

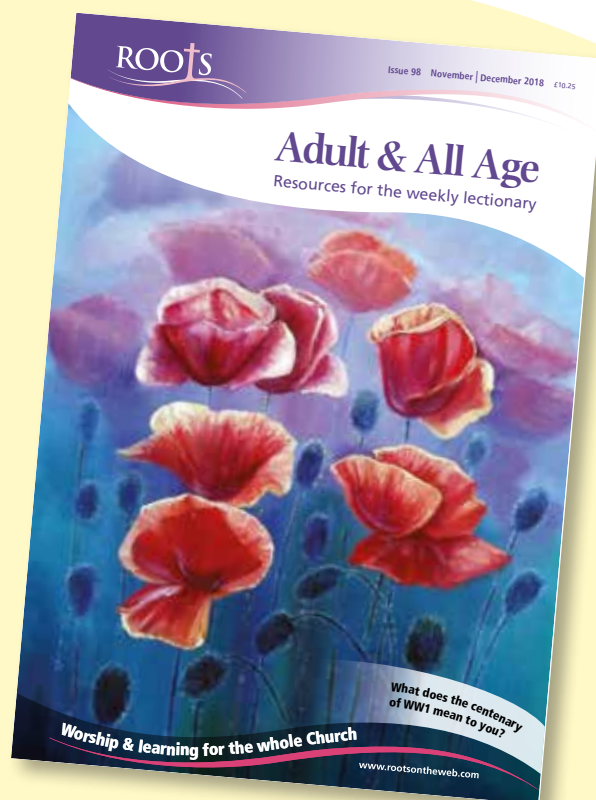
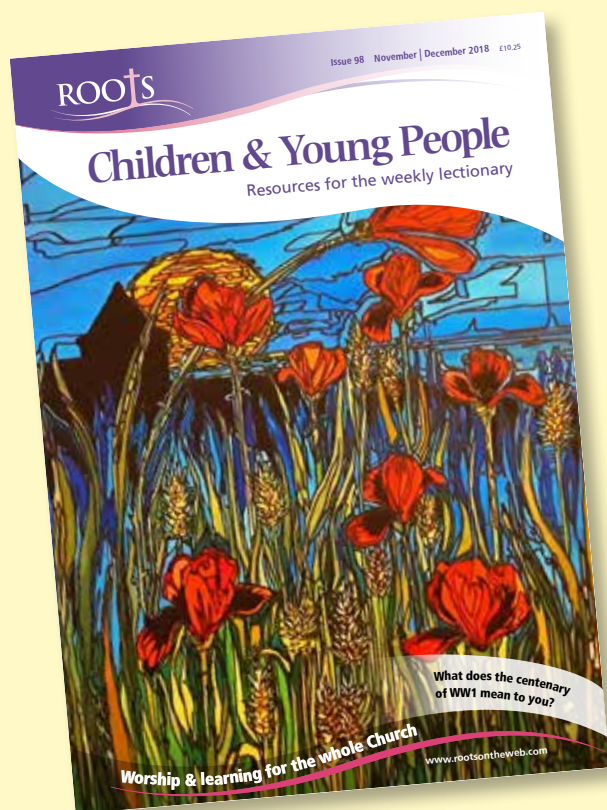


# FREE sample materials

Resources for the weekly lectionary

## Adult & All Age

Enriching worship and learning with adults, families and all ages



## Children & Young People

Flexible, engaging materials for toddlers to teens

In print and online



# Free inside

All ROOTS resources for one whole week  
25 November – 1 December 2018

[www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)



Through our **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People** resources, ROOTS supports thousands of leaders in their ministry, *every single week of the year*.

Our subscribers include preachers and ministers; worship planning teams; children's and young people's leaders... could ROOTS support you, too?

## Brand new resources – week in, week out

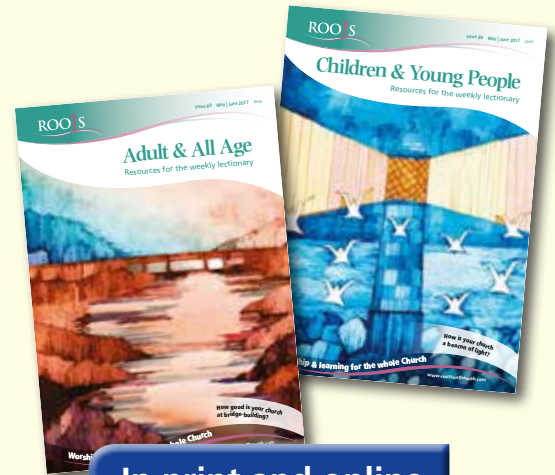
We publish new ROOTS resources every two months. By producing brand new material so regularly, we can keep ROOTS vibrant and relevant for today's generations.

## Based on the weekly lectionary

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

## Building biblical literacy

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.



In print and online



## Who produces ROOTS?

ROOTS is an ecumenical, not-for-profit partnership of denominations and other Christian organisations. The ROOTS team commissions, edits and produces the resources, in print and online.

Our contributors are from a wide range of backgrounds – ordained and lay, and from different denominations. Working together, we create resources that are fresh, up to date and grounded in practical experience.



Writers' conferences take place six times a year in different parts of the UK.

### The ROOTS ecumenical partnership

Bringing together Churches and other Christian organisations since 2002



# FREE inside Weekly resources for 25 November – 1 December 2018

Each week, the **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People** resources explore the same passage from the Revised Common Lectionary\* – so everyone is worshipping and learning together, even if they're in their own groups.

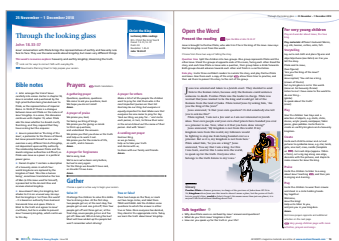
\* Where the Church of England's *Common Worship* Lectionary differs, we provide materials online.

In this brochure you can try the materials for 25 November – 1 December 2018 for yourself.



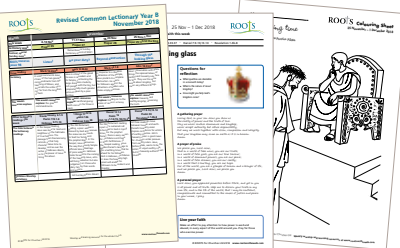
## Adult & All Age Weekly resources

Go to pages 4–7



## Children & Young People Weekly resources

Go to pages 8–11



## www.rootsontheweb.com Weekly and seasonal resources

Go to pages 12–14

Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com/sample](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/sample)

Download this sample brochure – PLUS access all our online resources for 25 November – 1 December!



