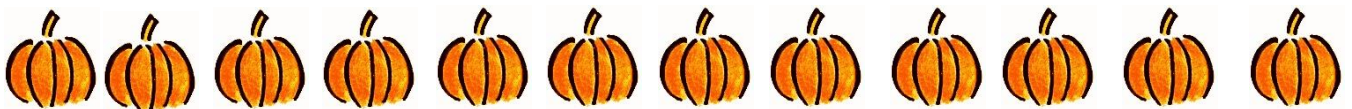




Pumpkin Party



Sadly, we're unable to hold our regular Pumpkin Party at St John's this year, but we hope that this will give you some ideas that you can use to hold one at your own home.



Ideas for crafts



Pumpkin Carving - This is the main event and is wonderfully messy! Cut the top of the pumpkin off and scoop out the inside. Using a sharp knife carve a picture or face, but watch those fingers. You may like to use the *Pumpkin Prayer* as you do this.

Pumpkin Painting – decorate your pumpkin with paint! Make it interesting and use paint that will glow in the dark!!

Paper Pumpkins – cut out squares of orange, black and green paper and stick onto a paper plate to create a pumpkin.

Pumpkin biscuits – Find a biscuit recipe and use a pumpkin shaped cutter to create biscuits that can be decorated with orange and green icing.

Autumn Leaf Collage – Decorate a sheet of A3 or A4 paper with Autumn leaves.

Pumpkin Sensory – create a pumpkin out of red lentils and black beans in a tray and surround the tray with mini pumpkins.



Ideas for games



Apple bobbing – A classic! Fill a bowl with water, empty a bag of apples into it and catch one with your mouth.

Jelly Babies in Flour – A great one to play straight after apple bobbing. Bury a jelly baby in a mound of flour and you must find the jelly baby and eat it without using your hands.

Doughnuts-on-a-string – Another classic! Buy ring doughnuts and thread them on a string and hang them up. They have to be eaten without using your hands (and blindfolded if you're feeling brave!).

Pumpkin hunt – hide mini pumpkins or squash around the garden and send your little ones off to find them.

Coin throwing – hollow out three pumpkins of different sizes. Set them at different distances and see who can throw their coins in.

Halloween

Halloween or (All Hallows Eve) is the day before All Saints Day (All Hallows) and is a time when Christians celebrate the victory that Jesus won for us at the cross when he rose from the dead. It reminds us there is no need to fear death or the powers of evil since they have been conquered by Christ. The Bible says that "*death is swallowed up in victory*" (1 Cor. 15:54) and "*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*" (John 1:5).



Ideas for food



We usually serve **pizza** and **hot dogs** for the main. How about orange and green **jelly** with ice cream for pudding, or the **pumpkin biscuits** you decorated earlier.



When it gets dark...



Make sure you place a **tealight** in your pumpkin and if you are able to why not have a **small fire** in the garden with **sparklers** or home-made **glowsticks**? You could finish your evening with some **hot chocolate** and **marshmallows**.

THE PUMPKIN PRAYER

Open my mind so I can learn about You;

 Cut off the top 

Take away all my sin and forgive me for the
wrong things I do.

 Clean out the inside 

Open my eyes so Your love I will see;

 Cut two eyes 

I'm sorry for turning up my nose to all You've
given me.

 Cut a nose 

Open my ears so Your word I will hear;

 Cut two ears 

Open my mouth to tell others You're near.

 Cut a mouth 

Let Your light shine in me so others can see.

 Place a candle inside 

MY HAPPY LITTLE PUMPKIN SHOWS
HOW MUCH GOD LOVES ME!