

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

**PENTECOST  
(Acts 2:1-41)**

**2 May 2024**

**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!

*This is an impressionistic interpretation of the event based on Acts 2, v1-14 and bits of 15-36 and 37-39. It is mostly action and a lot of movement. Concentrate on what is HAPPENING as much as the words so you can visualize what is taking place.*

*Divide the children into 4 groups by two crossed pathways, facing each other across the long path (parallel to the windows). Rehearse: Wind, Flames, Speak God's Words, Hear God's Words.*

**Cast** LUKE; GROUP 1 (Wind & Flames); GROUP 2 (Speak God's Words); GROUP 3 (Hear God's Words); GROUP 4: (They are drunk!); EXTRA PUPILS, representing the different languages; PETER.

**LUKE:** My dear friend, Theophilus, you will remember that I wrote in my book 'The Acts of the Apostles' about the ASCENSION of Jesus. Before he was taken up into heaven, he told the apostles that they must stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come to them with power. Obediently they waited.

**JULIA:** *(in front of **GROUP 1**)* After Jesus was taken up to heaven all of us, Peter, James, John and the rest of the believers, stayed in Jerusalem. We were all together in the same room praying when we heard **(CHILDREN join in) Whoooooosh!**

It was a wind roaring through the building over and around us! Then, over each person's head, there seemed to be dancing flames! **(Make the actions, CHILDREN join in).**

**DAWN:** *(in front of **GROUP 2**)* When the wind and flames had passed, we suddenly wanted to tell everyone the good news about Jesus! We rushed outside and started to speak the words that the Holy Spirit

gave us. (**CHILDREN**, hands round their mouths, say over and over again **“We speak God’s words, speak God’s words, speak God’s words.”**)

**GINA:** (in front of **GROUP 3**) All the people in Jerusalem had come from different countries and spoke different languages, but, by the power of the Holy Spirit, they heard what was being said in their own language! (**CHILDREN**, hands cupped to their ears, say over and over again **“I hear God’s words, hear God’s words, hear God’s words.”**)

**LUKE:** I wrote it all down! It was absolutely fantastic! First the roaring wind, then the leaping dancing flames, then the apostles running outside and declaring the good news about Jesus dying, rising from the dead and being taken up into heaven! Each person in the crowd heard God’s words in their own language.

*JULIA, GINA, BETTY and the extra children quickly walk to the window wall and then walk slowly to form a row, saying in turn:*

**GINA:** I am a Parthian.

**PUPIL 1:** I am an Elamite.

**JULIA:** I am from Pamphylia.

**PUPIL 2:** I am from Egypt.

**PUPIL 3:** I am from Rome.

**PUPIL 4:** I am from Asia.

**PUPIL 5:** I am from Judea.

**PUPIL 6:** I am from Libya.

**PUPIL 7:** I am from Crete.

**ALL TOGETHER: We all hear God's words in our own language.**

**What is happening?**

**LUKE:** But some people in the crowd were not listening.

**BETTY:** (in front of **Group 4**) These men have all been drinking!

**(CHILDREN, say over and over "They are drunk, they are drunk, they are drunk.")**

**LUKE:** There was much confusion because the apostles were ordinary men who came from Galilee. They did not know all these different languages, but almost everyone in the crowd heard them speaking God's words in their own mother tongue.

**GINA:** Look here is Peter, perhaps he can explain what is happening.

*(Peter comes out and addresses the children.)*

**PETER:** People of Jerusalem, I am Simon Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. These men are not drunk, but they are speaking God's words with the help of the Holy Spirit, so that you can understand them.

Listen, it is like this. Jesus of Nazareth, the son of God, lived and worked among us doing great miracles, but he was arrested and crucified. He was put to death on the cross, but on the third day he rose from the dead and was seen alive by many of us before he was called back to be with his Father at home in Heaven. He promised that he would send his Holy Spirit to be with each one of us and that is what has happened today. This Jesus whom you crucified, is both Lord and Christ and is with us now.

**GINA:** Peter is telling us that we have done something really bad. But what can we do about it?

**JULIA, GINA, BETTY, and PUPILS (to Peter, in turn). What must I do?**

**PETER:** Repent of all your wrong doings and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that you can be forgiven. Then you will also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**LUKE:** Everyone who understood what Peter said came forward to be baptized. About 3,000 people came to believe in Jesus and joined the church that day! So, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the good news about Jesus began to spread around the world.