**Free** Join us as a **ROOTS** member – and get free resources every week

Members can log in to our website to access a selection of free materials for the following Sunday, such as

- Bible notes and prayers from the **Adult & All Age** resources, plus sermon points and worship ideas.
- Engaging ideas from the **Children & Young People** resources; prayer and craft materials, as well as youth materials.
- Plus **free seasonal resources**!

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The materials focus on one lectionary reading each week, normally the Gospel.

# Through the looking glass

## John 18.33-37

Jesus' conversation with Pilate brings the representatives of earthly and heavenly rule face to face. They use the same words about kingship, but mean very different things.

**This week's resources explore:** heavenly and earthly kingship; discerning the truth.

 Look out for ways to connect faith with everyday life.

## Bible notes

### Old Testament

#### Daniel 7.9-10,13-14

In his foundational vision, Daniel 'sees' the heavenly throne room, the invisible centre of divine rule over the cosmos. Heaven and earth are not two realms separated by death, but two sides of a single reality.

In Daniel's vision, the heavenly court is in session, judging oppressive earthly rulers. A human figure is carried into God's presence on the clouds, and given God's authority over all earthly powers. Who is he? Later (7.25-27), we see that he represents 'the holy ones of the Most High', those who are faithful to God in the face of oppression. His presence in heaven guarantees their vindication. Despite their weakness before earthly powers, their loyalty will bring God's reward.

Daniel's vision is designed to console and encourage his audience. But its meaning is not exhausted by its original message. Jesus used this vision of the human figure in heaven to express his own faith that this 'Son of Man' (i.e. Jesus himself) will be vindicated for his faithfulness, and so liberate those who stay loyal to him (Mark 10.42-45). This is a kingship that human rulers may at best aspire to, but cannot achieve.

### New Testament

#### Revelation 1.4b-8

'John' is a church leader in Asia Minor in the last quarter of the first century. His letters to the seven churches (Revelation 2.1-3.22) suggest that their loyalty to Jesus is buckling under the combined weight of imperial rule and a culture of intimidation, assimilation

and compromise that makes for easier governance. Like Daniel, John is a visionary. His account of his vision of the risen Christ in 1.13-15 draws on Daniel 7, to repeat the point that despite appearances to the contrary, Israel's God, and not an ephemeral imperial ruler, is truly Lord.

'Grace' and 'peace' are familiar Christian greetings in the New Testament epistles. But here they carry political weight. The emperor believed that the imperial peace was his gift, the fruit of military supremacy. According to John, the most trustworthy expression of peace on earth flows from its most unlikely source. Jesus Christ, crucified on the authority of Caesar's representative, is God's faithful witness. As the firstborn of the dead, his victory reaches into the realm that no earthly ruler can ever enter. However dispirited they may feel, however weak in the world's eyes, they inherit Israel's ancient role as a priestly community of God's new order of holiness, and a kingdom through whom the reign of the crucified and coming one is extended.

#### Gospel John 18.33-37

On the verge of execution, Jesus appears before the representative of the imperial power colonising the ancestral lands of his people.

Jesus' conversation with Pilate raises the question of the ultimate source of authority. Does it lie on earth – Rome or Jerusalem – or in heaven? They may use the same words, but their meanings are worlds apart. Jesus is presented to Pilate as 'the king of the Jews', pretender to David's throne. But he presents himself as one who exercises a radically different rule, because his authority is rooted elsewhere – in the heavenly realm of truth. Jerusalem rules by expediency. Its priests must find some way to have Jesus

## Christ the King

**Lectionary Bible readings**  
RCL Christ the King Year B  
Daniel 7.9-10,13-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1.4b-8  
**John 18.33-37**

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.

executed to save their own interests (John 11.45-53). But Rome's representative is only interested in reminding Jerusalem where real power lies in their holy city. He uses Jesus as a pawn to draw out their shameful admission that 'we have no king but Caesar' (John 19.15), before agreeing to his crucifixion.

In John's Gospel, Jesus keeps his distance from earthly notions of power (John 6.15). His talk of himself as the 'good shepherd' resonates with the prophets' longing for a new shepherd ruler to liberate God's people (see Ezekiel 34). But Jesus' 'good shepherd' is no warrior king. He lays down his own life for his sheep (10.15). His 'good shepherd' leadership models the other-

Bible notes focus on three of the week's lectionary readings and highlights connections between them.

### The links between the lectionary readings

All three readings move between heaven and earth. Daniel's heavenly vision inspires confidence for victims of earthly injustice. John's heavenly vision is good news for churches under pressure from earthly rulers. Jesus, before Pilate, seems to be the victim of unjust earthly rule, but his heavenly authority will triumph.

**WEB** Notes on Psalm 93 and ideas for using it together.

See [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

**With very young children:** resources on the reading to use with under 5s.

**Children's Sheet and Colouring Sheet** (Welsh version available).

**Drama:** *Mastermind*

**Bible study:** a selection of this week's resources to print out.

Background notes on the psalm and actions to accompany a response line, so that everyone can be involved.

Items not to miss on the ROOTS website.

A variety of prayers for different times within worship. The text of all the prayers is also available in Welsh at [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com).

## Prayers

**WEB** Welsh translations.

### Call to worship

More powerful than the waves of the sea,  
stronger than the wildest gale,  
more beautiful than the setting sun,  
and brighter than the stars at night.  
So is God's truth.  
So is God's love.  
So is our Lord Jesus.  
Come and praise Christ the king!  
**Amen.**

### A gathering prayer

Loving God, in your son Jesus  
you show us the reality of power and the truth of love.  
May we never confuse dominance and kingship,  
never accept authority but refuse responsibility,  
but may we work together  
with vision, compassion and integrity.  
that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of approach

Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,  
kings brought gifts to you at your birth.  
They understood you were the one –  
the life, the truth, God's only Son.  
We come now and call you king,  
and bring our lives and everything –  
for you are truth and love and grace.  
When we see you, we see God's face.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

Forgive us, Lord,  
when we accept the world's realities and uncritically call them  
truth;  
when we look with eyes open to the temporal, but closed to the  
eternal;  
when we see only difficulties while you see opportunities;  
when we side with power and overlook the vulnerable;  
when we divorce heaven and earth.  
Forgive us, and help us  
to see clearly, to act wisely and to serve lovingly.  
In Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of praise

