

**‘ACTING THE BIBLE’  
at  
Beckley School**

**Crossing the Red Sea  
(Exodus 14)**

**3 October 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 OCTOBER 2024

### CROSSING THE RED SEA. Exodus Chapter 14

**CAST:** NARRATOR, MOSES, MIRIAM (Moses' sister), AARON (Moses' brother), GOD, ISRAELITES (up to 8 pupils), CHORUS

**NARRATOR:** Our story this morning happened many years after Noah and his family walked out of the ark and back on to dry land when the flood dried up. They found a home in Israel and grew into a huge tribe, called the Israelites. Many years later there was a terrible famine, and they moved to Egypt. To begin with, all was well but, as time passed, the Israelites became so numerous and strong that the Egyptians felt threatened. The Egyptian king forced all the Israelites to become slaves, and they were treated very cruelly.

God chose a man called Moses to organize the escape of his people from slavery. With God's help, Moses finally managed to persuade the Egyptian king to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. Now God was helping Moses to lead the Israelites through the desert, along with his brother Aaron, his sister Miriam.

*AARON and MIRIAM, carrying bundles, with (up to 8) ISRAELITES behind them, enter from the hall door and trudge towards the blue cloth spread in front of the curtain.*

**MIRIAM:** Oh Aaron, I am so tired. We have been walking for days and it will soon be dark. I can't believe that the King of Egypt has really agreed to let us go!

**ISRAELITE 1:** What if the King changes his mind?

**ISRAELITE 2:** He will send his army to stop us!

**MIRIAM:** Look, Aaron, what is that in front of us? Is it water? How can we get across water? We have no boats!

**AARON:** You are right Miriam. It stretches all the way across the horizon, a vast sheet of water. I'll go and ask Moses what to do. (*turn, walk a few steps back towards hall door, stop, gasp, peer forwards*) Oh, no! Look, Miriam! Look! (*point*) That smudge of dust, it could be a company of Egyptian charioteers!

**ISRAELITE 3:** The Egyptian soldiers will kill us all!

**ISRAELITE 4:** Or we will drown in that huge lake!

*MIRIAM and the ISRAELITES turn and look, gasp, point, look frightened.*

**CHORUS:** Trapped, trapped between the water and the soldiers! They are trapped!

**AARON:** I can definitely see the Egyptians in their chariots now! We can't escape with all that water in the way! (*run towards hall door and shout*) Moses, Moses, come quickly, there's no time to spare!

**MOSES:** (*hurry in from hall door*) Aaron, Miriam, what is the matter?

**MIRIAM:** Moses, look, there is that great mass of water in front of us (*point towards curtain*) and see, back there (*point towards the hall door*), the Egyptian army, with horses and chariots, is coming over the ridge.

**AARON:** The King must have changed his mind! Now he will drag us back to Egypt to work as slaves, or maybe he will just kill us all!

**CHORUS:** Trapped, trapped between the water and the soldiers! They are trapped!

**ISRAELITE 5:** Why did you bring us out here in the desert to die?

**ISRAELITE 6:** Weren't there any graves in Egypt?

**ISRAELITE 7:** Didn't we tell you that this would happen?

**ISRAELITE 8:** We'd rather be slaves in Egypt than die here in the desert!

**MOSES:** Miriam, Aaron, everyone, don't be afraid! Wait for me here, and you will see what the Lord will do to save you. God will fight for you, and you will never see these Egyptians again! (*MIRIAM, AARON and the ISRAELITES open bundles and lie down to sleep. MOSES walk forward and stop near the edge of the water*) Heavenly God, you have not brought us out here to die in the wilderness. What must I do?

**GOD:** Moses, why are you crying out to me for help? Do what I tell you. (*long pause, MOSES bows low*) Go and stand above the water and hold out the special stick I gave to you.

*MOSES step forward, hold out staff over the water.*

**AARON:** (*sit up*) Look, Miriam! God has put a cloud between us and the Egyptians. I don't think they can see us any more. (*lie down*)

**MIRIAM:** (*sit up*) What a wind! I'm freezing. (*lie down*)

**CHORUS:** The wind blew and blew and blew. It blew all night!

*[Flash card 'WIND BLOWING'. Children make wind sound.]*

**NARRATOR:** Moses held out his stick over the water and God drove the water back with a strong east wind. The wind blew all night and it was so strong it managed to blow back the water to leave an open pathway (*GOD pull the blue cloth back*). When they woke very early in the morning there was land not water in front of them. They scrambled up onto their feet and marched as fast as they could across to the other side (*MOSES, then MIRIAM, then AARON, then the ISRAELITES walk over and stand on the other side of the 'Red Sea'*)

And then the wind stopped blowing.

**CHORUS:** The wind stopped blowing.

**MOSES:** God has saved us! Look back, everybody! Look at what's happening now!

**MIRIAM:** I never expected that!

**AARON:** Can you believe it?

**NARRATOR:** What was happening? Well, when the Egyptian soldiers saw the Israelites crossing over, they galloped their horses towards the shoreline to chase them. But the horses were so big, and the chariots were so heavy that they churned up the mud, so that the horses struggled and tripped and fell and the chariots stuck fast in the deep mud. And then ...

**CHORUS:** The wind stopped blowing.

**NARRATOR:** When the wind stopped blowing, all the water gushed forward, a huge bowling wave, a great surging flood, so that not a single horseman or chariot was able to make it to the other side.

**MOSES:** *(addressing the children)* The lord God sent the wind, and the lord God stopped the wind. He saved our lives. Praise be to the Lord our God.