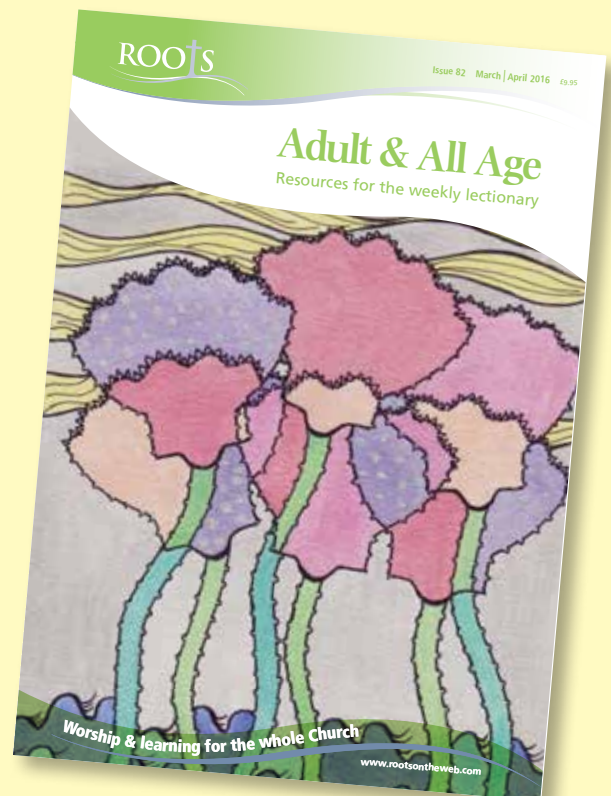


FREE sample materials

Resources for the weekly lectionary

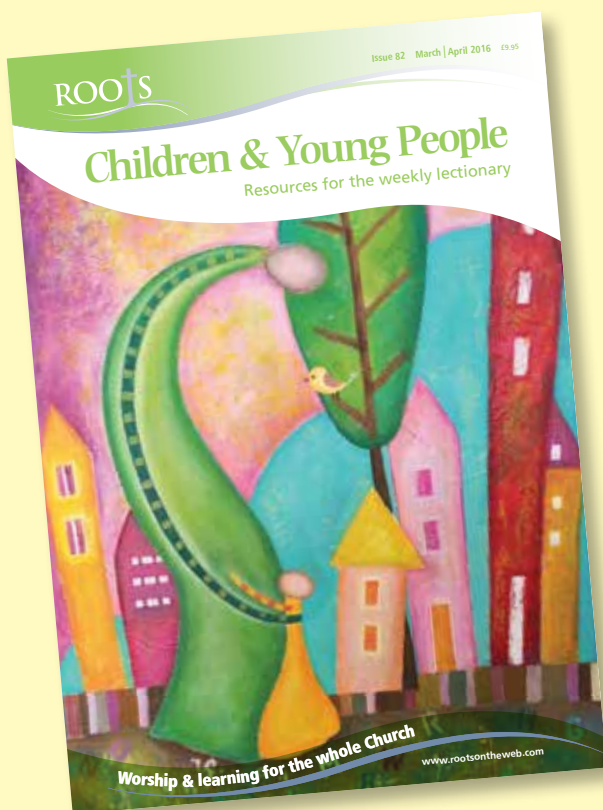
Adult & All Age

Inspiring ideas for adult, all-age
and family worship



Children & Young People

Flexible, engaging materials
for toddlers to teens



Free inside

All ROOTS resources for one
whole week: **24-30 April 2016**

www.rootsontheweb.com

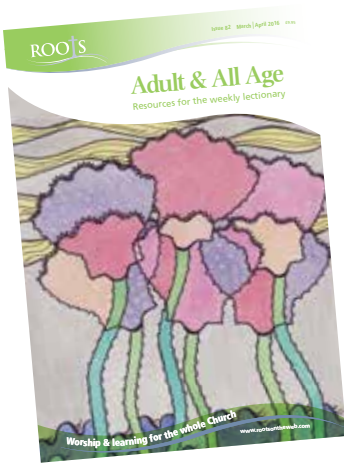


What is ROOTS?



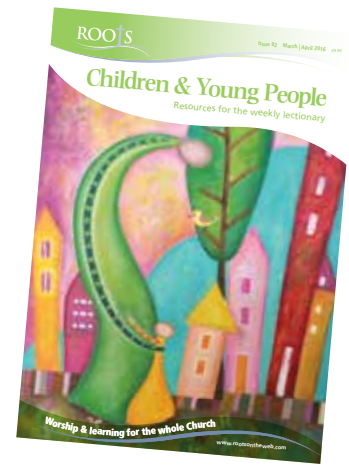
Fresh ideas and brand new materials... ...for every week of the year

ROOTS offers you lectionary-based resources for every single week of the year. The resources are published in two subscription magazines with a supporting website.



Adult & All Age

Enriching adult, family and all-age worship



Children & Young People

Inspiring ideas and resources to use with 3-16-year-olds

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You can subscribe to **Adult & All Age**, **Children & Young People**, or to both sets of resources.

Either option gives you access to a wealth of additional weekly and seasonal resources on our website.

ROOTS and the lectionary

Each week, both ROOTS **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People** explore the same passage from the *Revised Common Lectionary*. Where *Common Worship* differs, we provide materials online.

Helping everyone get to know the Bible better

The lectionary helps to tell the 'big story' of the Bible. ROOTS resources enable us to hear this big story in our present generation – as a source of wisdom and insight in our lives today.

In so doing, we support you in equipping everyone to feel confident in joining the conversation about the Scriptures – a conversation that has been going on since they were written.

The ROOTS ecumenical partnership

Bringing together Churches and other Christian organisations since 2002

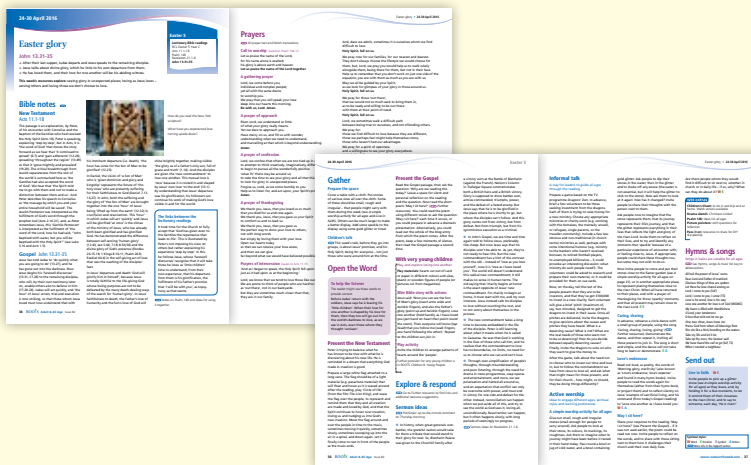


What's in ROOTS each week?