We praise you, Lord Jesus,  
that in a world of fake news, you are our truth;  
in a world of false gods, you are our true Saviour;  
in a world of dominant powers, you are our peace;  
in a world of false dreams, you are our reality;  
in a world that is hurting, you are our hope.  
For all the world

#### 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.

### Prayers of intercession

Loving God,  
we pray for those in authority, that they may not manipulate  
truth to retain power.  
**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**  
We pray for those exploited or abused by those in positions of  
power.  
**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**  
We pray for those robbed of their freedom for challenging  
injustice.  
**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**  
We pray for our church, that in confidence we would share your  
truths that we know, and in humility seek out the truths we  
have yet to learn.  
**May the kingship of Christ guide us.**  
We pray for one another and ourselves, that we would be open  
to truth and eager for wisdom.  
**May the kingship of Christ guide us.**  
**Amen.**

### A reflective way into prayer

On one side of a small piece of paper, write words you associate  
with heaven. On the other side, write words you associate with  
earth. Sit quietly, then pray:

Lord Jesus, you unite heaven and earth, and are Lord of both.  
Bring together that which we have divided, and heal that which  
we have destroyed. We ask this in your name. **Amen.**

### A prayer for all ages together

*Repeat the respective actions after each line.*

We believe heaven to be the home of peace and unity  
(*point upwards*).  
**So may it be on earth** (*mime the round earth*).  
We believe heaven to be the home of wholeness and  
acceptance.  
**So may it be on earth.**  
We believe heaven to be the home of redemption and wonder.  
**So may it be on earth.**  
We believe heaven to be the home of truth and love.  
**So may it be on earth.**  
With you, Lord Jesus, as our Servant King and faithful friend.  
**Amen.**

### A sending out prayer

Look for truth in all places.  
Seek out the wise.  
Use your power to serve.  
And bring heaven to earth through your life, your words and  
your prayers.  
In Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

### A personal prayer

Lord Jesus, you appeared powerless before Pilate, and yet in you  
is all power and all truth. Help me to discern your truth in my  
own life, and in the life of the world, that I may be confident,  
compassionate and committed to the causes of justice and  
peace. In your name, I pray. **Amen.**

# Gather

## All-age introduction

A way to begin worship when all ages are present.

### King of kings

Prepare two large signs, one saying 'Heaven' and the other 'Earth'. Gather together some props that reflect the rule of earthly monarchs and/or Jesus' kingship – for example: a crown, a sceptre, a cloak, sandals, a book of wisdom, a sheep, a lion, a donkey, a horse, a sword, two pieces of wood, a bowl of water, white gloves. Place two chairs at the front of the worship space, and place each sign on a chair. Put the props where they can easily be seen. Explain that today we are thinking about what makes a good king, and the difference between Jesus' heavenly kingship and that of kings or queens on earth. Invite volunteers, one at a time, to choose an item from the props and to decide which throne it should be placed on – Heaven or Earth. Ask everyone: Is that right? There are no right or wrong answers, so encourage different opinions and discussions. What difference can Christ's heavenly rule make in our world?

## With very young children

**WEB** Resources on the reading to use with under 5s.

# Open the Word

### To help the listener

The reader could use these words to provide context.

Daniel the visionary sees a trustworthy heavenly order behind the chaos that envelopes God's people. John the Elder sees the dependable ways of heaven revealed in Jesus, God's faithful witness. In the Gospel, Jesus makes little impression on Pilate, who represents the powerful rule of Rome. But Jesus' weakness reveals God's true strength.

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

## Present the Old Testament

**WEB** Script to print out.

In this drama, the words of the Old Testament reading are included within the dialogue, so you could replace the reading with the drama. The drama is titled 'GNN special report', and is styled as a TV interview in which a studio-based news presenter and an outside broadcast reporter discuss the situation in Jerusalem, and speak to Daniel about his prophecy of a messiah.

## Present the Gospel

Introduce the reading by showing the classic *Two Ronnies* 'Mastermind' sketch, in which the chosen subject is answering the question before last **WEB**. This sketch offers a humorous insight into the confusion possible when two people are speaking the same words, the same language, but the meaning behind, the intent, is different.


Alternatively, you could give some examples of how British English differs from American English which, when coupled with different customs and expectations, has the potential to confuse (examples on the **WEB**). British cricketing metaphors and those from American football might be a good place to begin.


### Supporting you all week

A **very young children** page on our website offers a weekly mini Bible story, play and prayer activities. This helps to engage the very youngest in worship, on Sundays or in midweek toddler groups.

# Explore & respond


## Sermon ideas

**WEB** *PostScript*: Linking this week's reading to the news .


 What is power? The conversation between Jesus and Pilate about the nature and origin of kingship is a 'compare and contrast' exercise between the might of Rome (absolute power exercised from the top down) and the 'bottom up' model of Jesus (through the devotion and obedience of followers).


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


It is not that Jesus does not have more power than the emperor. The difference is how he exercises his power. How do we see power exercised? How does our faith tell us power should be handled? How do you use your power?

 The twenty-first century may be said to be characterised by 'Facebook lives'. That is, it is so easy to present an idealised, sanitised version of ourselves and our lives to the world. In this world, the notion of truth is seemingly malleable. We live in an era of 'fake news', and real news dismissed as fake for personal advantage. John's Gospel tells us that Jesus is the truth, and that if we belong to the truth we will listen to his voice. How can we let


Fresh ways to help all ages engage with the readings.

 The mysterious, unknown realm of 'heaven' has fascinated people for millennia, yet the way we speak about it often has little to do with the biblical description. How do we perceive heaven? Is it a parallel to our own world, rather like 'Diagon Alley' in the *Harry Potter* books? Is it simply the place we go to when we die? Or is it something else entirely? How does praying 'on earth as it is in heaven' fit into our understanding of the way the world works? The readings from Daniel, John and Revelation give us some idea of what heaven is, and what it isn't.

 Biblical imagery can be very strange to our modern eyes. Daniel's fiery thrones, wheels and streams; the one who 'comes with the clouds' in both Daniel and Revelation – and there's plenty more, even more strange, in those two books and elsewhere in Scripture. Some will dismiss this imagery as nonsense – but is it delusion, a fantasy? Or is it, rather, an attempt to represent a 'strange truth'? What are those truths? What language might we use to represent or proclaim them in today's world? Some of the images and concepts in today's blockbuster films may indeed be fantasy, but do they give us a language that we might use?

 It is the final week of the church year. Next week is Advent, and a new year begins. Advent looks both back to the birth of Jesus and forward to his

## Look out for

The  symbol shows opportunities to connect faith to everyday life – linking to people's own faith journey and to issues in today's world.

