

‘ACTING THE BIBLE’
at
Beckley School

Mary and Martha
(Luke 10 v38-42)

3 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

MARY AND MARTHA Luke 10 v38-42

Cast: Narrator; Jesus; Martha; Mary (pupil); Disciples 1, 2, 3, 4 (pupils); Chorus

(JESUS and the DISCIPLES walk in from the Hall Door side and stand beside the Chorus)

DISCIPLE 1: Look! I think I can see the village of Bethany, over there on the hill.

DISCIPLE 2: Bethany is where Lazarus lives.

DISCIPLE 3: Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary!

DISCIPLE 4: Martha is a really great hostess! I hope she has everything ready for our visit.

NARRATOR: Jesus spent so much time travelling around the country, healing and teaching, that he had no time to carry on with his career, or to get married and have a family, or even to get his own house. Tonight, Jesus and his followers would be staying at the house of his friend Lazarus, who lived with his sisters, Martha and Mary. Now Martha was really busy getting everything ready.

(MARTHA, arms full of fabric, run across the stage from curtain to hall door side.)

MARTHA: Busy, busy, busy! I must get the beds ready for Jesus and his disciples!

CHORUS: Busy, busy, busy!

(MARTHA, carrying a large saucepan, run across the stage from the opposite direction.)

MARTHA: Busy, busy, busy! I must get the bread started ready for Jesus and his disciples!

CHORUS: Busy, busy, busy!

NARRATOR: Jesus and his disciples had almost reached Bethany and were still talking excitedly among themselves. The disciples were really interested in what Jesus was telling them about being real followers of his teaching.

JESUS: When you enter a town and are made welcome, eat what is set before you, heal anyone who is the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near you.'

DISCIPLE 1: What if we are not made welcome?

JESUS: If you are not made welcome, say to the people, 'We wipe the dust of your town off our feet as we leave but, remember, the Kingdom of God has come near you.'

DISCIPLE 2: Then what should we do?

JESUS: Do not judge them and God will not judge you.

DISCIPLE 3: Do you mean we should just walk away?

JESUS: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Forgive others and God will forgive you.

DISCIPLE 4: Do we really have to forgive our enemies? That's such a hard thing to do!

JESUS: I didn't say it would be easy to follow me. If you do good only to those who do good to you, you are just the same as everyone else. Even bad people do that! A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart.

NARRATOR: Finally, Jesus and his disciples arrived at the house in Bethany where Lazarus, Martha and Mary lived.

(MARTHA, carrying a mop, run across the stage from the curtain to hall door side.)

MARTHA: Busy, busy, busy! Oh no, our guests are early! Do I have time to wash the floor?

CHORUS: Busy, busy, busy!

MARY: *(walk forward from the Chorus)* Jesus, welcome to our house. Your followers must rest *(Disciples go to sit in the Chorus)* but I want you to come and talk to me.

JESUS: Mary, how happy are those who hear the word of God and obey it!

(MARTHA, carrying a large flagon of wine, run across the stage from the opposite direction.)

MARTHA: Busy, busy, busy! Do we have enough wine for Jesus and his disciples?

CHORUS: Busy, busy, busy!

MARY: Jesus, I always want to listen to you.

JESUS: Mary, I am the good shepherd. I will protect you as the shepherd looks after his sheep.

(MARTHA, carrying a broom, run across the stage from the curtain to hall door side.)

MARTHA: Busy, busy, busy! I need to sweep the front room!

CHORUS: Busy, busy, busy!

JESUS: Mary, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.

MARY: I understand. You mean it is you who will keep me safe from all dangers.

(MARTHA, walk in with the broom and stand in front of JESUS.)

MARTHA: Jesus!

JESUS: Yes, Martha, my dear friend, what can I do for you?

MARTHA: Do you not care that I am rushed off my feet? Look at my sister Mary, just sitting there! She has left me to do all the work by myself. Speak to her and get her to come and help me.

JESUS: Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled over so many things, but only one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.

Come now, put down your broom and listen to what I have to say to you.

CHORUS: Will she? Will Martha choose to listen?