



ECHO

28TH OCTOBER 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE
www.ourchurch.fr

TWO SPECIAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

On Sunday 31st October, we will be celebrating the Feast of All Saints. This is a Christian festival dating back to the 4th Century, when it was originally dedicated to all Christian Martyrs. The date varied from place to place, being held on 13 May, the Sunday after Pentecost or the Friday after Easter.

In 835, at the behest of Pope Gregory IV, the Frankish Emperor Louis The Pious declared 1st November to be a Holy Day Of Obligation to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. This custom spread as the Frankish Empire became the Holy Roman Empire.

Sunday 31st October is also when our brethren in the French (and also other countries') Protestant churches will be celebrating the beginning of the Protestant Reformation by Martin Luther - this being the anniversary of the day in 1517 when Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of the church in Wittenberg.

ECO will be holding a special online prayer service this Sunday at 10:30 for All Saints Day.

On Tuesday 2 November, we will also be holding a special online service of Evening Prayer to commemorate All Souls' Day - or to give it its full title: Feast of Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a departed soul may be required to spend time in Purgatory before entering Paradise. This period of time can be reduced, however, through an 'Indulgence' if a 'devout person' goes to the grave of a departed soul and prays for them. It is for this reason that throughout France, we will see faithful members of the Catholic Church visit cemeteries on Tuesday with candles or pots of chrysanthemums.

During the ECO service, we will include a time of prayer during which we commemorate by name our loved ones departed. If you would like us to include someone in our prayers, please e-mail their name(s) as "John" or "John Smith" or "John and Mary Smith" to contact@ourchurch.fr by **Monday 1st November**.



A REMINDER

Don't forget to put your clocks BACK 1 hour this Saturday night.



Describing the circumstances of the Insurance Claim following a flood in his Church, a vicar wrote on the form:

"On entering the church and finding water on the floor (due to the burst pipe), after fetching a bucket from the vestry, I mopped the floor with my wife"



NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP AT

ECO

We have set out below our programme of worship for next week. For all details of our latest worship, always go to the Home Page of our website:

www.ourchurch.fr

Sunday October 31st

10:30 am - Sunday Worship for All Saints Day

Our service will be led by Ralph and Heidi Worswick and a Reflection on All Saints Day will be offered by Linda Billenness. As usual, our virtual Coffee Bar on Zoom will be open after the service.

Tuesday November 2nd

19:00 - A Special Service for All Souls Day

This will be a special service to pray for all those departed from this life. If you would like us to pray by name for someone whom you wish to commemorate, please send an e-mail to contact@ourchurch.fr by **Monday 1st November at 18:00**

Thursday November 4th

19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Healing

Each week, we come together to pray by name for God's healing touch for those who are in special need at this time. We are happy to include anyone known to you in our prayers (we only refer to people by their first names)

Please send any names of people whom you would like to be included to

healing@ourchurch.fr

by **Tuesday evening 2nd November** please.
(This is a day earlier than usual)



LIKE A PUMPKIN

A lady had recently become a Christian and been baptised.....

Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.

The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw a 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby window sill and replied: "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. So she said: "Well, God picks you up out of the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see.

"It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine, or come inside and be something new and bright."

Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today, and shining with His light?



Worship for the Young and the Young At Heart

If you are joining us for worship with younger members of your family, each Sunday we are now also broadcasting a short video reflection from our colleague and friend Margaret Pritchard Houston, who is a member of the Children's Ministry Team in the Diocese of St Albans. This Sunday's video considers All Saints Day and the Beatitudes.