

## Puppet Scripts to Introduce Themes: Lectionary Readings

*For All Age Services, Children's Groups and Time Together before Junior Church*

*Bible readings and themes compatible with Roots*

*Scripts written by Rachel Coupe*

**CHARACTERS** *(Only two puppets on stage at any time)*

**Ben** – Playful 10 year old boy

**Lily** – His 8 year old sister

**Melanie** – Their mother

**Mike** – Their father

**Grandpa** – Mel's Dad

**Grandma** – Mike's mother

**Dixie the dog** - Lovable rogue who can get away with being naughty; speaks English when alone

*Tips:* Practise a funny, **woofy voice** for Dixie the Dog. Use a puppet stand with a curtain or a table covered with a cloth. Check that it is safe. Props can be placed on a table or a tall flower stand next to the curtain.

Props and visual aids are helpful for children. If not available, be creative and help them to use their imagination.

Use safety pins to attach scripts to the back of the curtain and highlight each part. Use a large font-size.

For amplification, headset microphones stay in the right place and leave the hands free.

The puppets need to perform high enough for everyone to see - encourage people to move if necessary.

For suggestions re. buying puppets and puppet stands, please visit our website [www.graceproject.org.uk](http://www.graceproject.org.uk)

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**5<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Matthew 4,1-11**

**Who do you think I am?**

### **Beautiful music?**

Mike is playing 'The Phantom of the Opera is here' but Lily doesn't appreciate his taste in music. She prefers 'One Direction' and plays 'What makes you beautiful'. Mike doesn't appreciate the music, but has to admit the lyrics are wholesome. The problem is solved by them both wearing headphones.

*Theme:* *Does the music we choose to listen to have wholesome lyrics?*

*Roots themes explore:* *Voices we listen to; identity; Scripture as nourishment*

*Humour:* Mike and Lily have completely different tastes in music

Lily can't understand why Christine falls in love with an ugly phantom

Lily demonstrates flicking her hair but it goes into Mike's face

Dad can't find the headphones

They look funny in headphones

*Props:* 2 puppet-sized headphones

Sign saying: 'At home'

### Introduction

Ask the congregation what their favourite music is. Expose the difference in tastes in music that different people have

*Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'Beautiful music?'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

Ask why Mike was a little hypocritical complaining about the lyrics in Lily's choice of music. (His were worse)

Think about the consequences of allowing children to listen to music where the words are not appropriate for their age.

Are adults in a better position to discern which songs we allow to influence our thinking? (Hopefully!)

Affirm that we can all make choices about our taste in music and which messages we choose to take notice of.

In today's Bible reading, Jesus hears a voice that he chooses to disregard, quoting the scriptures to justify his non-compliance.

*The Bible Story*

Where? At home

Title of sketch: Beautiful music?

Mike	(Singing) The Phantom of the Opera is here, inside your mind.
Lily	Dad, that's horrible!
Mike	Are you being rude about my singing?
Lily	Yes. You're out of tune and it's a horrible song.
Mike	That's a matter of personal taste. I like the song. Why don't you?
Lily	It's errrr, old fashioned.
Mike	So what? I thought 'retro' had become quite trendy these days.
Lily	(Cynically) Dad, you could never be trendy. Dad's just aren't.
Mike	That's a very ageist comment you just made. (Sings again) The Phantom...
Lily	Dad! (he stops singing) Why are you singing about a Phantom!
Mike	He lives below the Paris Opera House because he's so ugly, gives singing lessons and hypnotises his pupil Christine to fall in love with him.
Lily	That's creepy. Why would anyone fall in love with an ugly phantom?
Mike	I'm sorry, Lily. Let's listen to your favourite music instead. Anything you like, my princess. The choice is yours. Your wish is my command.
Lily	Let's have some 'One Direction'.
Mike	Oh, no! Definitely not 'One Direction'!
Lily	I'd like 'You don't know you're beautiful'.
Mike	Ask for something else.
Lily	But Dad, your promised I could choose!
Mike	Ugh! All right then.
Lily	(Sings) You light up my world like nobody else. The way that you flip your hair gets me overwhelmed. (Flips hair into Mike's face)
Mike	Be careful how you flip your hair. Why did you do that?
Lily	That's what the girl does in the pop video.
Mike	I don't think you should be listening to that kind of music.
Lily	But Dad, they're singing that she's beautiful. What's wrong with that? You can't complain - your creepy music is about phantoms hypnotising people.
Mike	Mmmm, you do have a point. (thinks) I have a solution.
Lily	What's that?
Mike	A wonderful invention called headphones. We can both listen to the music we like.
Lily	Good idea! Where are the headphones?
Mike	They'll be in this box. I keep everything like that all together so I can always find them. (opens box and takes out:) Phone charger, adapter, usb cable
Lily	Are you having trouble finding them, Dad?
Mike	Shhhh! String, garden wire, shoelace, necklace, hair scrunchy...
Lily	And Dad complains that I don't tidy my things!
Mike	Ahhh! Here we are. Two headphones. Let's put them on. (They do so)
Lily	Yeah! That's more like it! (Both sing along out of tune wearing headphones. The two songs sound awful together, but they are both clearly happy and enjoying their own music. Both exit)

12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

John 3.1-17

How can this be?

