary Parish Council who have awarded Bright Sparks a grant fund of £800 from the community benefit towards the costs of a set of 8 wireless headset microphones, essential for musical productions.

