

## Halloween

When Christianity came to Britain November 1<sup>st</sup> became known as All Saints Day, a special day for all the saints who did not have a special day dedicated to them. They performed a mass called All Hallows Mass on October 31<sup>st</sup>, the eve of All Saints Day, hence the night before all saints day became known as All Hallows Eve, or Halloween.



Children often go in costume from house to house on Halloween asking the question, "Trick or treat?" in return for gifts of sweets or apples. Trick or treating dates back to the Middle Ages (around 1000-500 years ago), and resembles the late medieval practice of 'souling', when poor folk would go door to door receiving food in return for prayers for the dead on All Souls' Day.

Pumpkins are carved and lit with candles to represent the souls.

Halloween is always celebrated on October 31<sup>st</sup>.