## A new job

Mel has just picked Ben up after her first day working at 'The Water Board'. It has gone well and she feels like a new person. Ben is reluctant to have a bath and Dixie jumps into the water instead.

*Theme: Loving a new job at the water board*

*Roots themes explore: Embracing new identities; powerful images (water and wind); letting go*

Humour: Water jokes  
Ben doesn't like baths  
Dixie does and jumps in the water splashing Ben

Props: Sign saying: 'Back home'

### Introduction

If any children in the congregation have changed school, ask them whether they were glad of the change. Did it take long to settle in?

Find out whether anyone has changed to a better job. How did it feel?

Let them know that Mel has just picked up Ben after starting a new job with the water board.

*Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'A new job'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

Find out whether anyone in the congregation dislikes cold water in a bath (or swimming pool). Do they jump in or creep in slowly? Those people will sympathise with Ben not wanting a cold bath.

Sometimes in life, we just have to 'take the plunge', as Mel did when they wouldn't let her put off starting her new job.

Note that after her first day in a better job, she seems to be a new, woman. Even Ben noticed how happy she was.

Listen carefully to what Jesus has to say about water. Sometimes water on its own isn't enough to make us new and clean in the way that God wants us to be.

*The Bible Story*

Mel	(Hums happily) It's good to be back home. (Hums again)
Ben	You sound happy! Did your first day with The Water Board go well?
Mel	Yes, thank you. I feel exhausted, but happy. I like working for The Water Board. My old job was just exhausting. I wasn't happy and it was draining me.
Ben	Why didn't you take a week off before your new job? You said you would.
Mel	I wanted to, but when we discussed my start date they said 'Water you waiting for?' Water you waiting for – do you get it? (both laugh)
Ben	Water you doing, Mum?
Mel	I'm just going upstairs to run your bath. (exits and speaks from offstage) We're later home than usual and I don't want you to miss it.
Ben	I don't mind missing my bath, honest!
Mel	(Returning) You boys! Sometimes I think you're allergic to water. Look at you. You're filthy! Go upstairs immediately. (Ben procrastinates)
Ben	We had football training today. What did you do in your training day?
Mel	I learnt that bottled water costs 500 times as much as tap water. A whole bucket of water is just 1p or 0.2p for a glass of water.
Ben	That's really cheap.
Mel	People don't appreciate it. Drinking water is good for you. Now go upstairs.
Ben	What are your colleagues like?
Mel	They love jokes. Here's one of theirs: Why is the letter T like an island?
Ben	I don't know. Why is the letter T like an island?
Mel	Because it's in the middle of 'water'. (both laugh) How about this one? Consuming a whole pail of water could make you go pail. (Mel laughs, but Ben looks puzzled) A pail is an old fashioned word for a bucket.
Ben	Ah, I get it – a pail, looking pale? Nice pun, Mum! (Dixie barks offstage)
Mel	Now, for goodness sake, go upstairs and jump in the bath before Dixie does.
Ben	He's welcome to it. I don't want one.
Mel	The last thing I need this evening is clearing up the mess when Dixie jumps in the water and knocks everything over in the bathroom. Now go upstairs!
Ben	(Reluctantly) Yes, Mum! (Ben slowly climbs up the stairs groaning)
Mel	Did you know that a duck that refuses to go in the water is called a chicken?
Ben	Hugh! (Mum exits) Why do I need a bath. I'm only a little bit dirty!
Dixie	Woof, woof, woof!
Ben	Why don't you have my bath for me, Dixie? You like baths!
Dixie	Woooooof!
Ben	I suppose I'd better get in or Mum will be cross. (Does so, but jumps out again quickly) Ahhh! It's cold!
Dixie	Woof! (Jumps in making a huge splash)
Ben	Oh, Dixie! I'm all wet! Brrrrr!

