

10 ideas for...

Creative engagement with Halloween

1. Pumpkin Heroes

World Vision has an excellent resource with the character 'Patch the Pumpkin'. Pumpkin Heroes is a free pack of Christian resources all designed to help children aged 4-10 in your church, school and family enjoy alternative Halloween activities.

<https://www.worldvision.org.uk/get-involved/pumpkin-heroes/>

2. Radical Generosity

Why not use Halloween as an excuse to demonstrate extravagant generosity and give out decent size chocolate bars? After all, there is nothing fun about a fun-sized Mars Bar. There just isn't.

3. Trunk or Treat

Need a safe alternative to trick or treat? Why not open your church for a 'come and see' event (or light party etc) followed by 'trunk or treat' where the kids get sweets from car to car in the car park which you can monitor more easily than every house in your village.

4. Dry Bones

Focus your study during the month of October on the book of Ezekiel. By concentrating on this haunting story in the Old Testament, the church can examine God's expectation of his people to serve the social justice issues in the local community. This could be followed up with a social justice event on the evening of October 31st.

5. Celtic Tradition

The Samhain festival (pronounced "sow" "en") celebrated the final harvest, death, and the onset of winter, for three days—October 31 to November 2. Why not find some Celtic liturgy and have an event to celebrate Samhain as an alternative to Halloween?

10 ideas for...

Creative engagement with Halloween

6. The Reformation of Halloween

Grab a copy of Phil Wyman's 'The Reformation of Halloween: Rethinking Christianity's response to Halloween'.

7. Light the Church

Turn on the lights in your church and leave them on all night. Alternatively, find some coloured lights or a bunch of standing lamps or fairy lights and dot them around the graveyard. Or, project images of saints on the outside of your building using a projector. Having people there to talk to people might also be a good idea...

8. Practical Help

What if we didn't simply shut ourselves in church (or in the house with the lights off), but instead opened our doors and welcomed those out celebrating? What about offering hot chocolates to cold trick-or-treaters, or joining those who hand out flip flops and water outside clubs? Have a think about what would work for your town, and definitely pray for the safety of all those out on the night.

9. Write to a shop

Letter writing to shops and supermarkets is really powerful, so let them know what you'd like to see less of in their aisles and marketing schemes. Do it as politely, clearly and with as little hysteria as possible. Think of the impression your letter would leave on the people in customer services who read it. Will it help them to understand where some Christians are coming from?

10. Light Party

This is a church classic, embedded into the psyche of youth workers everywhere alongside dodgy re-writes of the nativity. It fits the church as counter culture model of mission. You could always find some middle ground by having a glow in the dark party with UV lights. See www.lightparty.org.uk for resources.