

‘ACTING THE BIBLE’

at

Beckley School

**The Rich Man and his Barns
(Luke 12 v13-33)**

19 June 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 JUNE 2025

THE RICH MAN AND HIS BARNS Luke 12 v13-33

Cast: Narrator; Jesus; Boy (pupil); Girl (pupil); Man in Crowd (pupil);
Disciples 1, 2, 3, 4 (pupils); Rich Farmer; God; Chorus

(JESUS sit curtain side, surrounded by DISCIPLES)

NARRATOR: Jesus was such a popular teacher that crowds of people followed him wherever he went. He often told stories to illustrate a point more clearly and he would explain the meaning of the stories to the disciples after the crowds had finally gone home.

(BOY and GIRL walk on from chorus side)

BOY: Come on, sister, let's go and hear what that storyteller Jesus has to say today.

GIRL: Oh no, he will send us away. We are only children!

BOY: No, he won't. He said he wanted us to come and listen to him.

GIRL: Listen! Someone is asking Jesus a question.

(JESUS stand up. MAN in CROWD stand up in the Chorus. BOY and GIRL sit down in the Chorus)

MAN in CROWD: Teacher, please can you help me.

JESUS: What would you like me to do for you?

MAN in CROWD: Please tell my brother to give me a fair share of our dead father's possessions!

JESUS: You are asking the wrong person, my friend. I am not a legal judge, or someone who sorts out quarrels.

(MAN in CROWD sit down).

JESUS: Listen now, everyone! You must be on your guard against every kind of greed.

DISCIPLE 1: I don't understand. Was that man really being greedy?

JESUS: A person's true life isn't about the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be.

DISCIPLE 2: I still don't really understand.

JESUS: I will tell you a parable, a story that will help to explain what I mean. There was once a rich farmer ...

(RICH FARMER walk confidently out from behind the Chorus to the middle of the stage)

RICH FARMER: It has been such a good harvest this year, all my crops have produced tons and tons of grain. There is so much, that I don't have room for it all in my barn. *(speaks to CHORUS)* What can I do?

CHORUS: You could sell your extra grain.

RICH FARMER: No! That would be too much trouble, and I bet I wouldn't get as much as it was worth.

CHORUS: You could give your extra grain to the poor.

RICH FARMER: No! Why should I give my grain away for nothing? I worked hard to get where I am. I know! I will pull down my barn and I will build a larger one.

CHORUS: Are you sure? Isn't that a bit greedy?

RICH FARMER: *(getting carried away)* Why build just one barn? I will build lots of barns! Then I can put all my grain in them, and I will have room for all my other things as well.

CHORUS: But what about the poor and the hungry?

RICH FARMER: If I build lots of really large barns, I will be able to store everything I need for years to come.

CHORUS: But isn't that a bit mean?

RICH FARMER: I'll say to myself "Self, you have done well! You've got it made and now you can retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!"

NARRATOR: The Rich Farmer was very pleased with himself. But God had been listening to him, and God was not pleased. That night God spoke to him.

GOD: *(from behind the Chorus)* You foolish, foolish man! This very night you will die. Now who will get all those things that you have stored up for yourself? *(RICH FARMER collapse onto the floor)*. That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.

DISCIPLE 1: The Rich Farmer didn't care about anyone except himself.

DISCIPLE 2: Now I understand why we shouldn't be greedy.

DISCIPLE 3: Jesus is kind and caring. We should try to be like him.

DISCIPLE 4: Jesus, please can you explain what you were saying about a person's true life?

JESUS: What I am trying to tell you is that you do not need to be worrying about things all the time. Don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or worry about whether your clothes are in fashion. There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, and more to your outer appearance than the clothes that hang on your body.

DISCIPLE 3: But surely we need to consider what we eat and what we wear?

JESUS: The birds find the food they need without getting all worried. The flowers wear lovely clothes without thinking about it. God looks after them, so you can trust him to look after you.

DISCIPLE 4: You mean, if we concentrate on stuff and things we are ignoring God.

BOY: (*BOY and GIRL stand up and walk forward*) I'm so glad we heard that story! I suppose what you spend your time and your money on shows what you care most about.

GIRL: Jesus spends all his time with ordinary people like us, so that must be what he really cares about.