## Who am I?

Lily arrives home with a post-it note on her forehead saying 'Nelson'. Ben, clean from his recent bath, agrees to play the game 'Who am I?' He has to guess that he is Ariel, then Lily is given 'Grandma'. They discuss their Grandmother's devotion to Jesus.

*Theme: Recognising that Grandma's faith makes her a very special person*  
*Roots themes explore: Living water; concealing and revealing identity; the power of testimony*

**Humour:** Lily looks funny with a post-it on her forehead  
She thinks it's funny that Ben is still shivering from his bath  
Ben doesn't appreciate being labelled a mermaid  
Water joke  
Ben thinks Lily cheated

**Props:** Labels on foreheads: 'Nelson', 'Ariel' and 'Grandma'  
Sign saying: 'At home'

## Introduction

Ask what are people's favourite party games? Enjoy hearing how much fun these can be.

Today's puppet sketch features 'Who am I?' You have to guess the name on your forehead. Has anyone played this (including the version where the name is on a mobile phone)?

### *Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'Who am I?'*

## After the Puppet Sketch

Comment on how quickly the children guessed the names on their foreheads. But how long does it take to recognise the face of someone you know? (Almost instantaneous).

Lily recognised Grandma as a Christian who prayed and helps people.

How long does it take to recognise what a new friend is like as a person? (a lot longer!)

Say that we are about to meet someone who was about to find out what Jesus was like. Hear her puzzlement expressed through the questions that she asks him.

### *The Bible Story*

Lily	(Wearing 'Nelson' on forehead) Have you seen Ben? I want to play 'Who am I' (Looks around him) Why can you never find a brother when you need him?
Ben	Hello, Lily. Did you have a nice time at Courtney's house? (sees post-it, laughs)
Lily	Don't you laugh at me like that. I'll tell Mum. Will you play with me?
Ben	No, I'm still shivering from my cold bath. (shivers) You have to have one too.
Lily	No I don't. I'm not muddy from playing football.
Ben	That's not fair.
Lily	It is! Anyway I want to play 'Who am I' with you. Grandma has given me a name. Is it a real person? (Ben replies 'yes') Is it someone from history? (yes) Am I female? (no) Am I a king? (no) A soldier?
Ben	You're a sailor.
Lily	(Crossly) You can only answer yes or no. Am I Nelson?
Ben	Yes. My turn. I'll go and get a post-it from Grandma. (exits)
Lily	I did that one quickly. I'm a genius! (Ben returns with 'Ariel on his forehead)
Ben	O.K. Am I a grown up?
Lily	Err, I don't know. You're not really, ...exactly completely human like that.
Ben	I thought you could only answer yes or no!
Lily	Sorry!
Ben	Am I half human? (yes) The minotaur? (no) err, an Egyptian God with an animal head? (no) Oh no, I'm not a mermaid am I (yes) Ariel (yes) Oh, Lily. You know I don't like mermaids. Yuk! Girly stuff!
Lily	It's just a game. My turn. (exits)
Ben	(To audience) Another sea-faring character. While Lily's gone, would you like to hear another of Mum's water jokes?
<b>All</b>	<b>Yes please!</b>
Ben	What did one ocean say to the other ocean?
<b>All</b>	<b>I don't know, what did one ocean say to the other ocean?</b>
Ben	Nothing. They just waved!
Lily	I'm back. Male or female?
Ben	Yes. That's all I'm allowed to say.
Lily	Oh, Ben! (thinks) Am a female? (yes) Am I from history (no) Do I know this person? (yes) Is it someone in our family? (yes) Is it Mum? (no) Grandma?
Ben	Yes. That was quick. Did you cheat? Look in the mirror or something?
Lily	No, I'm just clever. (Ben laughs)
Ben	O.K. If you're so clever. Tell me everything you know about Grandma.
Lily	Well, she likes going to church. She likes church a lot! Grandma prays too and just seems to know what you're thinking. She's always trying to help people
Ben	She sounds like a saint!
Lily	Well, I think she is a bit of saint. Don't you Ben? (Ben grunts 'maybe')

26<sup>th</sup> March 2017

John 9.1-41

Seeing the light (Mothering Sunday)

## Great Grandmother's Guide Dog

Mel gives Grandma some chocolates and they talk about her mother who'd been blind and had had a Guide Dog.

*Theme:* Appreciating the difficulties a blind mother might experience

*Roots themes explore:* Physical and spiritual blindness; pushing the boundaries; choosing to believe

**Humour:** Mike's already at church and Grandma can't wait for her present  
Mel says she doesn't want a chocolate – but she does really  
Grandma always likes to know which chocolate she's choosing  
Grandma has lost her glasses again  
Funny stories about the guide dog

**Props:** box of chocolates  
Sign saying: 'In the lounge'

### Introduction

Find out who like chocolates as a gift? Who just takes one and who studies the descriptions first?

