

‘ACTING THE BIBLE’

at

Beckley School

PALM SUNDAY

(Matthew 21:1-13,

Mark 11:1-21, Luke 19:29-40,

John 12:12-15)

22 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!

Palm Sunday and Cleansing the Temple February 2024

References: Matt 21 vs 1-13; Mark 11 vs 1 -21; Luke 19 vs 29-40;
John 12 vs 12-15

Psalm 8:2; Psalm 118; Isaiah 56; Jeremiah 7:11

Cast: NARRATOR; JESUS; DISCIPLE 1; DISCIPLE 2; PRIEST;
MONEYCHANGERS + ASSISTANT; 2 x CROWD LEADERS; DISCIPLES
3 & 4

*CENTRE AISLE STAGE. 2 SIDES OF CHILDREN ARE 2 CROWDS,
BRANCHES FOR OLDEST ONES.*

Narrator: For three years Jesus taught and healed the people. The ordinary people followed him, sometimes in their thousands, but the priests, the temple officers, and the Roman leaders were very jealous of his popularity. Now it was one week before the most important festival, the Passover, and everyone was travelling to the Temple in the city of Jerusalem.

*JESUS AND DISCIPLES 1 & 2 WALK FROM THE DOOR UP TOWARDS
THE CURTAIN AND STOP IN THE MIDDLE*

JESUS: (POINTING) Do you see the village of Bethany over there?

DISCIPLE 1: (PEERING FORWARD) Yes. When we get there we will be almost into Jerusalem. **JESUS:** You two, go into the village.

You will see a donkey tied up by a house wall with a young colt at its side. Untie them and bring them here. I am going to ride the young one up the hill into Jerusalem.

DISCIPLE 2: Hang on! What if we are challenged by the owner?

JESUS: No problem. Just say 'the Master has need of them and will send them straight back as soon as he has finished with them'.

DISCIPLE 1: Before you ride on the donkey, I will lay my cloak over it as a saddle for you.

JESUS GO BEHIND CURTAIN. DISCIPLE 1 AND 2 HURRY BACK TO HALL DOOR.

NARRATOR: It turned out exactly as Jesus had said and soon he was sitting on the back of the young donkey riding up the hill to Jerusalem. Crowds of people and lots of children gathered to join in the excitement.

DISCIPLES 3 & 4 BUSTLE IN FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN AND HAND OUT PALM BRANCHES TO PUPILS IN BACK ROWS.

DISCIPLE 3: (SHOUT REALLY LOUDLY) Jesus our king is coming!

DISCIPLE 4: (SHOUT) He is coming this way!

DISCIPLE 1: Hurry! We need to decorate this road with palm branches and our cloaks, so it's fit for a king!

DISCIPLES 3 & 4 GO AND LAY DOWN CLOAKS ON THE FLOOR.

DISCIPLE 2: (SHOUT) We bless you Jesus!

DISCIPLE 1: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

DISCIPLE 3: (LOOK BACK TOWARDS CURTAIN) Look! I can see Jesus, just back there.

DISCIPLE 4: (SHOUT) Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

CROWD LEADERS LIFT UP WORDS

CROWD 1: Hosanna!

CROWD 2: Lord, save us!

(REPEAT 2 MORE TIMES)

NARRATOR: But not everyone was excited about what was happening.

JESUS ENTER FROM BEHIND CURTAIN AND STAND IN FRONT OF IT. PRIEST COME FROM DOOR END AND STAND AT END OF AISLE.

PRIEST: I am a priest, I work in the temple and this is unacceptable! Jesus, can't you hear what they are shouting?

CROWD LEADERS LIFT UP WORDS

CROWD 1: Hosanna!

CROWD 2: Lord, save us!

(REPEAT 2 MORE TIMES)

PRIEST: The crowd and even the children are praising you as if you were a king! Stop them!

JESUS: Yes, I can hear them. Do you not know our scripture which says that the children are called to give me praise? I'm telling you that if they stop praising me, the stones themselves will shout out praise!

CROWD LEADERS LIFT UP WORDS

CROWD 1: Hosanna!

CROWD 2: Lord, save us!

(REPEAT 2 MORE TIMES)

PRIEST EXIT TOWARDS DOOR. JESUS EXIT BEHIND CURTAIN FOLLOWED BY DISCIPLES AND CROWD LEADERS.

NARRATOR: (WALK INTO THE CENTRE) And so it was that Jesus rode into Jerusalem as the prophets had written in the scriptures many, many years before, 'Your king comes to you riding on a donkey.' (PAUSE) And what happened next was so unexpected.

WHILE NARRATOR IS TALKING THE MONEY CHANGERS AND ASSISTANT CARRY ON THE TABLE. GO BACK FOR A CHAIR. GO BACK FOR A BIG BOX FULL OF PENS, PAPER & MONEY. SIT DOWN.

NARRATOR: Jesus came with the crowds through the gate into the vast temple area. Here he could see not just the large impressive temple building, but hundreds of people who had come to worship God milling about in the huge courtyards. Over to one side was a massive colonnade where all the moneymakers sat. They were busy selling noisy sheep and pigeons for people to buy as offerings.

Money Changer: *(COUNTING COINS)*. One hundred... one thousand Oh good, I've made loads of cash today. I've sold about 20 sheep and dozens of pigeons. Look at all my money!

JESUS WALK IN TO THE CENTRE. LOOK TO ONE SIDE AND THE NEXT. SPREAD OUT HANDS IN AMAZEMENT. SHAKE HEAD.

JESUS: *(TO HIMSELF)* This is terrible! Instead of these moneymakers trying to help people to worship, they are being greedy and trying to make as much money as possible.
(TO THE MONEY CHANGERS) This is the exact opposite of what my Father in heaven wants. He said that his house, this temple, was to be called a house of prayer for all the nations. But now you have turned it into a den of thieves! You are robbers! Get out of here! Get out!

JESUS WALK OVER TO THE MONEY CHANGERS TABLE, PICK IT UP BY ONE CORNER AND SCATTER EVERYTHING ON THE GROUND. MONEY CHANGERS SLINK OFF TO THE HALL DOOR.

JESUS: Now at last my Father's house IS a house of prayer.