

# The truth about Halloween

Information for parents.....

**Francis Willoughby (our Associate Pastor with particular responsibility for Pastoral matters) writes;**

1<sup>st</sup> November - the day we give God thanks for all the witnesses in Jesus down the ages, who have faithfully passed on the Gospel of Christ, often at the cost of their own lives. It should be a great time of celebration and focus on faith – faith in Christ. It is called All Saints Day –referring not just to the well-known saints, but every faithful believing Christian.

Sadly today the festival is often neglected in most church's calendars.

Much more advertised, and actively celebrated, is Halloween – 'All Saints Eve'. It is often aligned also with superstition – the raising up of the dead spirits. If you read their literature you will see that it focuses on vampires, witches, werewolves etc. and is based on a pre-Christian pagan festival, where we see the worship and rituals of pagan goddesses [in the main], and the worship of earth, sun and moon.



At my last church, on three occasions, we had to call out the police on the evening of Halloween, because of the crude and sexual deeds being performed in the churchyard, around the graves [sometimes desecrating them] and in the trees. Halloween is not a joke! It is serious. Today many elderly folk are left in a frightened condition by 'treat or tricksters', thinking it to something of a joke. It is said by some that even today there will even be child sacrifices taking place in this country.

When I was in Canada, whole towns were lit up with candles in pumpkins, with parents driving their children around, insisting, rather aggressively, that they be given sweets or money. Shop and storeowners bought tons for sweets for children with parents, and if none were available some destruction would be done to the store!

Witches do not believe in life after death! In their literature on Halloween, they will give you spells, hexes and curses to use! Do not be uninformed – know the truth –do not be misled by those who say it is just a bit of fun.

If you want a party for the children at this time, let it be an 'All Saints Party', celebrating good things, having fun and laughter, and for all the right reasons. We have a great God – we have Jesus – take to heart the words of St. Paul –

*“whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure , whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” 1 Philippians 4:8-9*