These ideas offer opportunities for the whole church community to respond to the Bible reading through interaction, discussion and participation.

Opportunity for us to reflect on our spiritual year past, and a chance to look to the coming year with fresh eyes on God's plans. Is it time for New Year resolutions of a different kind from those generally associated with 1 January? What ideas come to mind?

## All-age conversation

A way for leaders to help all ages explore the reading.

We live in a world in which powerful people make the decisions, and everybody else has to put up with it. That's just the way it always has been – the strongest in control, and the only way to change things is to be stronger, to beat them in some way. Do you recognise that description? Does it have to be like that? Is there another way?

What do you think of when you imagine a king? What are kings like – or at least, what were they like in history? How do/did they use their power? Jesus speaks of his kingdom, but says it is 'not of this world'. What does he mean? Where is his kingdom? If the power of a human king comes from being the strongest, where does Jesus' power come from?

Sometimes we talk about Jesus' or God's kingdom, sometimes about heaven. What do you imagine when you hear the word 'heaven'? Where is heaven? Jesus taught his disciples to pray, 'Your (i.e. God's) kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven'. What might that suggest about the relationship between earth and heaven? Is heaven 'another place' or is it some place close by?

If we acknowledge Jesus as our king, are we already living in God's kingdom? Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus says that the kingdom is among you, and within you – what do you think he meant? What can we do so that we become better citizens of God's kingdom?

Encouraging conversation across the generations, helping them to connect faith with everyday life.

## Active worship

Ideas to engage different ages, learning and preferences and spiritual styles. Key: **W**ord, **E**motion, **S**ymbol, **A**ction. Find out more [WEB](#) in *Worship and learning support*.

### A simple worship activity for all ages

Set up a mirror (more than one, if you have space) and invite people to sit in front of it for a short time, looking at their reflection. Invite them to reflect on

'Spiritual styles' are different ways in which people connect with God. By taking these spiritual preferences (Word, Emotion, Symbol, Action) into account, ROOTS helps you to engage *everyone* in making a personal response to the reading.

### Facebook the truth

In small groups, invite people who use social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) to show some images where they have 'filtered' what people see – particularly images of themselves. Ask the groups to reflect on the use of such altered images. What other ways do we have to control the way we are seen by others (e.g. clothes)? Why do we do this? Does it have unintended consequences? Does it matter? **W E A**

### Pay attention!

Play the 'Selective attention test' video, carefully following the instructions [WEB](#). Invite people to get into small groups, and to reflect on the exercise. What might it suggest about how we fail to notice things in everyday life – and what can we do about it? **E A**

### What is truth?

Sometimes, truth can be hard to separate from fiction, spin and honest mistakes. Play a game in which individuals (warned in advance, so they can prepare) come to the front and tell one truth and one lie about themselves. Invite everyone else to vote on which is which. What might this say about us? How can we discern truth in our everyday interactions with each other? **W E**

A suggestion for living out our faith during the coming week. You can also download a **Live your faith** sheet to email or hand out.

## Picture pointers [WEB](#)



A thought-provoking image, plus questions, to stimulate reflection and discussion.

Questions for reflection

- ▶ What qualities are desirable in a monarch today?
- ▶ What is the nature of Jesus' kingship?
- ▶ How might you help God's kingdom come?

## Hymns & songs

Songs in *italics* are suitable for all ages.

\*Music links on [WEB](#).

All creatures of our God and King  
*All of you is more than enough for all of me*  
 All people that on earth do dwell  
*Among the gods there is none like you*  
 Christ is the King! O friends, rejoice  
 Christ triumphant, ever reigning  
*Come into this place*  
*Come see a vision for all humankind*  
 Hail to the Lord's anointed  
*He is the King, he is the Lord*  
*He's coming on the clouds\**  
*Holy and majestic*  
 I heard the voice of Jesus say  
 I will offer up my life in spirit and truth  
*Light of the world, you stepped down into*

In every issue of ROOTS, we include 2-3 songs from **Out of the Ark Music for Churches**. ROOTS subscribers can enjoy free access to song recordings, music PDFs and 'words on screen' presentations to sing along to.

## Send out

### Live your faith

Encourage everyone to put their faith into action. Use the suggestion below or distribute the **Live your faith** sheet [WEB](#).

Make an effort to pay attention to how power is used and abused, in every aspect of the world around you. Pray for those who exercise power. **W A**





# Through the looking glass

## John 18.33-37

Jesus' conversation with Pilate brings the representatives of earthly and heavenly rule face to face. They use the same words about kingship, but mean very different things.

**This week's resources explore:** heavenly and earthly kingship; discerning the truth.


 Look out for ways to connect faith with everyday life.

 Download a Planning Sheet to help prepare your session.

## Christ the King

**Lectionary Bible readings**  
RCL Christ the King Year B  
Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1.4b-8  
**John 18.33-37**

## Look out for

The  symbol shows opportunities to connect faith to everyday life – linking to people's own faith journey and to issues in today's world.

## Bible notes

- John arranges the trial of Jesus carefully into scenes. Earlier in chapter 18, Jesus is arrested and questioned by the high priest before being handed over to Pilate, as the representative of imperial Rome. In 18.33-37 there is a dialogue between Jesus and Pilate on the nature of Jesus' kingship. In a sense, this discussion continues until chapter 19, when Pilate asks the Jews whether he should crucify their king, and they respond that they have no king but the emperor.
- Jesus is presented as 'the king of the Jews', a pretender to the throne of David, but Jesus presents himself as one who exercises a very different kind of kingship, not dependent upon earthly authority. The relationship between Pilate and the Jewish religious authorities is difficult, so Pilate uses Jesus as a pawn in a political power game.
- Daniel chapter 7 contains a description of a heavenly vision in which four world kingdoms are replaced by the kingdom of God. 'One like a human being', sometimes translated as the Son of Man (a title Jesus used for himself), is presented to the Ancient One and receives eternal kingship.
- Jesus doesn't deny his kingship, but alludes to it in an unusual way. He says that his kingship is 'not from this world' – it is based on authority from God and transcends time and space. Pilate is blind to the truth and agrees to Jesus' crucifixion, but he is unable to prevent Jesus' heavenly kingship, which continues to this day.

