

**‘ACTING THE BIBLE’**

**at**

**Beckley School**

**The Unexpected Guest**

**(Luke 11 v1-13)**

**17 July 2025**

**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 JULY 2025

### The Unexpected Guest Luke 11 v1-13

**Cast:** Narrator; Jesus; Disciples 1, 2, 3, 4 (pupils); Father; Mother (pupil); Children x 3 (pupils); Neighbour; Chorus

*(JESUS stand by curtain side with hands together in prayer. DISCIPLES walk in from the hall door side and stand by the Chorus bench)*

**NARRATOR:** Today's story is based on another parable that Jesus told his disciples when he was travelling round the country with them, healing and teaching. One day, as Jesus was praying quietly by himself, his disciples were having a discussion among themselves.

**DISCIPLE 1:** *(to the other disciples)* Jesus spends a long time praying, doesn't he.

**DISCIPLE 2:** Yes, he does. I think he has just finished.

**DISCIPLE 3:** John the Baptist taught his followers how to pray.

**DISCIPLE 4:** Why don't we ask Jesus to show us how to do it?

**ALL DISCIPLES:** *(to Jesus)* **Jesus, please teach us how to pray.**

**JESUS:** When you pray, say this:

Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread ... *(pause)*

**DISCIPLE 1:** Jesus, is it all right to ask our Father in Heaven to give us things, like clothes and food?

**JESUS:** Listen, my friends, and I will tell you a story. It is about a family who were settling down to sleep one night.

*(DISCIPLES sit on the Chorus bench. MOTHER and FATHER walk in and spread shawls and cushions on the floor)*

**MOTHER:** *(call)* Miriam! Bedtime! *(CHILD 1 walk on and lie down)*

**FATHER:** *(call)* Daniel! Bedtime! *(CHILD 2 walk on and lie down)*

**MOTHER:** *(call)* Sarah! Bedtime! *(CHILD 3 walk on and lie down)*

**FATHER:** *(mime locking the door of the house)* I've locked the door! Settle down, now everyone. It's time for us all to go to sleep.

*(MOTHER and FATHER lie down on either side of the children.)*

*(Long pause – very loud knocking – all sit up looking alarmed)*

**NEIGHBOUR:** *(call from behind the Chorus)* Friend, I need to borrow three loaves of bread! A friend of mine who is on a journey has just come to my house.

**MOTHER:** *(whisper to FATHER)* Who is that?

**FATHER:** *(whisper to MOTHER)* It sounds like our neighbour! *(call out grumpily to NEIGHBOUR)* Go away! Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed.

*(All lie down again and fall asleep - long pause – very loud knocking – all sit up)*

**NEIGHBOUR:** *(call from behind the Chorus Friend, I need to borrow three loaves of bread! A friend of mine who is on a journey has just come to my house and I haven't got any food for him.*

**FATHER:** *(firmly) Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything now.*

*(All lie down again and fall asleep - long pause – very loud knocking – all sit up)*

**NEIGHBOUR:** *(call from behind the Chorus) Friend, I need to borrow three loaves of bread! A friend of mine who is on a journey has just come to my house and I haven't got any food for him.*

**FATHER:** *(firmly) My children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything now, even though you are my friend. (All except the Father lie down again - short pause – speaks to himself) My neighbour really does need that bread and he was confident that I would give it to him. I will get up and help him after all. (calls ) Neighbour, come in, I will give you the bread you need. (NEIGHBOUR walks across to him and FATHER mimes unlocking the door and giving him the bread).*

**JESUS:** This is what the story means: ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.

**DISCIPLE 2:** So, God, our heavenly Father, hears us when we call to him.

**JESUS:** Yes! Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to everyone who knocks on it.

**DISCIPLE 3:** Does it really work like that?

**JESUS:** If you asked your father for bread, would he give you a stone instead?

**DISCIPLE 4:** No, of course not!

**JESUS:** Exactly! Even ordinary fathers know how to give their children good things. How much more will our heavenly Father give to those who ask him!

**DISCIPLE 1:** Thank you for showing us how to pray to our heavenly Father. Now let's all say the prayer that you taught us.

**DISCIPLES + CHORUS LEAD THE WHOLE SCHOOL IN SAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Betty to bring the big paper copy to hold up)*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**