# 'ACTING THE BIBLE'
# at
# Beckley School

# In the beginning
# (Genesis 1)

# 5 September 2024

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  SEPTEMBER 2024**
**IN THE BEGINNING  GENESIS 1**

CAST: NARRATOR, GOD, CHORUS LEADER 1, CHORUS LEADER 2

Dress really well, colourful posh gear.

*GOD behind the children (i.e. by the kitchen door?)  NARRATOR centre stage, CHORUS with LEADERS either side of the stage.*

*Betty's intro: 'This story about the creation of the world comes right at the beginning of the Bible.  The Bible is not a science textbook, it is not just a history book, it is not a just a poetry or story book.  It is a book describing how God and human beings get on together.'*

**NARRATOR**: In the beginning the earth was shapeless and empty.  [If you close your eyes for a minute and keep perfectly still, you can picture it.] *(pause)* There was no land, just endless water everywhere. Everything was dark and silent. *(pause)* Then God said:

**GOD**: Let there be light!

**NARRATOR**: Now light shone out in the darkness, bright and full of hope!  [you can open your eyes now!] God saw that the light was good, and he separated it from the darkness.

**CHORUS 1: God called the light <u>DAY</u> and he called the darkness <u>NIGHT</u>.**

**CHORUS 2: And there was evening and there was morning, the <u>FIRST</u> day.**

**NARRATOR**: Then God said:

**GOD**: Let there be a massive rounded arch to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places!

**NARRATOR**: So God made a dome and separated the waters under it from the waters above it.

**CHORUS 1: God called it  SKY.**

**CHORUS 2: And there was evening and there was morning, the SECOND day.**

**NARRATOR**: Then God said:

**GOD**: Let all the water under the sky flow together into one place, so that land will appear!

**CHORUS 1: God called the dry land EARTH and he called the water SEA.**

**NARRATOR**: God saw that it was good.  But the world was still empty and quiet.  So he said:

**GOD**: Let the earth produce all kinds of green plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit!

**NARRATOR**: The first green things began to grow.  Soon there were grasses and flowers and trees and good things to eat.

**CHORUS 1: God saw that it was good.**

**CHORUS 2: And there was evening and there was morning, the THIRD day.**

**NARRATOR**: Then God said:

**GOD**: Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night!

**NARRATOR**: God made two great lights and placed them in the sky - the Sun to shine by day and the Moon to shine by night to rule the days, the months and the years .  He also made the stars.

**CHORUS 1: God saw that it was good.**

**CHORUS 2: And there was evening and there was morning, the FOURTH day.**

**NARRATOR**: God was pleased with his world.  But it was still empty and quiet.  So he said:

**GOD**: Let the waters be filled with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the open skies.

**NARRATOR**: So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that swims and moves through the water, and every kind of bird that flies through the air.

**CHORUS 1: God saw that it was good.**

**CHORUS 2: And there was evening and there was morning, the FIFTH day.**

**NARRATOR**: And God said:

**GOD**: Let the earth be filled with living creatures: cattle and creeping things and wild animals!

**NARRATOR**: So God made every type of animal, all species of living creatures, cattle and reptiles and insects and wild beasts of every kind.  But still he had not finished.  His beautiful new world needed people to look after it and enjoy it.  So God said:

**GOD**: I shall make human beings in my image, in my own likeness.  Let them rule the fish, and the birds, and the animals and the insects and be responsible for the whole earth!

**NARRATOR**: So God made the first man and the first woman, to look after the world and one another.  The man was called Adam and the woman was called Eve.  God blessed them and said:

**GOD**: Fill the earth with your children, your descendants and look after everything I have created!

**CHORUS 1: God saw everything that he had made, and it was VERY good.**

**CHORUS 2: And there was evening and there was morning, the <u>SIXTH</u> day.**

**NARRATOR**: Now the heavens and the earth were finished, so on the seventh day God rested.  He blessed the seventh day, because it was the special day of his rest.