

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

**Noah and the Ark**  
**(Genesis 6 - 9)**

**19 September 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 SEPTEMBER 2024

### NOAH'S ARK GENESIS 6-9

CAST: NARRATOR, GOD, NOAH, SHEM, HAM, JAPHETH, CHORUS, props person with dove.

*Shem, Ham & Japheth are pupils. The props person could be as well.*

*NARRATOR and CHORUS opposite sides of the stage. GOD behind the children. (Noah's boat to go in the middle)*

**NARRATOR:** Our story two weeks ago was about the creation of the world. God filled his world with plants and animals, and with the first human beings, who were called Adam and Eve. Today's story starts hundreds of years later. By then, the human race had spread all over the world, but things were not going well and many of them were doing bad things. This made God very sad, and he said:

**GOD:** I will destroy the living creatures that I have created, the humans, the animals and the birds. I am sorry that I ever made them!

**NARRATOR:** Now there was one man who was not like everyone else. His name was Noah. *(NOAH walks to the centre of the stage and stands to face GOD)* Noah was a good man who listened to God and obeyed him. So God decided to speak to him.

**GOD:** Noah! Everything has gone wrong with my world, so I have decided to destroy it with a flood! I want you to build a huge boat, an ark, with three decks and a door in its side. You must take your wife, your 3 sons and their wives and a pair of every kind of animal and every kind of bird into the boat with you. Then you will escape from the flood and be saved.

**CHORUS:** God will destroy the earth with a flood! But Noah will be saved.

**NARRATOR:** Noah understood what God wanted him to do, so he called his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and said:

**NOAH:** God is going to destroy the earth with a flood because the people have become so bad. He has told me to build a boat big enough to save us and a few of each kind of animal and bird.

**SHEM:** We will help you!

**HAM:** Here are some tools!

**JAPHETH:** Let's get started!

**NARRATOR:** Shem, Ham and Japheth set to work, and helped Noah to build the boat just as God had said. It took a very long time, but finally it was ready.

**CHORUS:** Then it began to rain.

*[Flash card 'RAIN DROPS']*

**NARRATOR:** Noah, with his sons and his wife and his son's wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. They took with them two pairs of every wild animal, every domestic animal, every insect, every reptile and every bird. Then God shut the door.

**CHORUS:** It rained harder and harder!

*[Flash card 'RAIN DOWNPOUR']*

**NARRATOR:** It rained harder than anyone had ever seen it rain before. It rained so hard that the streams, the rivers and the sea all burst their banks, and the earth began to flood.

**CHORUS:** It rained for 40 days and 40 nights!

*[Flash card 'WAVES']*

Soon every sandy beach, every rocky path, every field, every tree, and even the highest mountains had disappeared beneath the water.

The ark began to float. It floated above the houses. It floated above the trees. It floated above the hills and then above the mountains too.

**CHORUS:** After 40 days and 40 nights the rain stopped!

**NARRATOR:** The rain stopped, but the ark went on floating for days and weeks and months. Finally, the waters began to go down and it came to rest among the tops of the mountains of Ararat. Noah opened a window to look out.

**NOAH:** Look! The water is going down. I can see the tops of the mountains!

**NARRATOR:** Noah waited until the earth looked dry and then he sent out a dove.

*[Noah gives dove to props person who goes around the hall and comes back.]*

**NOAH:** Look! The dove has come back because she has not found anywhere to settle. I must take her back into the ark.

**NARRATOR:** Noah waited another 7 days, then he sent the dove out again. In the evening she came back.

**NOAH:** Look! The dove is carrying a fresh olive leaf. Now we know that the waters are really going down!

**NARRATOR:** Noah waited another 7 days, then he sent the dove out again.

*[Props person takes dove from Noah and goes around the hall and behind the curtain.]*

**NARRATOR:** This time the dove found somewhere to build her nest, so she did not return. After nearly a whole year of being in the ark the earth had dried out completely and God said to Noah:

**GOD:** Noah, go out from ark, all of you, your family and all the animals and birds. The world is dry. The world is clean. Let everything be fruitful and have babies and fill the earth full again.

**NARRATOR:** Noah and his family gave thanks to God for saving them from the flood. But God had something else to say to them:

**GOD:** Noah, I have decided that I will never again destroy the earth with a flood. I have put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of my promise.

**CHORUS: God has put his rainbow in the sky:**

**RED**

**ORANGE**

**YELLOW**

**GREEN**

**BLUE**

**INDIGO**

**VIOLET**

**God will never again destroy the earth with a flood!**