

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

**PARABLES:  
THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK  
and THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

**9 November 2023**

**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!

## **Parables – The House on the Rock/Sand and The Good Samaritan**

**Cast:** JESUS; 4 x Mime Artists ; 3 x pupils in uniform

ONE BY ONE ARTISTS WALK ON. 1 & 2 STAND BY HALL DOOR, 3 & 4 STAND BY CURTAIN

JESUS AND CHILDREN WALK OVER TO CHAIRS BY WINDOWS

**PUPIL 1:** Please will you tell us some more parables?

**JESUS:** Yes, of course, and this one is very important for you guys. It is all about how to live your whole life.

There was a man who wanted to build a house. So he set off trying to find a really nice strong foundation for his house and he found a huge slab of rock way up above the flood level.

**MA 1:** ACT THIS OUT

**JESUS:** Then he set to work and built a big, tall, strong house.

**MA 1:** ACT THIS OUT

**JESUS:** Almost as soon as he had finished, a great storm blew up, with strong winds and continuous rain which fell until the whole area was a raging flood.

**MA 1:** ACT THIS OUT

**CHORUS:** The rain fell down and the floods rose up.

The rain fell down and the floods rose up.

The rain fell down and the floods rose up.

**MA 1:** (Loudly) And the house on the rock stood firm!

**JESUS:** Then, indeed, another man came along building his house, but he didn't bother about having a firm foundation. He just found a bit of nearby sand to build on. (Pause)

**MA 2:** ACT THIS OUT

**JESUS:** On this convenient patch of sand he set to work and he built a big, tall strong house.

**MA 2:** ACT THIS OUT

**JESUS:** And once more a great storm blew up.

**CHORUS:** The rain fell down and the floods rose up.

The rain fell down and the floods rose up.

The rain fell down and the floods rose up.

**MA 2:** (Whisper) And the house on the sand fell down flat!

**PUPIL 2:** That is a great story but I have no idea what the real meaning is.

**JESUS:** Well, I am the rock, your life is the house and you are the builder. You must build your life on listening to me and doing what I tell you. Love God first with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and love your neighbour in the same way that you love yourself.

**PUPIL 3:** Yes, I sort of understand, but who is my neighbour?

**JESUS:** I will show you in the next parable that your neighbour is not just the person next door, but anyone who you meet, and that you need to be a good neighbour to everyone, no matter who they are.

There was a man who set out along a road notorious for mugging attacks from gangs and sure enough he was set upon and mugged.

His wallet and phone were stolen and the gang beat him up and left him for dead. (Pause)

MA 3 COME FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN PLUS 3 FROM CHORUS. ACT OUT MUGGING AND RUN OFF LEAVING MA 3 FLAT ON FLOOR

**JESUS:** This poor man lay bleeding on the ground when a priest going to lead the service in the cathedral hurried past.

**CHORUS:** This person is bound to help.

**JESUS:** But if he stopped, he would be late for the service. So he just scurried past the injured man (Pause)

**MA 4:** (WEARING PROP) ACT THIS OUT GOING FROM CURTAIN TO HALL DOOR

**JESUS:** A short time later a teacher from the university came past on his way to give a lecture.

**CHORUS:** This person is bound to help.

**JESUS:** But he was so wrapped up in his thinking and ideas, that he hardly even noticed the dying man.

**MA 4:** (WEARING PROP) ACT THIS OUT GOING FROM HALL DOOR TO CURTAIN.

**JESUS:** Later in the day someone who nobody liked came along the road.

**CHORUS:** This person won't help in a million years.

**JESUS:** But when he saw the injured man, he ran over to him straight away. Using water from his bottle and a clean handkerchief, he washed the wounds and helped the victim up and half carried him all the way to the hospital. (Pause)

**MA 4:** (WEARING A CAP AND SCARF) ACT THIS OUT GOING FROM CURTAIN TO HALL DOOR

**JESUS:** So then, what can we learn from this about being neighbours?

**CHORUS:** Anyone, no matter how unlikely, can choose to be a good neighbour by showing love and kindness to other people.

**JESUS:** That's right and what is more, you have all been good neighbours to me because when I was hungry, you shared your food with me, when I was cold you gave me something to wear and when I was a stranger and hated by other people, you welcomed me and wanted to be my friend.

**CHORUS:** No we didn't! When did we do that?

**JESUS:** When you comforted or helped or cared for anyone in trouble, you were being kind to me. When you ignored other people you ignored me.

You see, when you love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, he will help you to love other people in the same way that you love yourself.

**PUPILS 1, 2 & 3:** Now we understand! Thank you.