Adult & All Age

4 pages to enrich your worship each week

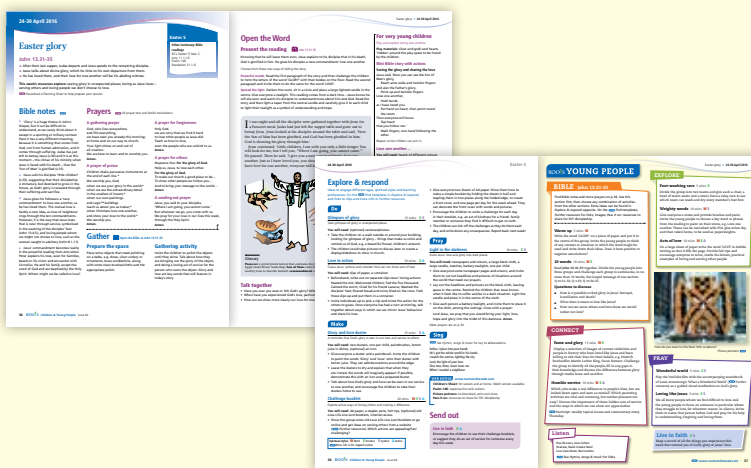
- Bible notes
- Ideas for **gathering** at the start of worship
- Prayers
- Ways to present the reading
- Sermon ideas
- An **all-age informal talk**
- **Hymns and songs** related to the readings
- Ideas for **activities and participation** during worship



Children & Young People

4 pages of fresh ideas, inspiration and resources each week

- Bible notes
- **Gather** materials to help children settle
- Prayers
- A choice of **engaging ways to tell the Bible story**
- A **retelling of the Bible story** that stays as close as possible to the Bible text
- **Explore & respond** activities: Do, Make, Pray, Sing
- A section of flexible ideas for **Young People**

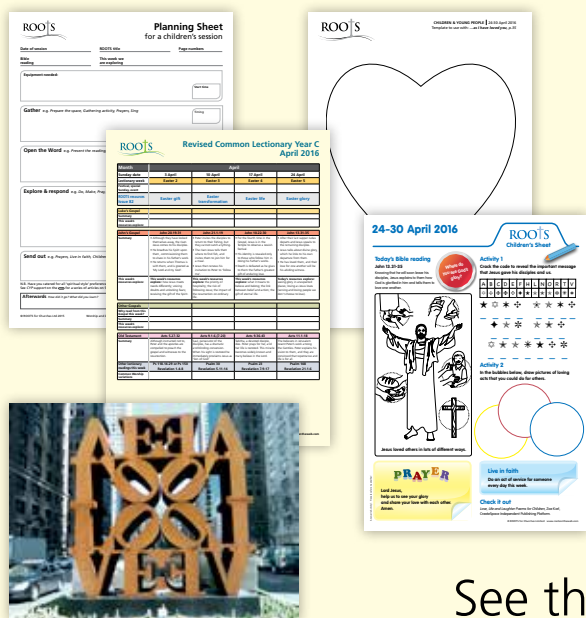


Online support

Extensive resources to support the weekly magazine materials

- **Support for your planning**
- **Materials to complement the magazines each week**, such as drama scripts, images, templates and Children's Sheets
- **PostScript** – up-to-the-minute comment on news events, including discussion points for young people
- **ROOTS online resources bank** – easily-searchable resources from the past 13 years of ROOTS
- **Seasonal material** to help you celebrate special events throughout the year

www.rootsontheweb.com



See the resources for **24-30 April 2016**

Easter glory

John 13.31-35

- After their last supper, Judas departs and Jesus speaks to the remaining disciples.
- Jesus talks about divine glory, which he links to his own departure from them.
- He has loved them, and their love for one another will be his abiding witness.

This week's resources explore: seeing glory in unexpected places; loving as Jesus loves – serving others and loving those we don't choose to love.

Bible notes

WEB

New Testament

Acts 11.1-18

This passage is an explanation, by Peter, of his encounter with Cornelius and the baptism of the Gentiles who had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10). Peter is speaking, explaining 'step by step', but in Acts, it is 'the word of God' that moves the story forward as we hear that 'it continued to spread' (6.7) and 'gain adherents' (12.24), spreading 'throughout the region' (13.49) so that it 'grew mightily and prevailed' (19.20). The critical breakthrough from Jewish separateness from the rest of the world is summarised here as 'the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God'. We hear that 'the Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us'. And Peter describes his speech to Cornelius as 'the message by which you and your entire household will be saved'. The Jewish Pentecost was interpreted as the fulfilment of God's word through the prophet Joel (Acts 2.14-21), and, as Peter remembers Jesus, this 'Gentile Pentecost' is interpreted as the fulfilment of 'the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit"' (see Luke 3.16 and Acts 1.5).

Gospel John 13.31-35

Jesus has told Judas to 'do quickly what you are going to do' (13.27), and he has gone out into the darkness. Now Jesus begins his 'farewell discourses' (13.31-17.26) to the remaining disciples, who will, by their own testimony later on, enable others also to believe in him (17.20-24). Judas will act quickly, and 'the hour' of Jesus' arrest, trial and execution is now striking, so that those whom Jesus loved must now understand that with

The direction of the resources is the same in both magazines, so everyone can explore the passage as a community – even when they're in their own groups.

Easter 5

Lectionary Bible readings

RCL Easter 5 Year C
Acts 11.1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21.1-6
John 13.31-35

Each week we offer a thought-provoking image, plus related questions online to stimulate reflection and discussion.



How do you read this New York sculpture?

When have you experienced love turning upside down?

his imminent departure (i.e. death), 'the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified' (12.23).

In Daniel, the vision of 'a Son of Man' who is 'given dominion and glory and kingship' represents the future of 'the holy ones' who are presently suffering for their faithfulness to God (Daniel 7.13-14,27). In John, both the suffering and the glory of 'the Son of Man' are brought together into the one 'hour' of Jesus'

shine brightly together, making visible 'the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth' (1.14). And the disciples are given the 'new commandment' to love one another. This mutual love is 'new' because it is rooted in and shaped by Jesus' own love 'to the end' (13.1). By understanding that Jesus' departure was his glorification, his followers can continue his work of making God's love visible in and for the world.

Bible notes, written by a biblical scholar, focus on two of the week's lectionary readings. This section shows, for example, how the New Testament passage sheds light on the Gospel.

