

## Hallowe'en 2020

### Resources for churches, families and schools to connect, create and reflect



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

*Hallowe'en has become firmly fixed in the annual calendar and has deep and ancient pre-Christian roots. Like many of these festivals it was adopted and adapted by the church as of the eve 'All Saints' or 'All Hallows Day' hence Hallowe'en. All Hallows remembers all of the people who have served God.*

*Lots of the associated customs come from these origins: carving turnips (pumpkins), sharing food and drink, dressing up, and mischief or misrule. Trick or Treating might have origins in soul cakes where people prayed for other households and those who had died and were given a 'soul cake' for their prayers.*

*Many churches have embraced this season in the form of light parties or giving away gifts of sweets and carving a pumpkin with a cross or heart has become popular more recently.*

*2020 will be different for many as we follow government guidelines and ensure we are COVID-safe.*

*Here are some ideas for churches, families and schools. Please ensure you complete a risk assessment for your own context and follow the latest government guidelines.*

	Indoor	Outdoor
<b>Connect</b>	<p><b>Light up</b> your church, home, school with fairy lights or battery candles so those passing by can see the lights.</p>	<p><b>Carve pumpkins</b> with hearts, candles, crosses, smiley faces... (not scary faces) Make a display at home, church or school. Have a competition for the best carving.</p> <p><b>Play an 'opposites' game.</b> Children stand in a socially distanced circle. Call out two opposites and children choose which one they prefer and step in for one out for the other. For example: summer/winter – take a step in to choose summer and a step out to choose winter. Then step back to places to start again. Can the children think of any opposites too? Risk assess this activity and use a COVID secure way to keep the children socially distanced.</p>
<b>Create</b>	<p><b>Shine the light.</b> On an A4 plastic wallet, draw a picture. Then put a white, torch shaped piece of paper in to shine the light on your picture. <a href="#">This one</a> uses a 'Hallowe'en' theme but you can draw stars, lights, candles, sweets... anything bright and colourful Some images to use: <a href="http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/search/label/light">http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/search/label/light</a></p> <p><b>Make soul cakes</b> and pray for your family and friends. <a href="#">Recipe here</a></p>	<p>Create a saints trail. Hang/place brightly coloured, laminated sheets around for children to find and complete the saints trail sheet (below).</p> <p>Chalk out a saint's story for the children to follow. Below is the story of St Cedd.</p> <p><b>Chalk</b> some large rainbows in your grounds where people passing by can see them.</p>

	<p><b>Rainbows</b> are a symbol of hope and light contains all the colours of the rainbow.</p>	
<b>Reflect</b>	<p><b>Be a saint</b>          What makes a saint?          Think about what a saint might be like. What three things could you do to be more 'saint-like'? Try those things for a week, then a month, then keep going! Ideas include: praying, reading the bible, showing kindness to others, offering to help out at home, sending a card, letter or message to someone you know...</p> <p><b>Saint's name</b>          Is your church or school named after a saint? Do some research to find out about that saint. Create a profile for them or draw a picture and add some information/drawings about them and their life.  <a href="#">Read Rhys's thoughts about Hallowe'en</a>          What do the children think about Rhys's views and experience?</p>	<p><b>Be star gazers</b>          Our light comes from the sun and the sun is a star. Wrap up warm and go outside to look at the stars. Take some hot chocolate with you or have it waiting for when you get back inside if the children are younger. You could even have a zoom hot chocolate with other families and talk about what you saw.  <a href="https://astronomynow.com/uk-sky-chart/">https://astronomynow.com/uk-sky-chart/</a> allows you to put the date and time in to view the sky.          If you're really keen then download an app:  <a href="http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/guides/BBC_Stargazing_Live_2012_Mobile_App_guides.pdf">http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/guides/BBC Stargazing Live 2012 Mobile App guides.pdf</a>  <b>Psalm 8:1-5</b> and <b>Psalm 147:3-4</b> both remind us that God created the night sky and each one of us.</p>
<b>Resources</b>	<p><a href="#">World Vision Pumpkin heroes</a></p> <p>More pumpkin ideas <a href="https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/resources">https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">Two booklets for children from Scripture Union</a></p> <p>Activity and story ideas from BRF  <a href="https://ideas.brf.org.uk/topics/Halloween">https://ideas.brf.org.uk/topics/Halloween</a>  <a href="https://ideas.brf.org.uk/topics/all-saints">https://ideas.brf.org.uk/topics/all-saints</a></p> <p>Light colouring sheet <a href="http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/search/label/light">http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/search/label/light</a></p> <p>10 of Those often have book offers, such as this <a href="#">Advent pack</a> of 25 books for £25.</p> <p>For background reading:          N Harding, <i>Seasons and Saints</i> (Cambridge: Grove Books, 2019)</p>	

## Resources and activities

### Star gazing Psalms

#### **Psalm 8: 3-4**

*3 I often think of the heavens*

*your hands have made,  
and of the moon and stars  
you put in place.*

*4 Then I ask, "Why do you care*

*about us humans?  
Why are you concerned  
for us weaklings?"*

#### **Psalm 147:3-4**

*3 He renews our hopes  
and heals our bodies.*

*4 He decided how many stars*

*there would be in the sky  
and gave each one a name.*

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### Soul Cakes Recipe

#### **Ingredients:**

175g butter (3/4 cup +1 TBS)

175g caster sugar (1 cup less 1 1/2 TBS)

3 egg yolks

450g self raising flour (3 cups less 1 1/2 TBS)

2 tsp mixed spice

a few gratings nutmeg

about 100ml milk (6 1/2 TBS)

100g dried currants plus handful to decorate (2/3 cup)

demerara sugar to decorate

#### **Method:**

Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/ gas mark 5. Line several baking sheets with baking paper. Set aside.

Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks. Sift together the flour, mixed spice and nutmeg. Add to the creamed mixture along with the milk to give you a soft dough that you can easily roll out.

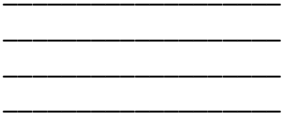
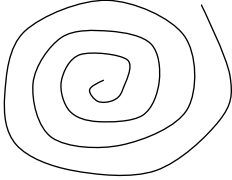
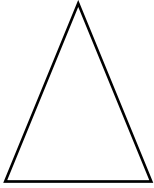
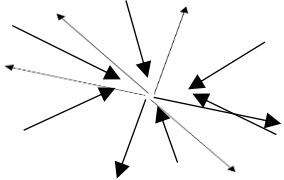
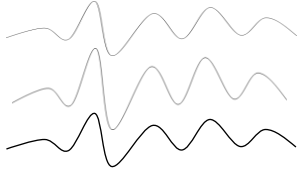
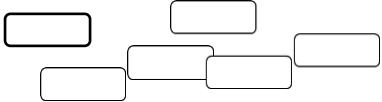
Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface with a lightly floured rolling pin to 1/3 inch thickness. Cut into rounds with a 3 inch biscuit cutter. Using the dull side of a knife mark a light cross indentation into the tops of each biscuit. Push currants into the crosses. Sprinkle with a bit of demerara sugar and place about 2 inches apart on the baking trays.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes until puffed and golden brown. Scoop off onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Store in an airtight container.

## A Saint's Story

Tell the children this simple story of St Cedd, or let them read it themselves. Then chalk out an outlined course, as below, for children to follow. St Cedd was a northern saint, called by God to travel to Essex and built churches and monasteries in the area.

Tell the Story	Chalk and follow the course	The course
Cedd was born in the north of England and was one of 4 brothers.	4 lines a good step apart Take 4 giant steps.	
The boys were sent to school in Linsidfarne, an island in the north of England. Step across and explore Linsidfarne and take a walk around- it's not very big!	A spiral for Lindisfarne Hop across to the island and walk around the spiral and back out again.	
The boys were taught by monks who prayed regularly throughout the day. A triangle reminds us of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Walk to the corners of the triangle a few times and imagine the monks praying.	A triangle for the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit Walk around three times.	
The monks told them stories of their journeys to take the story of Jesus to other people.	Arrows for the monks' journeys to and from Lindisfarne Walk along the lines and imagine traveling with the monks on some of their journeys.	
Cedd was asked to travel to Essex. He travelled by sea.	Wavy lines for the journey by boat. Walk in a wavy line and imagine being on a boat.	
Cedd built church communities and buildings in Essex.	Build a church. Each brick is represents a person in the church. Walk on the bricks and name people you know.	

## Saints Trail

Print or write the information about each of the saints on brightly coloured sheets of paper and card and laminate or put in A4 plastic pockets. You could cut out shapes such as light bulbs or stars. Place them around the area you are using where they can be spotted. Use battery tealights to show people the way to follow and to light up the sheets.

Families can be sent the sheet to print out at home or complete the answers on their phone. You might like to offer staggered start times to families and offer a gift bag or similar for everyone at the end. You could include the Scripture Union books, [the light colouring sheet](#) or something similar. Risk assess how you will do this in a COVID safe way. Prepare the gift bags 72 hours before. Have them laid out separately. Allow families to collect their bags, ensuring they have sanitised hands.

You might like to end with a short time of worship, preferably outside.

### The trail sheets:

St Peter was a fisherman who became a follower of Jesus. Peter spoke to the crowds on the day of Pentecost.	St Mary was the mother of Jesus. An angel told her she would have a baby.
Our modern day Santa Claus comes from Saint Nicholas. St Nicholas was bishop of Myra.	St Francis lived in Assisi in Italy. St Francis is well known for his love of animals and nature.
The name Lucy means light. The story goes that Lucy wore a wreath of lights on her head so she had her arms free to carry food to poor Christians in hiding.	St Cedd is a northern saint who travelled to Essex. He became Bishop of the East Saxons and was responsible for the building of many churches.
St James was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus and son of Zebedee. He is the patron saint of Spain.	St Ethelburga became Abbess of the Benedictine Abbey at Barking. She was the sister of the Bishop of London.

Saint	Find the saint and fill in the answers
St Peter	<p>St Peter was a _____ who became a follower of Jesus.</p> <p>Peter spoke to the crowds on the day of _____</p>
St Mary	<p>St Mary was the _____ of Jesus. An _____ told her that she would have a baby.</p>
St Nicholas	<p>Our modern day _____ comes from Saint Nicholas.</p> <p>St Nicholas was bishop of _____.</p>
St James	<p>St James was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus and son of _____</p> <p>He is the patron saint of _____</p>
St Lucy	<p>The name Lucy means _____.</p> <p>The story goes that Lucy wore a _____ of lights on her head so she had her arms free to carry food to poor Christians in hiding.</p>
St Francis	<p>St Francis lived in _____ in Italy.</p> <p>St Francis is well known for his love of _____ and _____</p>
St Cedd	<p>St Cedd is a northern saint who travelled to Essex. He became Bishop of the _____ and was responsible for the building of many _____</p>
St Ethelburga	<p>St Ethelburga became Abbess of the Benedictine Abbey at _____.</p> <p>She was the sister of the _____ of London.</p>

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