

**‘ACTING THE BIBLE’**

**at**

**Beckley School**

**SAUL ON THE ROAD TO  
DAMASCUS**

**(Acts 9:1-19, 22:6-16,  
26:12-18)**

**24 June 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

## Saul meets Jesus on the road to Damascus

Acts 9 v1-22

ANANIAS/NARRATOR; SAUL; SAUL'S FRIEND; HIGH PRIEST; GOD;  
CHORUS

**ANANIAS:** *(walk in from hall door, and speak directly to the children from beside the Chorus).*

My name is Ananias, and I live in Damascus. I heard the good news about Jesus from Peter and the other apostles in Jerusalem, and I believe that Jesus is the Messiah, sent by God. But some people in Jerusalem think this is a wicked lie and they want to destroy all the followers of Jesus.

There is a man called Saul of Tarsus, who has been going from house to house, dragging people out and throwing them into prison. Many of us left Jerusalem and some of us fled 200 miles to Damascus, because it is too dangerous to stay.

*(ANANIAS stay in position during the next scene).*

**CHORUS:** Saul really hated Jesus!

*SAUL and FRIEND walk on slowly from behind curtain. HIGH PRIEST walk on very slowly from hall door).*

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** Saul, I have just heard that Stephen, one of those followers of Jesus, has been stoned to death. Were you there?

**SAUL:** Yes, I was there. Stephen deserved to die. Did you not hear his wicked lie, that this Jesus man was the Messiah sent by God? I have already caught some of Stephen's friends and put them in prison, but now I want to go after the ones who have run away. Let's hurry, I need to get permission to go to Damascus and seek them out.

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** I'll come with you to Damascus. There is the High Priest, why don't you ask him now?

**SAUL:** Sir, my name is Saul. I have arrested many followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, but some of them have fled to Damascus. I need permission to go after them and bring them back to Jerusalem.

**HIGH PRIEST:** Saul, you have done well! Here are the documents you need.

**SAUL:** Thank you. I will start off for Damascus straight away. It's a long way, and there is no time to be lost! We must find every one of those followers of Jesus, men and women! We will bind them in chains and bring them back here for trial.

*(HIGH PRIEST walk back towards hall door. SAUL and SAUL'S FRIEND go behind the curtain).*

**ANANIAS:** All the followers of Jesus here in Damascus are very frightened! Saul and his friends are threatening to arrest us all! Who will protect us?

**CHORUS:** Saul really hated Jesus! But Jesus really loved Saul!

*(SAUL and FRIEND come out from behind the curtain).*

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** Look Saul, right over there in the distance I can see Damascus. *(pause)*

*(SAUL gasp loudly, cover his eyes, and prostrate himself - no narrated explanation, all to be shown in the acting).*

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** Saul! Saul? What are you doing? Whatever is wrong? Are you hurt? *(pause)*

**GOD:** *(from the corner by the climbing rail)* Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?

**SAUL:** Who ARE you, Lord?

**GOD:** I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Don't you realise that you are hurting yourself when you hurt me? Now get up, and go into the city where you will be told what you must do.

*(SAUL get up slowly with hands over eyes, then stretch them out).*

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** Saul, what is the matter? Let me help you! I heard a voice, but I saw nothing. Did you see who was speaking to you?

**SAUL:** I saw a really bright light flashing down from the sky. It was all around me but now it's gone, and everything is completely black. I am blind!

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** Don't worry, we will take you to Damascus.

**SAUL:** But I'm blind. I can't see anything at all!

**CHORUS:** Saul really hated Jesus! But Jesus really loved Saul!

*(SAUL and FRIEND walk off slowly, with FRIEND guiding, then come back in and FRIEND helps SAUL to sit down at the curtain end).*

**ANANIAS:** *(from the opposite end of the stage)* Saul is in Damascus! I heard that something happened to him on the way, and he hasn't eaten or drunk anything for three whole days, but I am still very afraid. I pray that God will help and protect us.

**CHORUS:** Saul really hated Jesus! But Jesus really loved Saul!

**GOD:** Ananias?

**ANANIAS:** Lord, I am here! Only you can help us now.

**GOD:** Get up, Ananias, and go to Straight Street, to Judas's house. There you will find a man praying. It is Saul of Tarsus, and I have told him that you, Ananias, will be coming to lay hands on him to bring back his sight.

**ANANIAS:** Saul of Tarsus! I have heard dreadful things about that man, how he has persecuted all the believers in Jerusalem. And he has come here to do the same to us here in Damascus.

**GOD:** Go, and do what I say, for I have chosen this man to carry my name, to foreigners, to kings and to fellow Hebrews. And in doing so he will suffer for my sake.

*(ANANIAS walk towards curtain, where SAUL is sitting with his FRIEND standing by).*

**SAUL'S FRIEND:** Greetings Ananias, God told us you were coming.

**ANANIAS:** Saul, the lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me to you so that you can regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. *(Bow head, lay hands on SAUL, say silent prayer).*

**SAUL:** My eyes! I can see again. Only God could have done this. Now I truly believe that Jesus is the son of God. I want to be baptised!

*(FRIEND wrap arms around both SAUL and ANANIAS. SAUL and FRIEND walk to behind curtain but ANANIAS remains.)*

**CHORUS:** Saul really loves Jesus! And Jesus really loves Saul!

**ANANIAS:** What a transformation! .Almost immediately, Saul was out in the synagogues teaching that Jesus is the son of God. Everyone was amazed because they knew that he had come to Damascus specially to hunt down all the followers of Jesus and bring them in chains back to Jerusalem!

**SAUL:** *(step out from behind curtain over by wall)* Fellow Jews, listen to me, for I have good news to tell you. Jesus himself, HE IS the SON OF GOD!