(12.43, see 5.44; 7.18; 8.50,54) and the divine glory of God's presence (Exodus 24.15-18; 1 Kings 8.10-11; Psalm 26.8; Ezekiel 44.4) in the self-giving act of love that was the washing of the disciples' feet.

In Jesus' departure and death 'God will glorify him in himself', because Jesus

Ways of using today's psalm, including background notes and actions to accompany a response line, so that everyone can be involved.

The links between the lectionary readings

It took time for the Church to fully accept that 'God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life'. This is illustrated by Peter's not imposing his view on others but rather explaining his experience 'step by step'. In this he follows Jesus, whose 'farewell discourses' recognise that it will take those he loves as 'little children' time to understand, from their own experience, that his departure from them is his glorification, the fulfilment of his Father's promise that 'I will be with you', as topsy-turvy as that seems.

WEB Notes on Psalm 148 and ideas for using it together.

A variety of prayers for different times within worship. The text of all the prayers is available in both English and Welsh at www.rootsontheweb.com (see page 12).

Prayers

WEB All prayer text and Welsh translations.

Call to worship based on Psalm 148.13

Let us praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

Let us praise the name of the Lord together.

A gathering prayer

Lord, we come before you,
individual and complex people;
yet all with the same desire
to worship you.

We pray that you will speak your love
deep into our hearts this morning.

Be with us, Lord. Amen.

A prayer of approach

Risen Lord, we understand so little
of what your glory really means.

Yet we dare to approach you.

Have mercy on us, and fill us with wonder,
understanding what we need to understand,
and marvelling at that which is beyond understanding.

Amen.

A prayer of confession

Lord, we confess that often we are too tied up in our own lives
to attempt to think creatively, imaginatively, differently;
to begin to pursue all the wonderfully positive
'what ifs' there may be around us;
to take the time to see your glory and all that this means;
to look for glory in unexpected places.

Forgive us, Lord, as we come humbly to you.

Help us to listen for, and act upon, your Spirit's promptings.

Amen.

A prayer of thanksgiving

We thank you, Jesus, that you loved us so much
that you died for us and rose again.

We thank you, Jesus, that you gave us your Spirit
to comfort us and to lead us.

We thank you, Jesus, that you gave us
the perfect way to show your love to others,
not with long words

but simply by loving them with your love.

Open our hearts today

so that we can receive your love anew,

and then we can give

far beyond what we would have believed possible. **Amen.**

Prayers of intercession based on Acts 11.15

'And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them
just as it had upon us at the beginning.'

Lord, we know that we tend to love those like ourselves.

We are prone to think of people who are hard to love
as 'out there', not in our backyards.

But they are sometimes much closer than that,
they are in our family.

And, dare we admit, sometimes it is ourselves whom we find
difficult to love.

Holy Spirit, fall on us.

We pray now for our families, for our nearest and dearest.
They don't always choose the lifestyle we would choose for
them, but, Lord, we pray you would help us to walk wisely
alongside them, being there for them, but not in their face.
Help us to remember that you don't work on just one side of the
equation; you are with them as much as you are with us.

May we all be guided by your Spirit,

as we look for glimpses of your glory in those around us.

Holy Spirit, fall on us.

We pray for those 'out there',
that we would not so much seek to bring them in,
as to be ready and willing to be out there
with them at their point of need.

Holy Spirit, fall on us.

Lord, we sometimes walk a difficult path
between being true to ourselves, and not offending others.

We pray for:

those we find difficult to love because they are different,

those we perhaps feel might help themselves more,

those who haven't had our advantages.

We pray for a spirit of openness

and a willingness to see your glory everywhere.

Holy Spirit, fall on us.

Amen.

A personal prayer

Lord, help me to know when I am not being easy to love,
and help me to do something about it.

Amen.

A way into prayer

Spend some time bringing to mind someone you find it difficult
to love. Resolve to show kindness to them in a specific small way
this week, and pray for mighty oaks to grow from small acorns.

A prayer for all ages together

Lord, sometimes we find it hard to love other people.

Fill us with your love (*mime drinking down a full glass*).

We pray that you will help us to understand them.

Fill us with your love.

And see you in them.

Fill us with your love.

And carry you with us, wherever we go.

Fill us with your love.

Amen.

A sending out prayer based on John 13.35

'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have
love for one another.'

Lord, we go out now,

in your name and in your love.

Bless us, Lord.

Amen.

Supporting you all week

You could use the prayers at
a care home, in school, at a
meeting or you could print/
email some on a weekly
news sheet.

Gather

Prepare the space

Cover a table with a cloth. Put stones of various sizes all over the cloth. Some of these should be small, rough and irregular – that people might carry with them during the week (see *A simple*

Ways of introducing children to the themes explored this week.

Children's talk

WEB This week's talk, before they go into groups, is about Jesus' promises, and his Holy Spirit, being for everyone – not just those who were around him at the time.

Open the Word

To help the listener

The reader might use these words to provide context.

Before Judas' return with the soldiers, Jesus says he is leaving his 'little children'. When their love for one another is shaped by his love for them, then they too will go out into

You can read out these notes before the readings to set the context of the passage for your congregation.

Present the New Testament

Peter is trying to balance what he has known to be true with what he is discovering about his new life. He is reminded in a dream that everything God made in creation is good.

Prepare a large white flag attached to a long cane. The flag should be of a light material (e.g. parachute material) that will float and hover as it is waved around. After the reading, play 'Circle of life' (from the film *The Lion King*), and wave the flag over the people, to represent and remind them that they and all creation are made and loved by God, and that the Spirit continues to hover over creation, loving us and nudging us into God's new creation. Move the flag around and

Every Thursday we add *PostScript* to our website: a comment on events in the news, linked to the coming Sunday's readings.

Present the Gospel

Read the Gospel passage, then ask the question: 'Why are we reading this today?' Leave a space for silent and personal reflection on the reading and the question. Now read the short poem 'May I sit here?' (**WEB** *Further resources*). You could read the poem using different voices to ask the question: 'May I sit here?' each time it occurs, or you could prepare in advance a dramatic presentation. Alternatively, you could read out the whole of the blog entry from which the poem comes. After the poem, keep a few moments of silence, then read the Gospel passage a second time.

With very young children

Play, and explore loving one another.

Play materials: hearts cut out of card or paper in different colours and sizes, plastic or wooden figures of people (or pictures cut from magazines).

Mini Bible story with actions

Jesus said: 'Now you can see the Son of Man's glory (*reach arms wide and twinkle fingers*), and also the Father's glory (*point up and twinkle fingers*). Love one another (*hold hands*), as I have loved you (*put hand on heart then point round the room*). Then everyone will know (*tap head*) that you follow me (*walk fingers, one hand following the other*).' Repeat so the children can join in.

