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Happy
Halloween



keep safe

News and Views from around the Parish

November 2020

Issue 306

Please note that the opinions expressed within this publication are not those of the Parish Church, editors or anyone other than the authors of the articles.

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St Wenna's Church reschedules Remembrance

As the government has decreed that gatherings cannot occur on Remembrance Sunday, Morval Church has decided that our Act of Remembrance at the war memorial, followed by our Remembrance Service in church, will now happen on the first available Sunday after Armistice Day, (currently 6th December, but subject to change). Our other usual Sunday services also cannot happen until then.

Parish Council meetings.

Morval Parish Council has decided future meetings will start at 7pm

Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2020 will occur on Saturday, October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, and Celts believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. They thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, and when the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening.

All Saints' Day

On May 13, 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in honor of all Christian martyrs, and the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day was established in the Western church, and moved the observance from May 13 to November 1.

All Souls' Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils. The All Saints' Day celebration was also called All-

hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alhallowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

The tradition of dressing in costume for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, winter was an uncertain and frightening time. Food supplies often ran low and, for the many people afraid of the dark, the short days of winter were full of constant worry.

On Halloween, when it was believed that ghosts came back to the earthly world, people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits.

On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of food outside their homes to appease the ghosts and prevent them from attempting to enter.

Black Cats and Ghosts

Halloween has always been a holiday filled with mystery, magic and superstition. It began as a Celtic end-of-summer festival during which people felt especially close to deceased relatives and friends. For these friendly spirits, they set places at the dinner table, left treats on doorsteps and along the side of the road and lit candles to help loved ones find their way back to the spirit world.

Today's Halloween ghosts are often depicted as more fearsome and malevolent, and our customs and superstitions are scarier too.

- we avoid crossing paths with black cats, afraid that they might bring us bad luck. (This idea has its roots in the Middle Ages, when many people believed that witches avoided detection by turning themselves into black cats).
- we try not to walk under ladders for the same reason. (This superstition may have come from the ancient Egyptians, who believed that triangles were sacred; it also may have something to do with the fact that walking under a leaning ladder tends to be fairly unsafe).
- we try to avoid breaking mirrors, stepping on cracks in the road or spilling salt.

There are many rituals focused on the future instead of the past and the living instead of the dead. Many had to do with helping young women identify their future husbands and reassuring them that they would someday—with luck, by next Halloween—be married.

- In 18th-century Ireland, a matchmaking cook might bury a ring in her mashed potatoes on Halloween night, hoping to bring true love to the diner who found it.
- In Scotland, fortune-tellers recommended that an eligible young woman name a hazelnut for each of her suitors and then toss the nuts into the fireplace. The nut that burned to ashes rather than popping or exploding, the story went, represented the girl's future husband.
- Another tale tells of young women eating sugary concoctions made of walnuts, hazelnuts and nutmeg before bed on Halloween night in order to dream about her future husband.
- Young women would toss apple-peels over their shoulders, hoping that the peels would fall on the floor in the shape of their future husbands' initials.
- Young women would also stand in front of mirrors in darkened rooms, holding candles and looking over their shoulders for their husbands' faces.

Other rituals were more competitive. The first guest to find a burr on a chestnut-hunt would be the first to marry. The first successful apple-bobber would be the first down the aisle.

So, the Halloween superstitions practiced nowadays or asking for romantic advice or trying to avoid seven years of bad luck, rely on the goodwill of the same “spirits” felt so keenly by the early Celts.

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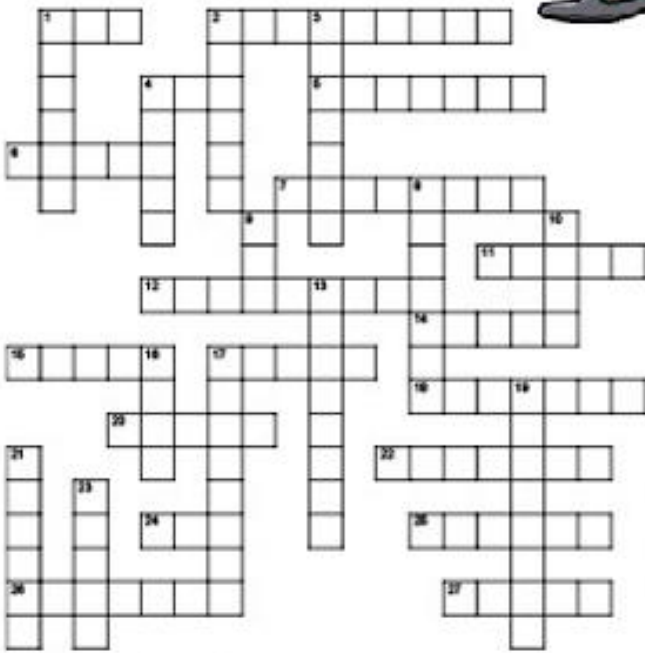


Halloween



Across

1. He swallowed the canary.
2. Playground for ghosts.
4. What a spider spins.
5. Frankenstein has one.
6. When ghosts come out to play.
7. Scare.
11. What the pot might call the kettle.
12. October 31st.
14. ____ or treat.
15. Witch transportation.
17. Frightening.
18. The Count.
20. A skeleton is just a bunch of these.
22. Disguise.
24. Lives in the belfry.
25. Incey wincey is one of these.
26. Main ingredient in a popular pie.
27. ____ stories.



Down

1. Where a vampire sleeps.
2. Evil or mischievous creature.
3. He hates garlic.
4. Samantha for example.
8. ____ house.
9. Whoo? Whoo?
10. Mr. O'Lantern.
13. Comes out on full moon nights.
16. Might be full, half, or new.
17. A boney sort of fellow.
19. Fire burn, and ____ bubble.
21. When something makes our skin crawl, it's this.
23. Found in Egypt.

SOLUTION (Hold up to mirror to read)

Across: 1 cat, 2 graveyard, 4 web, 5 monster, 6 night, 7 frighten, 11 black, 12 Halloween, 14 tick, 15 broom, 17 scary, 18 Dracula, 20 bones, 22 costume, 24 bat, 25 spider, 26 pumpkin, 27 ghost
Down: 1 coffin, 2 goblin, 3 vampire, 4 witch, 8 haunted, 9 owl, 10 jack, 13 werewolf, 16 moon, 17 skeleton, 19 cauldron, 21 creepy, 23 mummy

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