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

## Prayers Welsh translations.

### A gathering prayer

Questions, questions, questions.  
We come to ask you questions, God.  
We hope you do not mind!  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of praise

We praise you, God,  
for being our King of kings.  
We praise you for giving us minds  
to think up questions,  
and understand the answers.  
We praise you that you show us the truth  
and help us to work it out.  
We praise you for the miracle of life,  
on earth, and in heaven.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer for forgiveness

We're sorry, God.  
We're sure we've been sorry before,  
but we're sorry again  
for the things we shouldn't have said,  
or shouldn't have done.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer for others

*Make a list of all the people the children want to pray for. Ask them who is the most important person on their list. God may be our King, but everyone is equally important to God. Make sure that everyone has one name to pray for. Say 'God our King, we pray for...' and invite each person, in turn, to throw their arms in the air and shout out the name of their person. End with 'Amen'.*

### A sending out prayer

God our King,  
as we go home,  
help us to take your truth  
and stories with us,  
to share with our family and friends.  
**Amen.**

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

## Gather

Choose a quiet or active way to begin your session.

### Solve it!

Challenge the children to solve this riddle. You're driving a bus. At the first stop, two people get on; at the next stop, five people get on and one gets off; then four people get off and three get on; at the final stop, seven people get on and five get off. Now ask: Who's driving the bus? Most will have added up the people but won't remember who's driving!

### True or false?

Place two hoops on the floor, or mark out two large circles, and label them TRUE and FALSE. Ask the children some questions to which the answer is either true or false. Once everyone has decided, they stand in the appropriate circle. Today we learn the truth about Jesus' kingship.



## Open the Word

### Present the reading



Open the Bible at John 18.33-37

Jesus is brought to Pontius Pilate, who asks him if he is the king of the Jews. Jesus says that his kingship is not from this world.

Choose from these two ways of telling the story.

**Question time** Split the children into two groups. One group represents Pilate and the other Jesus. Stand the groups at opposite ends of the room, facing each other. Read the story, and each time Pilate or Jesus asks a question, their group takes a stride forwards. Both groups should advance towards each other and finish in a confrontation.

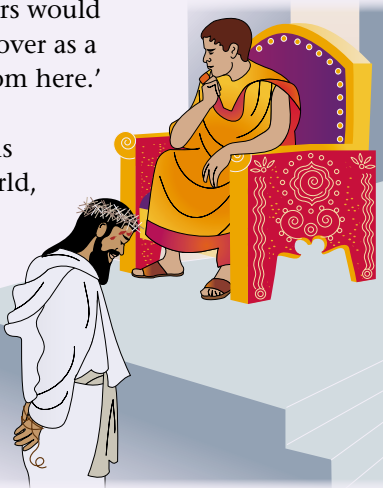
**Role play** Invite three confident readers to narrate the story, and play Pontius Pilate and Jesus. Give them each a copy of the script [WEB](#), allow them time to practise, and then ask them to present the story to the rest of the group.

Jesus was arrested and taken to a Jewish court. They decided to send him to the Roman rulers, because only the Romans could sentence someone to death. Pontius Pilate was the leader in charge. Pilate was worried that Jesus wanted to be the king and would get rid of the Romans from the land of Judea. Pilate tested Jesus by asking him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus answered, 'Is that your own question? Or did somebody else tell you to ask me this?'

Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew and so I am not interested in Jewish ideas. Your own people and your own chief priests have handed you over as a prisoner to me. Now, what is it that you have done wrong?'

Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to stop me from being handed over as a prisoner. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to speak up for the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'



We try to keep the text as close as possible to the Bible translation (NRSV), providing a glossary to help children become familiar with biblical language.

### Glossary

**Pontius Pilate** a Roman governor, in charge of the province of Judea from AD 26 to 36; **kingdom** when Jesus uses this term he doesn't mean a place, but the power of God's love in people's lives; **world** in John's Gospel, this means more than just our planet, it is anyone's life lived without thinking about God.

### Talk together

- Why does Pilate seem so confused by Jesus' answers and questions?
- What do you think Jesus' kingdom is like?
- How can you speak up for the truth in your life?

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

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

### For very young children

Play and wonder about Jesus, the true king.

**Play materials:** different-textured fabrics, e.g. silk, hessian, cotton, satin, felt.

### Storytelling

Lay out a red cloth and place figures and objects/pictures (see italics) on it as you tell the story.

Pilate said to Jesus,  
(*two figures*)  
'Are you the King of the Jews?'  
(*crown*)  
Jesus replied, 'You call me a king,  
(*crown of thorns*)  
but my kingdom is not in this world.  
(*Jesus on his heavenly throne*)

You can use these materials on Sundays or in a midweek toddler group. Even more resources are available on our website.

### Play

Give the children two trays and a selection of objects, e.g. shells, sticks, stones, acrylic jewels, sandpaper, fabric pieces, glass pebbles. Invite them to create an earthly kingdom and a heavenly kingdom.

### Create

Invite each child to colour and cut out pictures to symbolise Jesus, e.g. star, lamb, gate, vine leaf, cross, candle (template on [WEB](#)). Cut card strips (approx. 150cm x 15cm), cut a zig zag along one edge, decorate with the pictures, and staple to make crowns for Jesus the king.

### Praise

Invite the children to listen to a song about Jesus' teaching [WEB](#), and then join in singing and dancing.

### Pray

Invite the children to wear their crowns and stand in a circle holding hands.

Say together:

Welcome,  
Jesus the king!  
Help us to listen to you,  
and join you in your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

Find more prayers opposite and additional activities on the next page.

[WEB](#) Very young children page with more activities, prayers and songs.

It's easy to keep sessions varied, with a range of activities. By taking different 'spiritual styles' into account, ROOTS helps you to engage everyone.

## Explore & respond

Choose from these ideas to help the children make connections between the Bible reading and their lives. [WEB](#) Templates and links to online resources. Spiritual styles key: **W**ord, **E**motion, **S**ymbol, **A**ction. Find out more [WEB](#) in *Worship and learning support*.

### Do

#### Spot the truth

5 mins **W E**

Play a guessing game

- Ask everyone to think of one unusual thing about themselves that is true, and make up one thing that is not true.
- Invite the children, in turn, to stand up and say, 'My name is...' followed by their two statements.
- The rest of the group has to guess which fact is not true.
- Talk together about how we can work out what the truth is.

#### Where does it lead?

10 mins **W**

Identify the mystery pictures

**You will need:** six pictures of entrances to other worlds (suggestions on [WEB](#)), paper and pens.

- Beforehand, print off the pictures and display them around the room. Give the children paper and pens, and invite them to go around guessing: 1) what places they are; 2) which book/film/TV programme they are from; 3) where they lead to. Award a point for each correct answer. Who gets the highest score?
- Go through the answers and talk about what happens in each place. Explain that we can't step through to heaven and come back, as you can in these fictional worlds. The clearest glimpse of heaven we get is through Jesus.