Play activity

Invite the children to arrange patterns of hearts around the 'people'.

Further provision for very young children is in *ROOTS Children & Young People*.

Explore & respond

WEB Go to *Further resources* to find links and additional resource suggestions.

Sermon ideas

WEB *PostScript*: up-to-the-minute comment on Thursday morning.

● In history, when great generals won battles, the grateful nation would raise for them a tribute that would stand to their glory for ever. So, Blenheim Palace was given to the Churchill family after

Fresh ways to help all ages engage with the readings.

both a British hero and a British victory. Glory is supposed to show battles won, armies commanded, triumphs, power, and the defeat of a hated enemy. But Jesus says that he is to be glorified in the place where he is shortly to go, but where the disciples can't follow. And this glory comes not from victory, but from defeat. Not from triumph, but from his ignominious execution as a criminal.

● In John's Gospel, we are time and time again told to follow Jesus, preferably like sheep. But now Jesus says that his disciples won't be able to. As yet, they're not ready to hear this. But the new commandment has a hint of the contrast with the old – instead of 'love as you love yourself', now it is 'love as I have loved you'. The world still doesn't understand this radical new commandment; it still makes no sense in human terms. The old saying that 'charity begins at home' is the exact opposite of Jesus' new commandment. For charity to begin at home, it must start with me, and my own interests. Jesus instead calls his disciples to love without counting the cost, and to not worry about themselves in the process.

Supporting you all week

A weekly mini Bible story and play activity enables even the youngest to be engaged in worship – ideal for Sundays or midweek toddler groups.

● Through over-simplification of people's thoughts, through misunderstanding and poor listening, through the need for drama in news programmes, soap operas and entertainment, and more, we see polarisation and hatred all around us, and an expectation that conflict can only be overcome with power, and must end in victory for one side and defeat for the other. Instead, reconciliation can happen when we put aside all of this, and try to see the world as God sees it, loving all, unconditionally. Resurrection can happen, but it often happens slowly, with long periods of seemingly no progress.

WEB Sermon ideas on Revelation 21.1-6.

Ideas for another of the week's lectionary readings.

Items not to miss on the ROOTS website.

Informal talk

A way for leaders to guide all ages through the reading.

Prepare a game based on the TV programme *Dragons' Den*. In advance, brief a few volunteers to be those seeking investment from the dragons. Each of them is trying to raise money for a new ministry. Choose any appropriate ministries or charity work (e.g. working with the homeless, the mentally unwell, or refugees, single parents, or the traveller community). Include a few less obvious and non-traditional (in church terms) ministries as well, perhaps with some intentional humour (e.g. ministry to the bankers who haven't received bonuses, to retired football players, to unemployed billionaires – it could provoke an interesting discussion: what ministry do such people need?). The volunteers could be asked to research and prepare their own material, or it could be provided for them on cue cards.

Now, on the day, tell the rest of the people present that they are to be investors, and that they've got £100,000 to invest in a new charity. Each volunteer will give a brief 'pitch' (maximum of, say, two minutes), designed to get the dragons to invest in their cause. Once all pitches are delivered, invite the dragons to give opinions about the causes and pitches they have heard. What is a deserving cause? What is not? What are the real needs of those who seem not to be so deserving? How do you decide between equally deserving causes? Finally, invite the dragons to vote on who they want to give the money to.

After the game, talk about the need not

In addition to exploring the Word through a sermon, these ideas help everyone to make a personal response to the reading.

Active worship

Ideas to engage different ages, spiritual styles and learning preferences.

A simple worship activity for all ages

Give out small, rough and irregular stones (small enough for people to carry around). Ask people to look at their stone, its colours, its markings, its roughness. Ask them to imagine what its journey might have been before it rested in their hand today. Pass round a bowl or jug of cold water, and a bowl containing

gold glitter. Ask people to dip their stones in the water, then in the glitter and to shake off any excess (the water is not essential, but it will help the glitter to stick to the stone). Now ask them to look at it again: how has it changed? Invite people to share their thoughts with the person next to them.

Ask people now to imagine that the stone represents them, that its journey represents their life's journey, and that the glitter represents everything in their lives that reflects the light and glory of the risen Lord. Invite them to reflect on their lives, and to try and identify any moments that 'sparkle' because of a particular experience of encounter with, or feeling close to, Jesus. If appropriate, people could share these thoughts too, but some may not wish to do so.

Now invite people to come and put their stones close to the Easter garden (see *A simple worship activity for all ages* on page 21), or in another appropriate place, to represent placing themselves close to the risen Christ. When all have returned to their places, end with a prayer of thanksgiving for those 'sparkly' moments, and that all present may remain close to the risen Lord. **E S**

Caring, sharing

In advance, rehearse a circle dance with a small group of people, using the song 'Caring, sharing, loving, giving' (**WEB** *Further resources*). Demonstrate the dance, and then repeat it, inviting all those present to join in. The song is short and simple, and the dance will not take long to learn or demonstrate. **E A**

Love's endeavour

Read out loud, as poetry, the words of 'Morning glory, starlit sky' (also known as 'Love's endeavour, love's expense' and found in many hymn books). Invite people to read the words again for themselves (either from their hymn book, or project them) and to reflect silently on Jesus' example of sacrificial living, and his command (from today's Gospel reading) to 'Love one another as I have loved you'. **W S A**

'Spiritual styles' are different ways in which people connect with God. By taking these spiritual preferences into account, ROOTS helps you to engage everyone in worship.

Are there people whom they would find it difficult to sit next to, whether in church or in daily life – if so, why? What can they do about it? **W E**

WEB extras

Children's Sheet: to do in worship and at home. Welsh version available.

Drama sketch: *Christians United*

Psalm 148: ideas for all ages

Picture pointers: with questions for reflection

Pass it on: resources to share for DIY discipleship

Hymns & songs

Songs in italics are suitable for all ages.

WEB See *Hymns, songs & music* for key to abbreviations.

All hail the power of Jesus' name
Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Glorious things of thee are spoken
Let there be love shared among us
Lord, I come to you (SoF)
Lord, I come to you, I come (TS)
Love is his word, love is his way
Love one another for love is of God (WGWG)
My heart is filled with thankfulness
O Lord, your tenderness
O love that wilt not let me go
One, two, three, Jesus loves me
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters
Take my life and let it be
Take up thy cross, the Saviour said
We have heard the call to love
When I needed a neighbour

A suggestion for living out our faith during the coming week.