The writing on the bottom of the box can be hard to read without tipping the chocolates on the floor, or the text small.

Is anyone else irritated by this?

Say that you hope it doesn't spoil the enjoyment of the chocolates too much. It doesn't in today's sketch.

*Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'Great Grand-mother's Guide Dog'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

Share stories about people we know who are blind and what life is like for them.

Explain that the word 'blind' can be used to mean something different. It can mean 'not understanding'.

Notice how the Bible uses the pun to draw attention to the foolishness of the Pharisees in today's Bible reading.

*The Bible Story*

*Where?* In the lounge

*Title of sketch:* Great Grand-mother's Guide Dog

Mel	Did you see Mike before he left for church this morning?
Gma	No, I didn't get up in time. The bed was rather sticky this morning.
Mel	I'm sorry he had to go early. He's on duty for setting up.
Gma	That's quite all right. We shall see him soon.
Mel	That's very nice of you, especially as it's your birthday. It's not often your birthday falls on Mothering Sunday.
Gma	That's right. It has only happened a couple of times since Mike was born.
Mel	As you don't mind waiting to see him, we'll give you your present after church?
Gma	Is it a box of chocolates?
Mel	Well, I don't know if I should say? Maybe... (sees Grandma's look) err, yes
Gma	You know how much I love chocolates.
Mel	Here you are then. Happy birthday. Happy Mother's Day.
Gma	Thank you! (removes paper) Chocolates. What a lovely surprise! Like one?
Mel	Oh, no. I couldn't possibly. They're yours. Especially with Mike not being here. I couldn't possibly take one.
Gma	Go on Mel. I know you love these.
Mel	Oh, all right then! (takes one quickly)
Gma	You and me both love chocolates, but I like to choose mine. Have you seen my glasses? I've got several pairs but I can never find one of them when I need them. I need a pair just for looking for the pairs I've lost.
Mel	(Laughs) They're right here.
Gma	Clever you! Let me see? (Takes while to choose, with Mel impatient)
Mel	Hurry up or we'll be late for church!
Gma	Sorry. (takes one, takes a long time eating with noisy appreciation sounds)
Mel	Your eyesight must be getting worse. It's affecting the speed you chew.
Gma	(Insulted) Pardon?
Mel	And your hearing!
Gma	I'm ready. Let's go. I just need to get my coat, my shoes and my hat.
Mel	(Sighing) I don't know how we ever get out on time!
Gma	Just be glad I don't have to get a Guide dog ready too. Like my mother. She was always running late.
Mel	From what Mike says, she sounds like she was quite a character.
Gma	And so was the Guide dog. He was the vainest Guide dog in (your town).
Mel	Oh. I didn't know a dog could be vain!
Gma	This one used to stop at all the shop window where he could see his reflection. It took ages to get the shopping done.
Mel	A dog admiring himself in the mirror! I hear he liked to sing.
Gma	He usually lay down next to her while she conducted the children's choir. But when they sang 'Stand up for Jesus' he would stand up and howl loudly.
Mel	Well, I wouldn't dare take our Dixie to church. Are we ready yet? Let's go before we're late. (both exit)

## A Dead Spider

Dixie finds a dead spider and gives it to Lily. She runs off screaming and tells Mel at bed-time. They pray for the family pets buried at the bottom of the garden.

*Theme: Mortal beings die and this can test our faith*

*Roots themes explore: Testing faith; the human and the divine in Jesus; restoring life*

**Humour:** Dixie is proud of finding a dead spider, but Lily is scared of it  
Dixie is upset that Lily didn't appreciate his 'find'  
Mel has little sympathy  
Imaginary occupants of the 'pet cemetery' in the garden  
Lily's prayers for the deceased pets

**Props:** A toy spider  
Bedding ( e.g. use a pillow case)  
Signs saying: 'In the garden'  
'Lily's bedroom'

### Introduction

Find out who will admit to being scared of spiders. Arachnophobia. Sympathise, e.g. by saying that that this is very common. Share the emotion behind the fear. Contrast this with the view that is irrational for a relatively large human to be scared of something so small.

Say that Dixie the dog has no such fears and is very proud of finding a dead spider.

*Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'A Dead Spider'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

Find out how members of the congregation felt when a loved pet died. What did they do with the body?

Ask how they would respond to a child who was hoping that their pet would come back to life?

Establish the reality that the dead do not normally come back to life.