### Make

#### Kingdom cupcakes

15 mins **E S**

A symbol of Jesus' earthly and heavenly kingship

**You will need:** ready-made cupcakes, icing and cake toppings, coloured paper strips, scissors, sticky tape, lolly sticks, string or PVA glue.

- Give each child a cupcake to ice and decorate.
- Make cupcake wrappers in the shape of a crown. Cut out strips that are 2cm longer than the cupcake circumference and 4cm taller. Cut a zig zag edge so that the wrappers look like crowns. Place the crowns around the cakes and secure them with tape.
- Give everyone two lolly sticks, one cut shorter than the other. Fix them together with string or glue to make a cross. Place a cross on the top of each cupcake. Take home to eat or share.

#### Supporting you all week

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

#### Your kingdom come

10 mins **W S A**

Draw heaven on earth

**You will need:** a large sheet of paper, a marker pen, pencils, crayons.

- Beforehand, write on the paper the following lines of the Lord's Prayer: 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.' Show the children and ask if they recognise the words.
- Talk with them about how they think God would like us to live together. What would it look like if God's will was done on earth?
- Draw pictures together from your discussion, around the words.

### Pray

#### Heaven and earth

5 mins **W S**

Pray for earthly leaders

**You will need:** a toy crown, objects/pictures to represent Jesus' kingship, e.g. manger, foot washing, crown of thorns, lamb, cross.

- Display the crown. Talk with the children about who usually wears one. What does it represent? Some countries are not ruled by a king or queen, but a president, who may have similar or more power.
- Look together at the symbols of Jesus' kingship. How are these different from the crown? What does each one represent?

Ideas for songs and tracks to sing to include contemporary songs available on popular CDs and online.

In every issue of ROOTS, we include 2-3 songs from **Out of the Ark Music for Churches**. ROOTS subscribers can enjoy free access to song recordings, music PDFs and 'words on screen' presentations to sing along to.

### Sing

[WEB](#) Abbreviations and music links\* in *Hymns, songs & music*.

Under 5s	Who's the king of the jungle? King of love, Doug Horley*
Under 12s	Jesus will never, ever (CHY, HON, CJP, RSJ) He came down, Big Ministries*
12+	Here I am to worship, Tim Hughes* God, I look to you, Bethel*

See [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

**Children's Sheet** and **Colouring Sheet** (Welsh versions available).

## Send out

### Live your faith



Encourage the children to put their faith into action. Use the idea below or give out the **Children's Sheet** [WEB](#).

Find opportunities to speak up for the truth this week. **W A**

Encouraging discipleship during the week by connecting faith with everyday life.

# ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.18. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

## BIBLE John 18.33-37

Imaginative approaches to Bible study.

### Warm up 5 mins W

Have a true or false quiz. Find/adapt one online [WEB](#), or make up your own.

### Group lectio divina 10 mins E S

Distribute copies of **John 18.33-37** (download from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)) and lead a lectio divina (sacred reading). Read the passage aloud, then invite someone else to read it. Allow five minutes' silence, reflecting on, 'What is God saying to me today, through this portion of Scripture?' Share thoughts if desired, but don't discuss them; just thank people for their contribution. Invite someone else to read the passage. Sit silently, thinking, 'What is my prayer, or response to God, as a result of what he's said to me?' Share prayers if desired and thank people. Rest in God's presence and close with a simple prayer.

### Questions to discuss

- What is Pilate's concept of a king?
- Where is Jesus' kingdom from?
- What truth does Jesus testify to?

## CONNECT

Ways to connect faith with today's world.

### Royal descriptors 10 mins W

On a large sheet of paper, write down 10 words that the young people associate with the word 'king'. Reflect together on whether Jesus fits all, or any, of these descriptions. If not, what words would they use to describe him? Add these to the sheet in a different colour.

### Real me vs Instagram me 5 mins W

Talk with the group about Instagram. Is it important to them, and if so, why? Does anyone use the filters? How do they choose them? What do the images say about them? How truthful are they?

[WEB](#) PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news [Globe](#).

## Listen

[WEB](#) See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.

Nimrod Lux Aeterna, Edward Elgar, with VOCES8 on *Lux*  
King Of My Heart, John Mark McMillan & Sarah McMillan on *You Are The Avalanche*  
Trust In You, Lauren Daigle on *How Can It Be*

Contemporary music to listen to.

## EXPLORE

Fun, interactive ideas to explore the passage further.

### The question before last 15 mins W E

Show the group the *Two Ronnies'* hilarious 'Mastermind' sketch [WEB](#) in which the contestant answers the question before last. Let the young people devise their own questions and have a similar quiz themselves. It doesn't have to be scripted to be funny.

### Kingdom collage 15 mins E S

Provide newspapers and magazines, scissors, glue and a large sheet of paper. Invite the group to create a collage of God's kingdom, both earthly and heavenly, showing how the two interact. There is no wrong or right way to depict this, but simply their own way.

### Picture pointers [WEB](#)

Questions for reflection [Globe](#)

- ▶ What qualities are desirable in a monarch today?
- ▶ What is the nature of Jesus' kingship?
- ▶ How might you help God's kingdom come?

A thought-provoking image, plus questions to stimulate discussion.



## PRAY

### Crown of confession 5 mins S

Use a toy crown, or make one from card, and attach acrylic jewels, glass nuggets or shiny buttons with sticky tac. Place the jewelled crown on a table in the middle of the group and say a simple prayer of confession [WEB](#). Invite people to detach a 'jewel' from the crown, as a symbol that they are forgiven and renewed.

### The coming kingdom 5 mins S

Pray together that God's kingdom might come. The response is: **Your kingdom come.**

Jesus, Lord and King,  
we pray for those who are oppressed;  
**Your kingdom come.**  
for those subject to unjust regimes...  
for those who face persecution...  
for... (add other prayers, or keep silence).  
Jesus, Lord and King,  
we pray for the coming of your kingdom  
of justice and mercy. **Amen.**

Encouraging discipleship during the week.

### Live your faith [Globe](#)

Spend time considering the news and decide what is true and what is fake. **W**



# Online weekly resources at **www.rootsontheweb.com**

All the magazine materials that you see in this brochure are also published online at [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com).