Send out

Live in faith **W S**

Invite people to pick up a glitter stone (see *A simple worship activity for all ages*) as they leave, and, by holding it for a few moments, to let it remind them of their closeness to the risen Christ, and to say to someone, each day, 'He is risen!'

Spiritual styles:

W Word **E** Emotion **S** Symbol **A** Action

WEB More info in the *Support* section

Children and young people not only explore the same passage as the adults, but also explore the same threads within the passage.

Easter glory

John 13.31-35

- After their last supper, Judas departs and Jesus speaks to the remaining disciples.
- Jesus talks about divine glory, which he links to his own departure from them.
- He has loved them, and their love for one another will be his abiding witness.

This week's resources explore: seeing glory in unexpected places; loving as Jesus loves – serving others and loving people we don't choose to love.

WEB Download a Planning Sheet to help prepare your session.

Turn to page 13 to see an example of the Planning Sheet.

Bible notes WEB

- 'Glory' is a huge theme in John's Gospel, but it can be difficult to understand, as we rarely think about it except in a sporting or military context. Here it has a very different meaning, because it is something that comes from God, not from human admiration, and it comes through suffering. Judas has just left to betray Jesus (v.30) and it is at this moment – the climax of his ministry when Jesus is faced with his death – that the 'Son of Man' is glorified (v.31).
- Jesus calls his disciples 'little children' (v.33), suggesting that their discipleship is immature, but destined to grow in the future, as God's glory is revealed through their suffering and sacrifice.
- Jesus gives his followers a 'new commandment' to love one another, as he has loved them. This mutual love is hardly a new idea, as love of neighbour rings through the ten commandments. However, it is the way that Jesus loves that is new: through service, symbolised in the washing of the disciples' feet (John 13.4-5), and loving people whom we might not choose to love, such as the woman caught in adultery (John 8.1-11).
- Jesus' commandment becomes reality in the powerful reading from Acts when Peter explains his love, even for Gentiles, based on his vision and encounter with Cornelius. He and his family accept the word of God and are baptised by the Holy Spirit. Whom might we be called to love?

Bible notes give you the biblical context, and encourage your own reading and reflection.

Prayers WEB All prayer text and Welsh translations.

A gathering prayer

God, who lives everywhere, and fills everything, we have seen you already this morning; at home and on our way to church. Your light shines on and out of all creation. We are here to learn and to worship you. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise

*Children shake percussive instruments at the end of each line.**
We worship you, God, when we see your glory in the world;* when we see the extraordinary detail in the smallest of insects;* when our own paintings and Lego™ buildings teach us about you as maker;* when Christians love one another, and show your love to the world.* We worship you. **Amen.**

A prayer for forgiveness

Holy God, we are sorry that we find it hard to love other people as Jesus did. Teach us how to love, even the people who are unkind to us. **Amen.**

A prayer for others

Response line: For the glory of God.
Help us, Jesus, to love each other. **For the glory of God.**
To make our church a good place to be...
To show other people we follow you...
And to bring your message to the world... **Amen.**

A sending out prayer

Jesus, you said to your disciples, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' But wherever we go, you come with us. We pray for your love in our lives this week, through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gather WEB Open the Bible at John 13.31-35

Prepare the space

Place some objects that need polishing on a table, e.g. shoes, silver cutlery or ornaments, brass candlesticks, along with some clean brushes/cloths and the appropriate polish.

Helping the children to settle down, while setting the scene for the session.

Easter 5

Other lectionary Bible readings

RCL Easter 5 Year C
Acts 11.1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21.1-6

The wording of these prayers helps children to develop a sense of the language of prayer.

Having two different ways to tell the story enables you to provide variety and encourages children to participate.

Open the Word

Present the reading John 13.31-35

Knowing that he will leave them soon, Jesus explains to his disciples that in his death, God is glorified in him. He gives his disciples a new commandment: love one another.

Choose from these two ways of telling the story.

Powerful words Read the first paragraph of the story and then challenge the children to form the letters of the word 'GLORY' with their bodies on the floor. Read the second paragraph and invite them to do the same for the word 'LOVE'.

Spread the light Darken the room, sit in a circle and place a large lighted candle in the centre. Give everyone a tealight. This reading comes from a dark time – Jesus knows he

The retelling of the Bible story draws out the distinctive voices of the Gospel writers, by staying as close as possible to the Bible text.

It was night and all the disciples were gathered together with Jesus for a Passover meal. Judas had just left the supper table and gone out to betray Jesus. Jesus looked at his disciples around the table and said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. God is showing his glory through him.'

Jesus continued, 'Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, but I tell you, "Where I am going, you cannot come."' He paused. Then he said, 'I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another. If you have love for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'



Glossary

Passover a joyful Jewish festival that celebrates the Jewish people's escape from slavery in Egypt under Moses' leadership; **Son of Man** a title from the Old Testament book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself; **commandment** a rule to follow in life, given by God.

For very young children

Play, and explore loving one another.

Play materials: silver and gold card hearts, 'hidden' around the play space to be found by the children.

Mini Bible story with actions

Seeing the glory and sharing the love

Jesus said, 'Now you can see the Son of Man's glory,

Reach arms wide and twinkle fingers.

and also the Father's glory.

Point up and twinkle fingers.

Love one another,

Hold hands.

as I have loved you.

Put hand on heart, then point round the room.

Then everyone will know

Every week, we offer a mini Bible story with actions, two activities and an active prayer for very young children.

Love one another...

You will need: hearts of different colours and sizes cut from paper/card, plastic or wooden figures of people, or pictures cut from magazines.

Invite the children to arrange patterns of hearts around the 'people'.

...as I have loved you

You will need: paper plates, red or pink playdough, (optional) glitter, rolling pins, heart-shaped cutters or cards (template on [WEB](#)) and plastic knives, paper plates, pens.

Invite the children to write their names on a paper plate, and then roll the playdough and make hearts to put on their plate.

Prayer

You will need: a large red heart cut from card, a bowl of glitter or sequins.

Invite the children to sprinkle a pinch of glitter or some sequins over the heart.

Finish with this prayer. Ask the children to repeat each phrase after you:

Lord Jesus,
help us to see your glory,
and share your love
with each other.
Amen.

Talk together

- Have you ever seen or felt God's glory? Where?
- When have you experienced God's love, particularly through other people?
- How can we show more clearly our love for one another?

Questions to spark discussion and to link the story to children's lives.

The glossary helps explain key words and phrases, enabling children to become familiar with Biblical language.

It's easy to keep sessions fresh and varied, with a range of different types of activity.

Explore & respond

Ideas to engage different ages, spiritual styles and learning preferences. On the [WEB](#) find templates in *Explore & respond*, and links to clips and more info in *Further resources*.