Or can they? Listen careful to a miracle performed by Jesus.

*The Bible Story*

*Where?* In the garden

*Title of sketch:* A Dead Spider

Dixie	(With something in mouth) Woof, woof, woof! (shakes spider, now revealing to audience what it is. Continues to play with spider comically.
Lily	(Enters) What have you got there, Dixie.
Dixie	(Puts down spider and barks proudly) Woof, woof, woof.
Lily	You sound very proud of your trophy. Let me see. (Goes to pick it up)
Dixie	(Snatches back spider in mouth) Wooooooof!
Lily	Oh Dixie! Let me see what you've got! (Comically chases Dixie, giving up after a while) I want to see what you've got. I'm going to tell Mum of you!
Dixie	(Drops spider in front of Lily) Woof!
Lily	(Screams comically) I'm scared of spiders!!! (Runs round in small circles)
Dixie	(Puzzled) Woooooof! (One loud woof at Lily makes her run off stage)
Lily	(Exiting) I'm telling Mum!
Dixie	What's got into that girl. How can she be scared of a small, dead spider. I shall never understand human beings! (plays with spider then exits)
In Lily's bedroom	
Mel	Did you enjoy that bed-time story?
Lily	Yes it helped me to forget something bad that happened today.
Mel	Do you mean finding Dixie's spider?
Lily	Mum! Don't remind me!
Mel	Oh, sorry! (thinks) Sometimes it helps to talk about our fears.
Lily	I don't want to. (Pulls pillow over her face)
Mel	If you're going to hide from me. I'd better go right now.
Lily	(Pops head out of pillow) Don't leave me when I'm scared.
Mel	Lily! You are 999 times bigger than a spider. Relatively speaking, you're like a giant to a spider. It should be scared of you, if it has 'feelings'.
Lily	It was dead.
Mel	Oh, in that case it wouldn't be scared of you at all.
Lily	It should have a proper burial.
Mel	A spider! A proper burial!!!
Lily	Yes, of course. We could bury it in our pet's graveyard in our garden.
Mel	I'm not sure we can do that. By now the body will have deteriorated and the legs might have fallen off. It would be impossible to find all the bits.
Lily	Please Mum.
Mel	O.K. We'll try tomorrow in the light. It's time to go to sleep, goodnight.
Lily	Goodnight! (lies down as Mel starts to exit, then jumps up) Mum!
Mel	Lily, for goodness sake go to sleep. (curiously) What is it, my little angel?
Lily	I've had a night-mare about all our old pets in our graveyard.
Mel	Oh? A nightmare? Did they come back to life and start eating people?
Lily	No, Mum, of course not. They only ate up you. Goodnight! (Lies down)

## A Royal Arrival

Ben is practising his part in an Easter play. As King Herod, he has to ride into a city in a carriage waving to his citizens. What should he wear? Grandpa recommends that he blows his nose first to avoid sneezing in the middle of his entrance.

*Theme: How a king would make an entrance*

*Roots themes explore: The ritual of arrival; a peaceful expression of power; providing a response*

Humour: Grandpa's snoring  
Grandpa assumes the main part in the play is Jesus  
The crown is too big and falls over face  
Ben sneezes at just the wrong time  
Ben blows his nose very loudly

Props: Adjustable gold crown or two of different sizes  
Handkerchief  
Sign saying: 'At home'

### Introduction

Discuss how people arrive at a wedding, drawing on people's personal experience. The bride often arrives in a special car, which then carry the newly-weds away afterwards. Important politicians and royalty still arrive in grandeur today. Remember any recent examples of this that the congregation know about. What, historically, would have been considered an appropriate way for a king to travel? Now observe how Ben practises his entry when he plays the part of royalty in his school play (and he isn't going to be Jesus!)

### *Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'A Royal Arrival'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

Emphasise the difference between the two different kings in the Easter story. The puppet king Herod who 'ruled' the part of Israel Jesus came from and the eternal King Jesus who behaves very differently to worldly kings. Listen to the story of the first Palm Sunday and think how people would have felt about the manner that Jesus chose to arrive into Jerusalem.