But that's not all! In addition to the wealth of resources in the magazine, every week the website offers:

- **Support for your planning**
- **Extra downloadable resources and links**, such as drama scripts, images, links to relevant websites and templates for activities
- **A selection of the week's resources that you can use for a group Bible study**  
For Adult & All Age subscribers
- **A *Live your faith* Sheet to support discipleship during the week**  
You could email this to your church community, or put the text on the back of a handout (e.g. a notice sheet)  
For Adult & All Age subscribers
- **PostScript** – added to the site every Thursday morning. PostScript is a comment on the news, linked to the coming Sunday's readings
- **Children's Sheet** (in colour, black & white and Welsh versions)
- **Colouring Sheet** for very young children
- **A whole page of ideas to use with very young children** – including storytelling, craft, a Bible story and prayer activities.  
You can use this during Sunday worship or in a midweek toddler group.

## PLUS Online resource bank

ROOTS has been publishing weekly materials for over 15 years. As well as the freshly written materials for each week, subscribers can access **all** our past resources too!

Thousands  
of prayers

Hundreds of  
sermon ideas

15+ years of children's and  
young people's sessions



A selection from the week's resources help you to plan and run a Bible study.  
For Adult & All Age subscribers

25 November – 1 December 2018 **Through the looking glass**  
Related Bible reading(s): Daniel 7.9-10,13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37

### Bible study

A selection from this week's resources to help you plan and run a Bible study.

Daniel 7.9-10,13-14, Psalm 93, Revelation 1.4b-8, John 18.33-37

#### Welcome and opening prayer (5 mins)

##### A prayer of approach

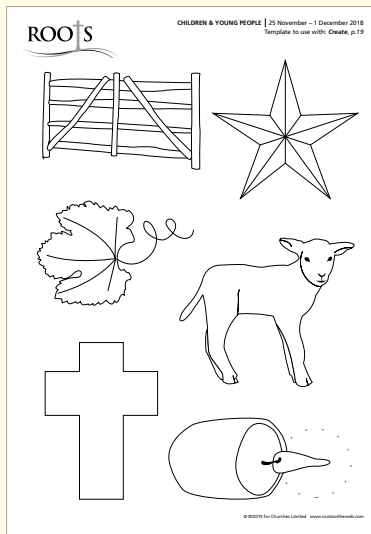
Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,  
kings brought gifts to you at your birth.  
They understood you were the one –  
the life, the truth, God's only Son.  
We come now and call you king,  
and bring our lives and everything –  
for you are truth and love and grace.  
When we see you, we see God's face.  
**Amen.**

#### Read the text (10 mins)

Consider different ways to read the text. For example, sharing parts between several readers, or hearing it more than once using different versions, or using/adapting this suggestion.

Just some of the resources that you can download at [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

Download this week's resources for free at  
[www.rootsontheweb.com/sample](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/sample)

[illegible]


## Planning resources

## Templates


Name \_\_\_\_\_

**John 18:33-37**

Jesus is brought to Pontius Pilatus who asks him if he is the King of the Jews. Jesus says his kingship is not from this world.




## Activity time



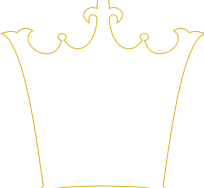
**Draw**

Draw and decorate a king's crown.



**Write**

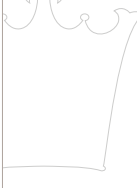
Write a poem or word cloud about Christ the King in the crown.



## Children's Sheet

23 November - 1 December 2018

Write a poem or word cloud about Christ the King in the crown.



**Family time**

**Talk** Why is it important to speak up for the truth?

**Watch** a children's news programme and look out for leaders caught up in difficult situations.

**Pray**

Lord Jesus,  
we pray for all leaders across the world today  
help them to use their power wisely  
and speak up for the truth. Amen.

**Puzzle**

Crack the code to find out what Jesus said to Pilate.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

13	25	11	9	14	15	13	9	19
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## Children's Sheet

Available in colour, black and white and in Welsh-language versions

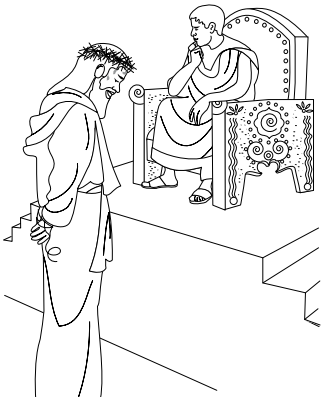
Name \_\_\_\_\_

# ROOTS Colouring Sheet

23 November – 1 December 2018

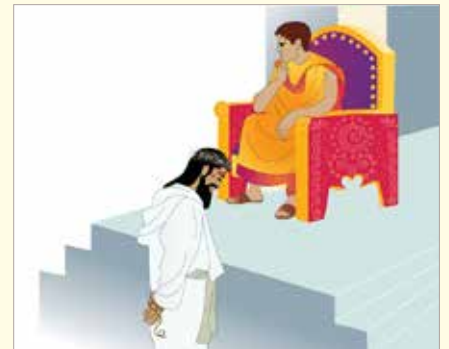
## Colouring time

Jesus stands before Pontius Pilate.



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# Colouring Sheet

[illegible]

