

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

**Ten Lepers
(Luke 17 v10-19)**

16 October 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 OCTOBER 2025

HEALINGS:THE 10 LEPERS Luke 17 v10-19

Cast: Narrator; Jesus; 3 Disciples (pupils); Leper 1, 2, 3 (pupils); 6 other lepers (pupils + 1 adult); Chorus

(LEPERS stand by hall door, JESUS behind the chorus with 3 disciples.)

NARRATOR: Today's story is about some people who had a terrible disease called leprosy. Leprosy is very infectious. It makes the skin look pale or discoloured, and changes it so that people can't feel heat or cold, or pain or pressure. If they cut or burn themselves, they might not realise it and the wounds can become infected. If it gets really bad, their fingers and toes die away altogether.

CHORUS: Oh no!

NARRATOR: There was no cure for leprosy in the time of Jesus. People with leprosy were called lepers. They had to leave their homes so that no one else in the family could catch the disease from them. They lived in shacks outside the village, begging for food, and if anyone came near them, they had to call out 'Unclean, unclean!' to warn people to stay away.

CHORUS: Look! Here come the lepers now!

(LEPERS walk in slowly from the hall door and stop on the curtain side of the stage area.)

ALL LEPERS: Unclean, unclean!

CHORUS: One, two, three, four, five ...

ALL LEPERS: Unclean, unclean!

CHORUS: Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

ALL LEPERS: Unclean, unclean!

CHORUS: Stay away! We don't want you here!

ALL LEPERS: Unclean, unclean!

(Lepers stand together on the stage, curtain side. JESUS and two disciples walk a little way forward from behind the chorus and stand on stage not too close to the lepers).

LEPER 1: There is Jesus, the healer.

LEPER 2: Maybe he can make us well again.

LEPER 3: Let's go and ask him to heal us.

CHORUS: Stay away! We don't want you here!

ALL LEPERS: Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!

DISCIPLE 1: Jesus, look! I can see 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 lepers.

CHORUS: Stay away! We don't want to catch leprosy!

DISCIPLE 2: Jesus, what will you do? The people are frightened.

ALL LEPERS: Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us and heal us!

JESUS: The lepers believe that they will be healed, and so they will.

CHORUS: Stay away! We don't want you here!

ALL LEPERS: Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us and heal us!

DISCIPLE 3: Jesus, will you really heal them all?

(JESUS walks closer to the LEPERS and speaks to them)

JESUS: I will indeed have mercy on you, here and now.

I say to you, go and show yourselves to the priest. He will tell you that you are healed.

NARRATOR: In those days, it was not a doctor who pronounced that a leper was cured of his disease. Instead, a priest had to examine him and say he was cured.

(LEPERS walk back towards the hall door and speak from there)

LEPER 1: My skin is like new!

LEPER 2: I can feel my fingers and toes again!

ALL LEPERS: We are healed!

(LEPER 3 breaks away from the others and runs back to JESUS and falls on knees before him)

LEPER 3: Jesus! Master! I am cured. My leprosy has all gone away. Praise the Lord!

JESUS: Were not ten of you cured?

CHORUS: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
Jesus healed them all!

LEPER 3: Yes, we were all cured.

JESUS: Where are the other nine? Are you the only one who has come back to say thank you to God?

LEPER 3: Yes, I am the only one who has come back.

JESUS: You, who are a foreigner, are the only one who has come back to praise God. Now get up and go home. Your faith has made you well.