Do

Glimpses of glory 15 mins **E S**

Spot glimpses of glory in unexpected places

You will need: (optional) cameras/phones.

- Take the children on a walk outside or around your building, looking for glimpses of glory – things that make us smile and remind us of God, e.g. a beautiful flower, children's artwork.
- The children could take pictures to discuss later or create a display/slideshow to show in church.

Love in action 10 mins **E A**

Guess Jesus' actions and consider how we can show acts of love

You will need: slips of paper, a container.

- Beforehand, write out on separate slips Jesus' loving actions: Healed the sick; Welcomed children; Fed the five thousand; Calmed the storm; Cried for his friend Lazarus; Washed the disciples' feet; Shared bread and wine; Died on the cross. Fold these slips up and put them in a container.
- Invite individuals up to pick a slip and mime the action for the others to guess. Once everyone has had a turn at miming, talk together about ways in which we can mirror Jesus' behaviour and share his love.

Make

Glory and love duster 15 mins **S A**

A reminder that God's glory is seen in our love and service to others

You will need: new dusters, one per child, paintbrushes, lemon juice in dishes, (optional) an iron.

- Give everyone a duster and a paintbrush. Invite the children to paint the words 'Glory' and 'Love' onto their duster with lemon juice. They can add decorations around the edge.
- Leave the dusters to dry and explain that when they are ironed, the words will magically appear! If possible, demonstrate this with an iron and a prepared duster.
- Talk about how God's glory and love can be seen in our service to one another, and encourage the children to take their dusters home to use.

Challenge booklet 20 mins **W E S A**

Explore active ways of loving others and making a difference

You will need: A4 paper, a stapler, pens, felt tips, (optional) old *Love Life Live Lent* booklets, internet access.

- Show the group some old *Love Life Live Lent* booklets or go online and get ideas on serving others from a website ([WEB](#) *Further resources*). Which actions are appealing/fun/challenging?

Spiritual styles: **W** Word **E** Emotion **S** Symbol **A** Action
[WEB](#) More info in the *Support* section

- Give everyone two sheets of A4 paper. Show them how to make a simple booklet by folding the sheets in half and stapling them in two places along the folded edge, to create a front cover, and one page per day for the week ahead. They can decorate the front cover with words and pictures.
- Encourage the children to write a challenge for each day in their booklet, member or some
- The children can

Supporting you all week
 The variety of activities, games and prayers provide plenty of material for both Sunday and midweek.

Pray

Light in the darkness 10 mins **E S**

Invite Jesus' love and glory into dark places

You will need: newspapers and scissors, a large black cloth, a large candle, matches, battery tealights, one per child.

- Give everyone some newspaper pages and scissors, and invite them to cut out headlines and pictures of situations around the world that need our prayers.
- Lay out the headlines and pictures on the black cloth, leaving space in the centre. Remind the children that Jesus knows what it feels like to suffer and be in a dark situation. Light the candle and place it in the centre of the cloth.
- Give each person a battery tealight, and invite them to place it on the cloth, among the cuttings. Close with a prayer:
 Lord Jesus, we pray that you would bring your light, love, hope and glory into the midst of this darkness. **Amen.**

More prayers are on p.34.

Sing

[WEB](#) See *Hymns, songs & music* for key to abbreviations.

Father, I place into your hands
 He's got the whole world in his hands
 I watch the sunrise, lighting the sky
 Lord, the light of your love
 One, two, three, Jesus loves me
 When I needed a neighbour

Items not to miss on the ROOTS website.

WEB extras www.rootsontheweb.com

- Children's Sheet:** for session and at home. Welsh version available.
- Psalm 148:** response line with actions
- Picture pointers:** to download, print and share
- Pass it on:** resources to share for DIY discipleship

Send out

Encouraging discipleship during the week.

Live in faith **E A**

Encourage the children to use their challenge booklets, or suggest they do an act of service for someone every day this week.

'Spiritual styles' are different ways in which people connect with God. By taking these spiritual preferences into account, ROOTS helps you to engage everyone.

ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

BIBLE John 13.31-35

Imaginative approaches to Bible study.

Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.34. section first, then choose any combination of activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite. On the [WEB](#) find templates; *Further resources* for links; images; *Pass it on*: resources to share for DIY discipleship.

Warm up 5 mins W

Write the word 'GLORY' on a piece of paper and put it in the centre of the group. Invite the young people to think of any context or situation in which the word might be used and write down their ideas. Does it have positive or negative associations?

10 words 10 mins W E

Read John 13.31-35 together. Divide the young people into three groups and challenge each group to summarise, in no more than 10 words, the Gospel message of one section:

1) vv.31-32; 2) v.33; 3) vv.34-35.

Questions to discuss

- How is it possible to find glory in Jesus' betrayal, humiliation and death?
- What does it mean to love like Jesus?
- How can we serve others and love those we would rather not love?

EXPLORE

Fun, interactive ideas to explore the passage further.

Foot-washing race 5 mins E

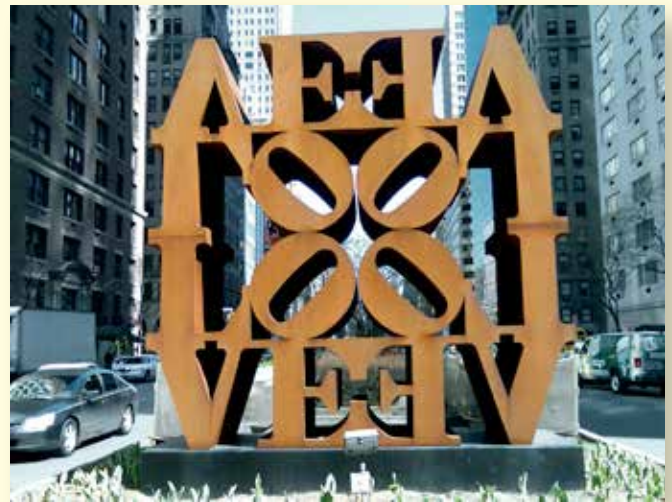
Divide the group into two teams and give each a chair, a bowl of warm water and a towel. Have a relay race to see which team can wash and dry every member's feet first.

Weighty words 10 mins W S

Give everyone a stone and provide brushes and paint. Invite the young people to choose a key word or phrase from the reading to paint on their stone, e.g. Love one another. These can be varnished with PVA glue when dry, and then taken home, to be used as paperweights.

Acts of love 10 mins W E A

On a large sheet of paper write the word 'LOVE' in bubble writing so that it fills the page. Provide felt tips and encourage everyone to write, inside the letters, practical examples of loving and serving other people.



How do you react to this New York sculpture?