## Images

Images for the week that you can  
download, print and project

# Live your faith Sheet

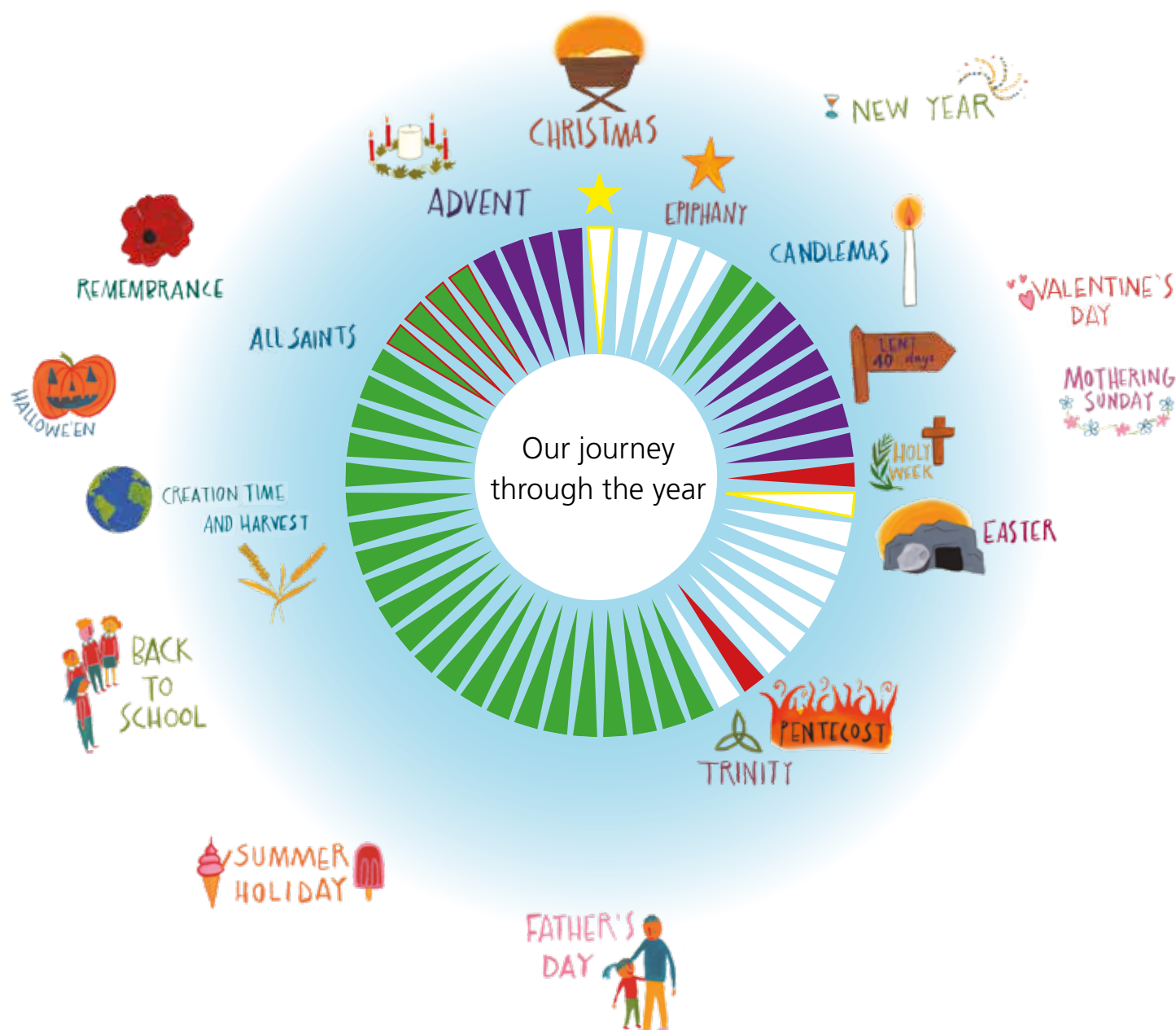
You could email this, or print it on the back of a news sheet

Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com/sample](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/sample) to view these resources online 13

# Seasonal resources

Our huge bank of online seasonal resources enables you to mark the church seasons all through the year.

As well as resources for many festivals and special Sundays, we offer biblical materials for 'secular' events. By enabling you to weave the sacred into the secular, the resources help you reach out to your wider community.



## A selection of the types of resources you'll find in our seasonal resources bank

- All-age services
- Prayers and prayer activities
- Craft and other activities
- Drama sketches
- Holiday club resources
- Reflections and meditations
- Whole service outlines
- Poems, hymns and songs.



# Where can you use ROOTS?

The breadth and flexibility of the ROOTS resources equip and empower people in many different contexts – on Sundays and throughout the week.

## Our subscribers use ROOTS in all these situations – and more!

### Adult & All Age resources

Formal and informal worship  
Preaching  
Family services  
Bible studies  
Prayer groups  
Messy Church  
Pastoral visiting  
Fresh Expressions  
Café church



### Children & Young People resources

Sunday School/Junior Church  
Midweek children's groups  
School assemblies  
Toddler groups  
Youth work



## ROOTS' versatile materials can support all sorts of leaders and volunteers.

Highly experienced New to a role



Working on your own Part of a team



Serving daily Weekly On a rota



Our subscribers include preachers and ministers; teams of all-age worship leaders; and a huge variety of children's and young people's leaders – both experienced and new!

## What do subscribers say about ROOTS?

'Help is available from you in an otherwise very daunting task – spreading the gospel to young and old alike!'

Phoebe Natrass

'A fantastic resource which has really developed our children's understanding of faith... Always fresh and stimulating.'

Meena Tomlinson  
Sunday school teacher, St Peter's Church, Burnley

'It's fresh and constantly renewed and gives me the confidence to put an interesting service together which will stay with people longer than the drive home from church!'

Diana Barker  
Reader in Great Ashfield

'As a worship leader who has to plan Local Arrangement services it provides me with ideas and excellent prayers, also comments on the Bible readings and activities to do during the service.'

Ann Thorley  
Methodist worship leader

Want to subscribe?  
Find out how



# ROOTS SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

ROOTS offers two sets of resources: **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People**.

You can subscribe to one set of resources, or both.

Prices below are valid until August 2019.

## SINGLE-USER SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

A single-user subscription is solely for your personal use.

### Formats available

#### Print + digital

With this subscription, you receive 6 magazines per year (12 if you subscribe to both sets of resources) plus access to the ROOTS website.



or

#### Digital only

Access to the ROOTS resources via the website only.



Please note: If you have a single-user subscription you may not share your username or password. We will monitor IP addresses, and may contact you if we think your login is being used by other people.

### Annual single-user subscription prices

The prices are the same for both formats: a **Print & digital** subscription includes postage, and a **Digital only** subscription includes VAT.

1 set of resources	£52.50 for the year
Both sets of resources	£95.00 for the year

## SHARING SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

To enable people in different roles within church communities and organisations to use the ROOTS resources, we also offer **sharing subscription packages**.

With a sharing subscription, you can:

- receive a mix of **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People** magazines to suit your needs.
- register a number of users on the ROOTS website. It's up to you who to give the magazines to, and who to register as users of the website.

Total number of magazines received per issue	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	More than 8
Total cost for the year	£102.00	£143.25	£185.50	£222.50	£259.50	£296.50	£333.50	£333.50 + £37 per extra magazine**
Number of web user accounts with this package*	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

\*The subscription administrator will have their own, additional, user account, to manage the subscription. \*\*You will have 2 more web accounts than the number of magazines.

\*\*For larger orders, please phone 0845 680 5317 or email [rootssales@rootsontheweb.com](mailto:rootssales@rootsontheweb.com).  
For international prices, please go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com).

## HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

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[www.rootsontheweb.com/members](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/members)