### *The Bible Story*

Ben	Grandpa, Grandpa (Grandpa snores) Wake up Grandpa!
Grandpa	(snores loudly)
Ben	(Shouts) Wake up Grandpa!
Grandpa	(Comes to comically) What's up, Ben?
Ben	I've got the lead part in my school Easter play. Who do you think I am?
Grandpa	Well. Jesus, of course
Ben	No, I'm a King.
Grandpa	A king – that's obviously Jesus!
Ben	Better than that. I'm King Herod. I get to ride in a carriage wearing gold.
Grandpa	Huh! That will be more fun than being Jesus who's usually the main part!
Ben	King Herod is like a royal pantomime baddy. What can I wear?
Grandpa	Haven't you still got a golden crown from the Christmas nativity play?
Ben	Oh, yes – I'll go and get it. (exits)
Grandpa	Huh! Since when has King Herod been the star of the Easter story. Some people are just so dazzled by 'kings' they forget who the real King is!
Ben	(returning with crown over face) It's stretched, Grandpa.
Grandpa	Either that or your head has shrunk. It fitted perfectly at Christmas.
Ben	(In a temper) What can I do if I haven't got a crown to wear?
Grandpa	You could try adjusting it to fit. It's adjustable.
Ben	Oh, wait a minute (exits)
Grandpa	It just takes some brains to know these things!
Ben	(Returning) That's better. Now, I need to practise my grand entrance. Will you be the audience, Grandpa.
Grandpa	OK. What would you like me to do?
Ben	Shout 'Hail, King Herod'
Grandpa	(In a normal voice) Hail, King Herod
Ben	No, not like that. Can I have a bit more enthusiasm?
Grandpa	(Shouting) Hail, King Herod!
Ben	No, that's too loud. Acting has to be believable.
Grandpa	Come on, lets' get on with it. Make your entrance and I'll cheer.
Ben	OK. I'll start from over this side and I'll wave. (Does so, music can be used at this point)
Grandpa	(Dramatically) Hail... (Ben sneezes very loudly Grandpa laughs)
Ben	Don't laugh Grandpa! I'm the king. I would chop off your head for that!
Grandpa	Sorry, Ben. It was funny. I suggest you blow your nose before your big entrance. Here's a handkerchief. (Gives it to Ben)
Ben	(Blows nose comically) Let's try again. (Makes entrance, waving)
Grandpa	Hail King Herod! Hail King Herod!
Ben	Thank you, Grandpa (both exit)

## Hunt the Bunny

A rabbit makes a guest appearance at the Easter Day service which is followed by an egg hunt. As the bunny manages to escape, they have to play 'hunt the bunny' as well. During the chase, the rabbit hurts a paw and gets quite scared. All is well after the paw is bandaged by the local vet.

*Theme:* the drama of a rabbit escaping and being returned to her cage  
*Roots themes explore:* A dramatic scene; fear and joy; breaking out

**Humour:** An Easter egg hunt is the favourite part of the Easter Day service  
Are ministers always right?  
Funny name for rabbit  
The eggs are accidentally dropped and one becomes a funny shape  
A comical chase round the church garden  
The rabbit is not quite as happy as expected about being returned to the cage  
The paw is bandaged up with a very large bandage

**Props:** cage containing rabbit puppet/soft toy or cardboard cut-out  
Small chocolate eggs  
Sign saying: 'Church Garden'

### Introduction

Ask what everyone enjoys most about Easter? How many people think that chocolate Easter eggs are their favourite way of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Some churches organise an Easter egg hunt after their Easter service. Find out what will go wrong when Lily brings her pet rabbit to take part in this annual event at her church.

*Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'Hunt the bunny'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

Has anyone had the experience of losing a pet when the cage was unexpectedly insecure? Say that this can be an alarming experience! When Jesus broke out of the tomb, this would have been an alarming experience for the Roman soldiers who were supposed to be guarding it. For his friends it would have been just as dramatic, but a rather more joyful event.