Picture pointers [WEB](#)

CONNECT

Ways to connect faith with today's world.

Fame and glory 15 mins W E

Display a selection of images of current celebrities and people in history who have loved like Jesus and been willing to risk their lives for their beliefs, e.g. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero. Challenge the group to identify all the people, fill in any gaps in their knowledge and discuss the difference between glory through media fame and sacrifice.

Humble service 10 mins W E A

Which jobs make a real difference to people's lives, but are looked down upon and seen as menial? Which parenting activities are vital and nurturing, but neither pleasant nor easy? Discuss the importance of these hidden acts of service and the ways in which we can show our appreciation.

[WEB](#) PostScript: weekly topical issues and commentary every Thursday.

PRAY

Creative ways to reflect and pray.

Wonderful world 5 mins E S

Play the YouTube film with the accompanying soundtrack of Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World' ([WEB](#) Further resources) as a guided visual meditation on God's glory.

Loving like Jesus 5 mins E S

We all know people whom we find difficult to love. Ask the young people to focus on someone in particular whom they struggle to love, for whatever reason. In silence, invite them to name that person before God and pray for his help in understanding, forgiving and loving them.

Listen

Contemporary music to listen to.

How He Loves, Jesus Culture
Shadows, David Crowder Band
Love Came Down, Ben Cantelon

[WEB](#) See *Hymns, songs & music* for links.

Encouraging discipleship during the week.

Live in faith E S

Keep a record of all the things you experience this week that remind you of God's glory or Jesus' love.

More support, every week... ...at www.rootsontheweb.com

When subscribers log in at www.rootsontheweb.com they go straight to the **Week by week** page. As well as some of the magazine materials to print, adapt and project, there are also extra resources that are only online.

Here's what our Week by week page looks like for subscribers who receive both **Adult & All Age (AAA)** and **Children & Young People (CYP)** resources. If you only subscribe to one magazine, you'll only see the items relevant to your subscription.

The screenshot shows the ROOTS website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Week by week', 'Month by month', and 'Seasons and festivals' tabs. The main content area is titled '24 - 30 April 2016 | Easter 5'. It includes sections for 'Easter glory' with lectionary readings and a summary, 'Gather' with ideas for children's talks, 'Word' with Bible notes, and 'Explore & respond' with picture pointers and active worship ideas. A sidebar on the right lists 'This week's prayers' and 'Children's Sheet'. A 'From the resources bank' section at the bottom lists previous years' materials.

Text of all the prayers (in English and Welsh).

A range of different search options makes it quick and easy to find resources.

Children's session Planning Sheet (CYP).

Ideas for a children's talk (AAA).

Templates include items to cut out for craftwork, to make activities easier to prepare.

On top of the fresh, new materials in the magazines, you can also draw on ideas from previous years for the same lectionary readings.

Picture pointers provide thought-provoking questions for discussion and reflection, linked to the magazine illustrations.

Information on relevant books, websites and films.

Every Thursday we add *PostScript* to our website: a comment on events in the news, linked to the coming Sunday's readings.

Here are examples of the materials that you can download from the same **Week by week** page.

Month	3 April	10 April	17 April	24 April
Lectionary week	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5
Feastal office				
Feastal event				
ROOTS resources	Easter gift	Easter transformation	Easter life	Easter glory
Colin's Gospel				
Other Gospels				
Why read from the Gospel this week?				
Other Gospels				
Why read from the Gospel this week?				
Other Gospels				
Why read from the Gospel this week?				
Other Gospels				
Why read from the Gospel this week?				
Other Gospels				

ROOTS Planning Sheet for a children's session

Date of session: _____ ROOTS title: _____ Page numbers: _____

Bible reading: _____ This week we are exploring: _____

Equipment needed: _____ Start time: _____

Gather e.g. Prepare the space, Gathering activity, Prayers, Sing: _____ Timing: _____

Open the Word e.g. Present the reading, Talk together: _____ Timing: _____

Explore & respond e.g. Do, Make, Pray, Sing, Children's Sheet: _____ Timing: _____

Send out e.g. Prayers, Live in faith, Children's Sheet: _____ Timing: _____

What do you learn? _____ Finish time: _____

Worship and learning resources for the whole Church: www.rootsontheweb.com

24-30 April 2016 ROOTS Children's Sheet

Today's Bible reading
John 13:31-35

When do you see God's glory?

Activity 1
Crack the code to reveal the important message that Jesus gave his disciples and us.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V

Activity 2
In the bubbles below, draw pictures of loving acts that you could do for others.

PRAYER
Lord Jesus, help us to see your glory and share your love with each other. Amen.

Live in faith
Do an act of service for someone every day this week.

Check it out
Love, Life and Laughter Poems for Children, Zoe Kait, iBaptist Platform

Planning materials

The *Month by month planner* and the *Children's session Planning Sheet* support you with your preparation.

Children's Sheet

Available for all subscribers to use – also provided in Welsh.

