

**‘ACTING THE BIBLE’**

**at**

**Beckley School**

**MIRACLES AND HEALINGS**  
**(John 2:1-12, Luke 4:38-44)**

**1 February 2024**

**Joint Benefice of**

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley St. Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover  
St. Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John**

The Four Parishes 'Acting the Bible' team (previously known as 'Open the Book') leads assembly once a fortnight in Beckley School. The team take stories fresh from the pages of the Bible, and make them into mini dramas, to be acted out by themselves, together with Beckley schoolchildren. Through this, it is hoped that the Bible stories are brought alive, and remembered by the children, especially as they too are involved in the acting.

The team is led by Betty Dye, a Licensed Lay Reader, and includes members from Forest Hill, Stanton St John and Beckley. They meet once a fortnight to write the scripts, with the aim of adhering as closely as possible to the original Bible texts. This often involves comparing different Bible translations and even reading the New Testament in the original Greek!

## **Acting the Bible Jan 24 Miracles and Healings John 2:1-12 and Luke 4:38-44**

**Cast:** OLD MARY AS NARRATOR; JESUS; YOUNG MARY; SERVANT;  
MASTER OF THE FEAST; PETER; MOTHER-IN-LAW; CHORUS

(AUDIENCE FACING TOWARDS WINDOW BUT WITH CENTRE AISLE  
TO ALLOW SERVANT TO WALK TO AND FROM BASIN.)

**Old Mary:** Do you remember that last time I told you about Simeon and Anna who said such amazing things about our baby, Jesus? Then I told you how Joseph and I thought we had lost Jesus when he was 12 years old, but we found him in the Temple, talking with such wisdom to the Jewish teachers.

**Chorus: Yes, Mary, we remember. Please tell us another story about Jesus!**

**Old Mary:** After all these things happened, we knew that Jesus was the son of God, and that he would do miraculous things one day.

Jesus stayed at home with us in Nazareth until he was about 30 years old, but then he was baptised in the River Jordan by his cousin John, and a few more people started to realise how extraordinary he was. Some of them decided to follow Jesus and soon he had 12 special friends, who were called his disciples.

**Chorus: Tell us, Mary! What happened then?**

**Old Mary:** One day, I was invited to go to a wedding in the nearby village of Cana. Jesus and his disciples were invited too.

*(YOUNG MARY AND JESUS ENTER FROM THE MAIN DOOR AND SPEAK FROM THERE)*

**Young Mary:** Jesus, you and your friends have been invited to a wedding in Cana. Do you want to come?

**Jesus:** Why yes, mother, of course. We would love to come.

*(MARY AND JESUS WALK UP THE AISLE TO CENTRE STAGE)*

**Young Mary:** Jesus, what a great crowd of guests they have at this wedding, so much food and drink to prepare! Oh dear, the Master of the Feast looks very worried. Whatever is the matter?

*(MASTER OF THE FEAST COMES FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN WITH SERVANT FOLLOWING AND HURRIES OVER TO YOUNG MARY)*

**Master of the Feast:** Madam, something terrible has happened. We have run out of wine, and we can't offer anyone a drink. This is a terrible disgrace for the bridegroom and his family! I am so worried! *(MASTER GOES BACK BEHIND THE CURTAIN BUT SERVANT STAYS)*

**Young Mary:** Jesus! They have run out of wine! Can you help them?

**Jesus:** Mother, what has that got to do with us? My time has not yet come.

**Old Mary:** I still knew that Jesus would find a way to help, so I said to the servants:

**Young Mary:** *(TO SERVANT)* Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.

**Old Mary:** There were six large empty water jugs nearby and Jesus said to the servant:

**Jesus:** Do you see those large empty jugs? Fill them with water.

*(SERVANT LOOKS PUZZLED, THEN WALKS DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE TO THE BASIN, FILLS A SMALL JUG WITH WATER, BRINGS IT BACK AND POURS SOME INTO THE LARGE JUG BESIDE JESUS)*

**Chorus:** Whatever is he doing? Why does Jesus want the jars filled up with water?

**Jesus:** Now fill a cup and take it to the man in charge of the wedding feast.

*(SERVANT USES SMALL JUG TO POUR WATER INTO A CUP HELD BY JESUS, THEN TURNS TOWARDS THE CURTAIN)*

**Servant:** *(CALLING)* Master, I need to give you this to taste. *(THE MASTER COMES OUT)*

**Master of the Feast:** *(DRINKING FROM THE CUP)* But this is wonderful! It is the best wine I have ever tasted! *(SERVANT LOOKS ASTONISHED)*. Most bridegrooms serve the best wine at the beginning, and they bring out the cheap wine when everyone has had plenty and won't notice any more. But this bridegroom has kept the best until last!

**Chorus:** **Jesus has turned the water into wine!**

**Old Mary:** The servants saw what Jesus did, but the Master of the Feast had no idea. After that incredible miracle, word about Jesus began to spread until everyone in the village was talking about what had happened.

**Chorus:** **Jesus has performed his first miracle!**

**Old Mary:** A while later, we went with Jesus and his disciples down to Capernaum where Peter, one of the disciples, lived. Peter was married, and his mother-in-law had become very ill with a fever and a high temperature.

**Chorus:** **Will Peter's mother-in-law die?**

*(MOTHER-IN-LAW STAGGER IN GROANING AND GO OVER TO LIE DOWN ON BENCH CENTRE STAGE. PETER COME IN WITH CUP OF WATER AND GO OVER TO MOTHER-IN-LAW)*

**Peter:** Oh, my dear mother-in-law! You are burning hot. You have a really bad fever! Jesus!

**Jesus:** (*ENTERING*) What is it, Peter? What's the matter?

**Peter:** Jesus! Please come and help my mother-in-law. She is so ill!

**Jesus:** (*TAKES WOMAN'S HAND*) Fever, be gone. Fever, I command you to leave this woman. (*PAUSE*) There, it's gone now, all is well. She is healed.

**Mother-in-Law:** (*SIT UP AND SMILE*) Oh, I feel completely better now! I must get up and get some food for you all.

**Chorus:** **Jesus has healed her!**

**Old Mary:** After that, everyone was talking about what Jesus had done and in the evening all the local people came and brought their sick people to Jesus to be healed.

So now it wasn't just the disciples and our family who could trust in Jesus, but soon everyone began to experience for themselves how amazing Jesus is and what miracles he can do.