*The Bible Story*

*Where?* The church garden

*Title of sketch:* Hunt the Bunny

Mike	I'm really not sure that it was a good idea to bring your rabbit to church!
Lily	But (your minister) suggested it and church ministers are always right!
Mike	Maybe not this time, Lily. I've got a nasty feeling about today.
Lily	Oh, Dad! The Easter Day service is the best one of the year.
Mike	I agree with you, Lily. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus is amazing!
Lily	No Dad, I mean the chocolate egg hunt afterwards.
Mike	Lily, you should be ashamed of yourself. Jesus died and came back to life, but all you can think about is chocolate!
Lily	Yes, chocolate, Dad, chocolate. You love chocolate too!
Mike	(Head in hands) I do like chocolate, but that's not what Easter's about. It's certainly not about rabbits.
Lily	Dad, you know you can't have Easter eggs unless the chocolate bunny brings them. You said so yourself!
Mike	Yes, but it wasn't on a Sunday when I said that. We're just arriving at church, remember! Make sure you keep that rabbit in the age.
Lily	Everyone's going to love petting my black, pet rabbit, Peppercorn.
Mike	Black Peppercorn, the Easter bunny. Whatever next? (groans)
Lily	I'm so excited, I've got the Easter rabbit in one hand and the Easter eggs in the other. This is going to be a fab church service...
Mike	...for all the wrong reasons. Just make sure you don't drop Peppercor...
Lily	Woops! (drops eggs and cage) Oh, no, I've dropped everything! The Easter eggs are rolling all over the floor and the cage door has come op...
Mike	...don't tell me – the Easter bunny has escaped. I knew it was a bad idea.
Lily	Come back here, Peppercorn! (comical chase until rabbit caught by Mike)
Mike	Peppercorn will be much happier back in her cage.
Lily	Oh no she won't!
Mike	Oh yes she is
<b>All</b>	<b>Oh no she isn't</b>
Mike	Oh yes she isn't
<b>All</b>	<b>Oh no she isn't</b>
Lily	Look she's excited (bunny shakes)
Mike	She's shaking from fear and, look her paw is hurting!
Lily	Oh, that's alright. There's a vet in the congregation. She can fix anything.
Mike	Yeah, right? Let <u>me</u> take the rabbit to see our friendly vet before anything else happens. Lily, please pick up those eggs rolling everywhere.
Lily	Why does Dad always have to spoil everything by being sensible and why do I have to pick up all the eggs by myself? Oh no, the eggs are all broken. Never mind, they're too big to eat without being broken up first anyway.
Mike	(enters with rabbit) Look! Peppercorn has the biggest bandage in the world!

## Eggs remaining

Dixie has smelt the chocolate Easter eggs remaining un-eaten in Ben's bedroom. Despite them being out of sight and carries them, one by one to his bed. Ben catches Dixie doing this and a fight results. Mike is cross because Ben should have taken his advice and stored them more securely – certainly not on top of the new electric blanket that he's just turned on!

*Theme: Dixie comes to Ben's bedroom to steal eggs; Mike comes to restore the peace*  
*Roots themes explore: A questioning faith; believing without seeing; shalom (peace be with you)*

**Humour:** Dixie steals Easter eggs, one by one  
 A comical tug-of-war over an egg  
 Hiding chocolate under the duvet doesn't stop Dixie smelling it  
 Lily pleads hard for Dixie

**Props:** Chocolate eggs  
 A melted chocolate egg  
 Sign saying: 'Ben's bedroom'

## Introduction

Find out who still has some Easter eggs left? Find out where people consider to be the best place to store chocolate? If it is stored in an easily accessible place, is it more tempting to eat too much too quickly? Explain that in Ben's house, chocolate should be stored away from their chocolate-loving dog. Unfortunately, Ben has forgotten about this.

### *Introduce the Puppet Sketch "*

## After the Puppet Sketch

Ben had two visitors to his bedroom. For what reasons did they each want access to Ben's room? Which visitor had come in peace to be helpful, and which to cause trouble? (Mike came in peace to be helpful - to switch on the new electric blanket and Dixie came as a thief to steal chocolate eggs) Ben hadn't found a very good hiding place for his Easter eggs. Is good eye-sight the only way for a dog to find chocolate?(No, they use their sense of smell) Point out that there are lots of ways to discover information, besides what we see with our eyes.

Listen to the Bible story to find out how Thomas got new information about Jesus?

