"From ghoulies and ghosties and long leggety beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord, deliver us!"

During my childhood Halloween was largely an historical memory, or just something rather eccentric our American cousins did on the last day of October. No one would have guessed at the popularity it enjoys in Britain today. Halloween has a long history, a contraction of its original title "All Hallows' Evening", it is an amalgam of pre-Christian and mediaeval customs relating to the dead. Shakespeare refers to these practices in his comedy The Two Gentlemen of Verona (1593), when Speed accuses his master of "puuling (whimpering or whining) like a beggar at Hallowmas." Traditions included "souling", the custom of baking and sharing 'soul cakes.' Groups of poor people, often children, would go door-to-door collecting these cakes, originally as a means of praying for souls in purgatory. The custom of wearing Halloween costumes has been linked to the belief that the souls of the departed wandered the earth until All Saints' Day. All Hallows' Eve provided one last chance for the dead to gain vengeance on their enemies before moving to the next world. In order to avoid being recognised by any soul that might be seeking such vengeance, people would don masks or costumes to disguise their identities. In Britain, all this came under attack during the Reformation as Protestants berated purgatory as a "popish" doctrine incompatible with the notion of predestination. This, coupled with the rising popularity of Guy Fawkes Night, led to Halloween's virtual disappearance in Britain, with the noteworthy exception of Scotland and Ireland where the customs often survived in the countryside. In North America the Puritans of New England maintained strong opposition to such practises and it was not until the mass Irish and Scottish immigration of the 19th century that the celebration slowly permeated American society. Its return to Britain in recent years is an indication of the influence of American culture on our society, but Halloween has not been universally welcomed. Some Christians reject the celebration because they feel it trivializes – or celebrates – paganism, the occult, or other practices incompatible with their beliefs. Interestingly, a response among conservative evangelical churches in recent years has been the use of "Hell houses", themed pamphlets, or comic-style tracts in order to make use of Halloween's popularity as an opportunity for evangelism. Other, more liberal, Protestant churches view Halloween as a fun event for families, holding parties for parents and children. Lutherans celebrate October 31st as Reformation Day. In the Roman Catholic Church, Halloween's Christian connection is sometimes cited, and celebrations are common in Catholic schools throughout North America and in Ireland. To these Christians, Halloween holds no threat to the
spiritual lives of children: being taught about death and mortality, and the ways of the ancestors actually being a valuable life lesson and a part of our human heritage. However, in reaction, the Vatican has strongly condemned many of the traditions popularly associated with Halloween as being "pagan" and "anti-Christian." So, whatever we make of Halloween, one thing is certain, ghoulies and ghosties and long leggety beasties and things that go bump in the night, remain as controversial and as much fun as they have ever been.

Fr Stephen Young

ALL SOULS’ DAY REQUIEM
This Friday, 2nd November, is All Souls Day – marked in St Paul’s by two requiem masses: the first (low mass) at 1300 – and the second (Solemn High Mass of Requiem) at 1900. At 1900 the choir will sing the setting of the Requiem mass by Maurice Duruflé. The masses are offered for the repose of the souls of the departed, and at each mass we remember by name our departed loved ones, along with our Founders, Benefactors & Past Worshippers here. A list is available at the back of church to which names may be added – and names may also be emailed to felicity@spkb.org

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS...
...to Monita and Richard Sinclair, whose marriage was blessed at a service in St Paul’s on Friday....
...and to the organisers of the JUMBLE SALE in the Hall on Saturday morning which raised £500...
...and to those members of the PCC and other leaders in the parish who gave up their Saturday to be involved at a PCC strategy Planning Day for our work in the coming 18 months...
...to the FANYs and their many supporters who attended Saturday’s Memorial Service and laid a wreath for departed members of the Corps...

PUBLIC LECTURE AT ST PAUL’S
The Vivat Trust's annual lecture will be held on Tuesday 30 October 2012 at St Paul's Knightsbridge to showcase its most ambitious restoration project to date. Lucinda Lambton, writer, photographer, and broadcaster, will give her inimitable take on extraordinary buildings and their curious charms, including Hadlow Tower; while conservation architect, Paul Sharrock, will focus on the restoration and repair of this most unusual building. Hadlow Tower is Grade I listed and was long deemed a "Building at Risk". Based on Beckford's Folly, the tower is the tallest surviving folly in the UK. It was built in 1838, as part of Hadlow Castle.

Tickets are £20 and can be purchased by completing the online application form (www.vivat-trust.org) and returning it to the Vivat Trust, The Garden Barn, Wellbrook Manor, Peterchurch, Hereford, HR2 0SS – or by phone 01981550753.

TODAY, 28 October 2012
The 21st Sunday after Trinity
09:00 Family Mass
11:00 Solemn Eucharist
Preacher: Fr Stephen Young, Senior Curate
Music by Judith Bingham, Howells & McKie

THIS WEEK
Low Mass is said daily at 18:00 and on Saturday at noon.
Wednesday Evening Service at 18:45, followed by light refreshments.

NEXT SUNDAY, 4 November 2012
‘All Saints Sunday’
09:00 Family Mass
11:00 Solemn Eucharist
Preacher: Alan Gyle
Music by William Byrd (Mass à 5 & Motets: Gaudeamus omnes & Beati mundo corde)
Masses & Psalm Responses

this week

Monday 29 October – SS. Simon and Jude, Apostles Mass at 1800; EH p. 463; Red; I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, says God.

Tuesday 30 October – feria
Mass at 1800; DEL Week 30 (year 2) p. 735; Green; Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in the ways of God.

Wednesday 31 October – feria
Mass at 1845; DEL Week 30 (year 2) p. 737; Green; The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving in all his works.

Thursday 1 November – feria (All Saints transferred to Sunday) Mass at 1800; DEL Week 30 (year 2) p. 740; Green; I will sing a new song to you, O God.

Friday 2 November – All Souls Day
Requiems at 1300 & 1900; Propers of All Souls EH p. 481; Black; At 1300: The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God;

Saturday 3 November – Richard Hooker, priest & teacher of the faith Mass at noon; EH p. 489; White; The assembly declares the wisdom of the godly.

Sunday 4 November – All Saints Sunday

In our prayers

- Our Bishop, Richard
- Our church and neighbourhood
- Our sister parish, St Paul’s K-Street, Washington, USA
- Those suffering famine in Africa
- The Middle East, especially the people of Syria, and for Christian minorities.
- Those on active service overseas
- The British and European economies

Among the sick and those in need, we pray for:
Ruth Stevens; Annelise Bowser; Chloe Mansfield; Alyson Coney; Kelsey Brockbank; Sal Allen; Peter Adcock; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; Robin Higgs; Willy Humbert; Kenneth James; John King; Daphne Nugent; Nancy Seligman; Jean Steers; Richard Thornton; Katherine Davis; John Willmington.

Among the recently departed:
Kate Bownas; Mack Showers; Kate Arger; Richard Cook; Walter Prescott

Those whose Year’s Mind is at this time:

Patrick Hackett 30 October
Rose Macaulay 30 October
Gordon Fenwick 02 November
Nora Powell 02 November
Felicity Millais 03 November
Sally Windham 06 November
Kerry St Johnston 06 November
PARISH CONTACTS

THE PARISH CLERGY

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**Senior Curate**
Fr Stephen Young
stephen@spkb.org
020 7201 9999

Honorary Assistant Clergy

(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood; Fr Graham Palmer
A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Fridays and Fr Stephen is unavailable on Tuesdays.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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