Try all these online resources for FREE at www.rootsontheweb.com/sample

Magazine images

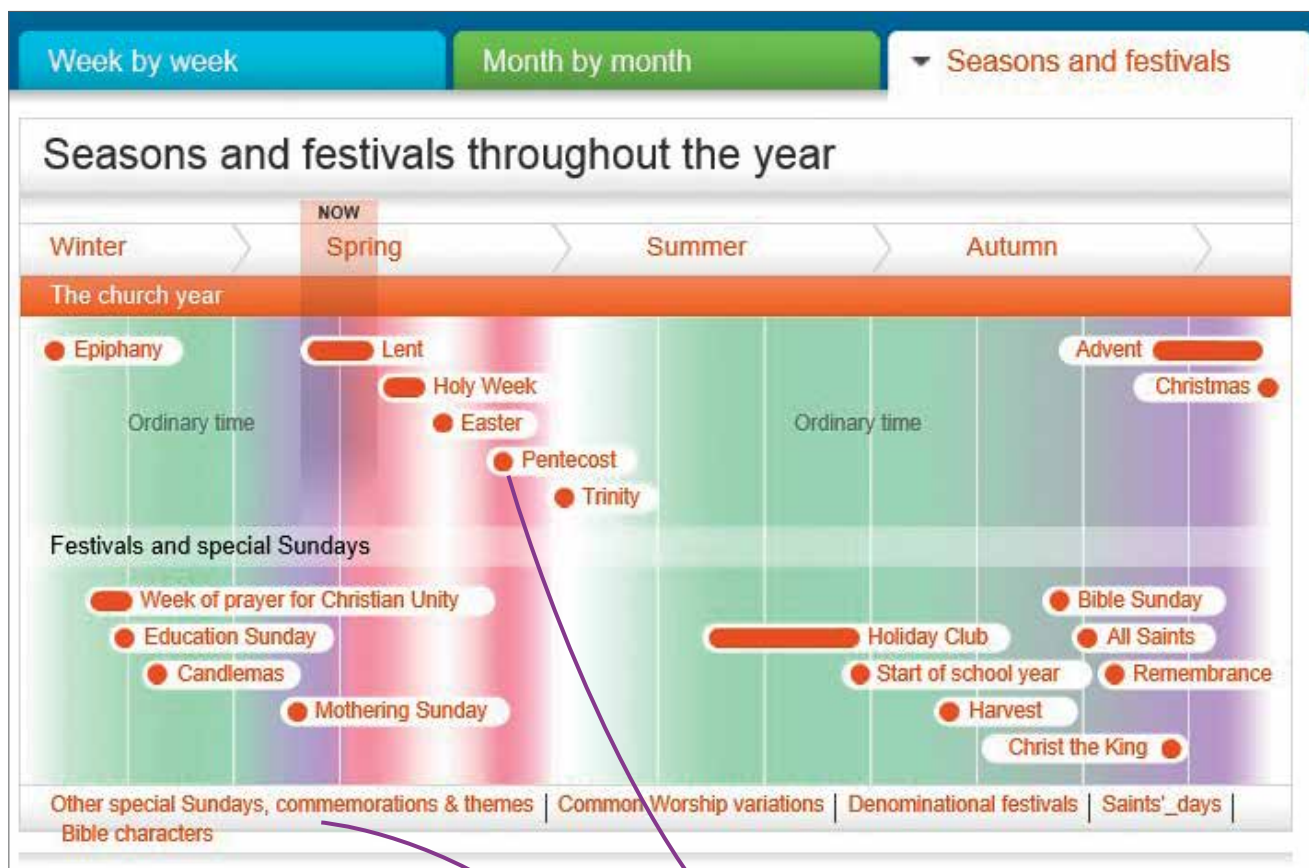
You can download illustrations from the magazines as JPEG files to use in your own displays, news sheets or presentations. We also provide questions for discussion and reflection related to the images.



Pass it on

Share these resources from the weekly ROOTS materials with your congregation or group, to help nurture their understanding of the Bible and develop as disciples in today's world.

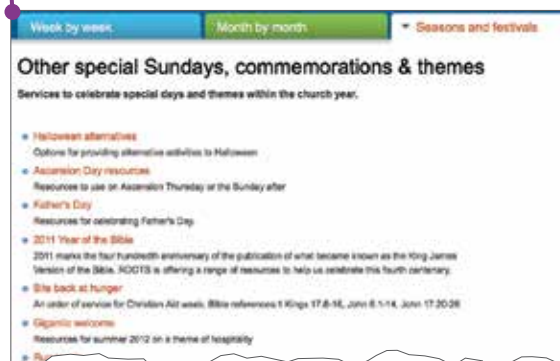
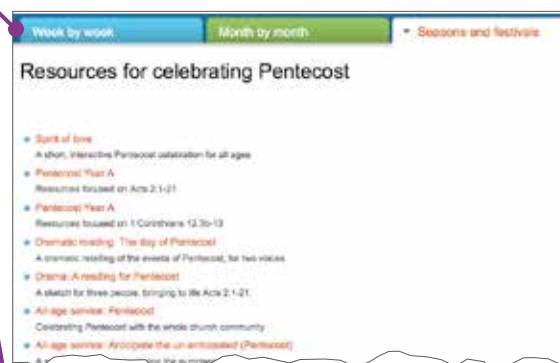
Supporting you throughout the seasons at www.rootsontheweb.com



Lent... Father's Day... Advent... throughout the rich church year, ROOTS provides abundant support online. Whether you are organising a one-off Remembrance service or planning a study programme for Advent or Lent, the **Seasons and festivals** section of the website contains a wealth of resources and inspiration for you.

Here are just some of the materials that subscribers can find in this section of the website:

- All-age services
- Prayers and prayer activities
- Craft and other activities
- Drama sketches
- Specially-written songs
- Resources for one-off events such as holiday clubs
- Resources to mark events in the secular year, such as Father's Day, major sporting events, anniversaries and commemorations.



Supporting you – all week long

As you can see, ROOTS offers you lots of support for Sundays. But the resources are so **wide-ranging** and so **flexible** that you can use them in different contexts throughout the week...

With adults & all ages

On Sundays

- Preaching preparation
- All-age, family and messy services



All through the week

- Prayer meetings
- Bible study groups
- Midweek services
- Ministry with the elderly in care homes



With children & young people

On Sundays

- Junior Church / Sunday School
- Youth Groups



All through the week

- Ministry in schools
- Children's / youth clubs
- Toddler groups



Don't take our word for it...

ROOTS is already used by thousands of people, across many denominations.

'I have an eclectic mix of worship styles. Older people's group in a nursing home, Sunday worship in Methodist Churches and a midweek study group. The variety in ROOTS is very helpful.'

Lynn Weaver, Chaplain, Birmingham

'The material really contributes to the feeling that we as a church are together learning – both in our different groups and when we are together.'

Tony Whitaker, St John the Evangelist Church, Churt

'We find ROOTS materials very useful for Sundays and Messy Church; we also use it for school assemblies.'

Daphne Davey, Uttoxeter United Reformed Church

Prices

The price you pay is based **on the total number of magazines you receive per issue.**

Your 1st magazine £49.50 per year

Your 2nd, 3rd and 4th magazines £40.00 each

Additional magazines £35.00 each

It doesn't make a difference whether the magazines are **Children & Young People** or **Adult & All Age** – you can mix and match them to suit your situation.

And of course, as well as the weekly materials in the magazines, you receive all the relevant online support, too.

Subscribe today!

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Your first magazine is £49.50. Your second, third and fourth magazines are £40.00 each. Additional magazines are £35.00 each.

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For international prices, go to www.rootsontheweb.com

4 Order address

Title: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Rev Initial: Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone number (day): Email:

If you manage subscriptions for a number of users, please send details of delivery addresses on an accompanying sheet.

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Please help us to keep ROOTS relevant and up to date for you by giving us a little information. We will only use this to inform the development of the ROOTS resources. We do not share information with third parties.

Name of church or group: Denomination:

Approx. no. of church congregation/membership: Does your church use a data projector? Yes No

Church activities include (please tick) Children's group Youth group Home/Bible study groups

Your role: How did you find out about ROOTS?

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Please tick the box if you would like to receive our monthly email Bulletins about the ROOTS resources.

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For other enquiries about the ROOTS resources, email rootsinfo@rootsontheweb.com

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