### *The Bible Story*

Dixie	(Rushing across stage towards Ben's bedroom) Woof, woof, woof! (returns carrying an egg, growling quietly) Grrrrrr... (drops egg and repeats twice)
Ben	(Enters) Dixie, that's my Easter egg. Give it back, thief! (Ben and Dixie have a noisy tug of war over the egg. The egg drops on the floor) Go away Dixie! (Exit Dixie whimpering) That dog is nothing but trouble! (sighs) Every time Dixie comes up to my room, he always causes trouble! I'm going to make my bedroom a 'dog-free zone'. Mmm a 'Keep Out' sign would help. (writes the sign, listing the letters as they are written and hangs it up) That's better. I'm the only one allowed in my room.
Mike	(Enters) What's up Ben? I heard a lot of noise coming from your bedroom?(Sees the sign) Oh dear! It looks as though I can't come into your bedroom.
Ben	That's right. Nobody's allowed in my room except me!
Mike	That's a pity. Your loss! I won't come in if you don't want me to. Have you thought about the consequences of your actions?
Ben	The consequences of my actions? What do you mean?
Mike	Well, as the weather is unusually cold for the time of year, I've bought you a new electric blanket which is on your bed. I've come to switch it on.
Ben	Oh, if you've come in peace to make my bed warm. I'll let you come in.
Mike	Well, thank you, Ben. You'll be glad you made the right decision when you have a nice warm bed tonight. (exits)
Ben	A nice warm bed? I like the sound of that! (Mike returns)
Mike	I've turned your electric blanket on. It should be lovely and warm at bedtime. Now tell me, what was all the noise about earlier. Dixie looks upset.
Ben	Dixie was stealing my Easter eggs
Mike	I'm impressed you've still got some eggs left a week after Easter day. I'm not impressed you ignored my advice to keep them where Dixie can get to them. You know that human chocolate isn't good for dogs.
Ben	But Dad, I hid them out of sight. They were all covered up.
Mike	Covering them up won't help. Dogs have a good sense of smell and can find food with their noses. Where did you hide the chocolate?
Ben	Oh, I found a really good hiding place on my bed, under the duvet.
Mike	Oh? (embarrassed) chocolate eggs on your bed under the duvet?
Ben	Yes, that's right. Why, what's wrong, Dad?
Mike	On your bed under the duvet and on top of the new electric blanket I've just turned on to its hottest setting? All your chocolate is going to melt!
Ben	Ah! All my lovely chocolate is melting! I must rescue it! (exits screaming and returns with a mis-shaped chocolate egg) Look it's dead!

## Green Hair

Dixie runs to Lily barking and Lily is equally alarmed to see a green-haired stranger in the lounge. It turns out to be Grandma with a new hairstyle. Lily is reluctant to give Grandma her usual hug, but readily accepts a piece of her Easter egg. She finds some doggie chocolate for Dixie.

*Theme: Lily doesn't initially recognise her Grandmother but the relationship is restored when they share chocolate*  
*Roots themes explore: Recognising the stranger; invitation; breaking the bread*

**Humour:** Dixie's barking and reaction to Grandma  
Lily screams  
Lily won't go near Grandma until offered chocolate  
Lily thinks Grandma's head looks like a watermelon

**Props:** Green wig for Granma (made from wool)  
Sign saying: 'At home'

### Introduction

Have fun finding out the most radical hairstyles your congregation have ever had. Perhaps this was for sponsorship for charity or a fashion long since passed? State that extreme hair-styles aren't just for the young.

*Introduce the Puppet Sketch 'Green Hair'*

### After the Puppet Sketch

When

*The Bible Story*

Dixie	Woof, woof, woooooooooof (continues barking)
Lily	What's the matter, Dixie?
Dixie	(Continues barking, indicating that something isn't right in the lounge)
Lily	Something in the lounge?
Dixie	Woof (nods head)
Lily	Someone you don't know?
Dixie	Woof (nods head)
Lily	Don't be silly, Dixie! It will be somebody nice. Don't embarrass our visitors.(Dixie whimpers) Shall I go and have a look?
Dixie	Wooooof! (nodding head)
Lily	All right. (knocks on door, starts to enter, screams and returns, jumping into Dixie's 'arms') I'm scared, Dixie. It's a visitor with green hair!
Dixie	Woof! (The two scream at each other comically; both exit)
Grandma	(Offstage) Come here Lil. It's me, Grandma!
Lily	(Enters hesitantly) Are you sure?
Grandma	Of course I'm sure it's me.
Lily	But Grandma – you have green hair!!!
Grandma	It's still me. Can't you tell by the voice.
Lily	But Grandma, you look like a watermelon.
Grandma	Well, I'll take that as a compliment. Come and give me my usual hug.
Lily	Errr, no way absolutely not! You look errrrr... scary!
Grandma	In that case, you won't want to share any of this chocolate egg.
Lily	I didn't say that. Are you sure you're Grandma.
Grandma	Of course I'm sure. Come here and have some chocolate. It's good for treating 'shock'.(Lily nervously accepts the chocolate and eats it.
Dixie	(Barks off-stage)
Lily	Dixie wants some too.
Grandma	You can find his doggy-chocolate later, but first give me that hug
Lily	I liked you better with normal hair. (reluctantly gives Grandma a hug.
Grandma	I'm the same old Grandma. I haven't changed.
Lily	You sound and feel like the same person, but your green hair did give me and Dixie a fright.
Grandma	Did you prefer my grey hair?
Lily	Definitely!
Grandma	You might be grey yourself, one day
Lily	Never. I'm never going to tun grey. I'd rather dye (die)!!!
Grandma	Don't do that yet, Lily. Not for a very long time. Now off you go and feed that noisy dog of yours. (Lily exits to barking which stops suddnely. It's followed by loud munching noises as Dixie eats his doggy-chocolate)

