

Progressive Spiritualists Church Inc.

Newsletter

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



St Francis of Assisi with Wolf & Sheep

Romans 8:24-26 (NRSV)

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Church Service Roster & Activities.....	1
Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.....	2
Newsletter Subscription "How To".....	2
Volunteers Welcomed.....	2
Overdue Library Books.....	2
New Members Welcomed.....	3
All Saints Day Service.....	4
Remembrance Sunday Service.....	5
90th Anniversary Service.....	6
Smoking Ceremony.....	7
Holy Communion Services.....	8
Advent Celebrations.....	9
Here We Are.....	10
White Eagle: Service of Remembrance.....	12
A Prayer For All Hallows Eve.....	15
Halloween, All Saints Day & All Souls Day.....	17
The Grumpy Old Man.....	20
Quotes About Remembrance Day.....	22
Some Funnies For This Month.....	23
Contact Information.....	24

A Word About Gender Nouns And Pronouns

A number of (mostly) older sources used in the newsletter have an older style of writing, that is, "men" or "man" is used to denote people of the earth. This use is originally based on "man of the Manu", the description of the species traditionally known as mankind. It denotes no gender.

This Church believes that many beings from the higher levels of the unseen worlds have no gender attached, including souls that have passed over. So they are genderless, i.e. there is no male or female.

This Church considers male and female, man and woman, to be equal.

Any use of the words "man" or "men" (and any equivalent pronouns) in this newsletter or in any of our other teachings does not indicate otherwise.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Sunday	6th October	Helen Payne	
Sunday	13th October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Sunday	20th October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Sunday	27th October	Holy Communion	* No Flowers *
Wednesday	2nd October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Wednesday	9th October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	* Not held this day *
Wednesday	16th October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Wednesday	23rd October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Wednesday	30th October	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Sunday	3rd November	All Saints Day	
Sunday	10th November	Remembrance Day	
Sunday	17th November	90th Anniversary Service	* No Flowers *
Sunday	24th November	Smoking Ceremony	* No Flowers *
Wednesday	6th November	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Wednesday	13th November	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Wednesday	20th November	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	
Wednesday	27th November	Rev. Andrew Dinnie	

Sundays	Divine Service	10am start (please be early)
	– Bring a small cut flower for a flower reading (not needed when Holy Communion is held).	
	– Light Morning Tea held after the Divine Service.	
Mondays	Healing	7:10pm to 7:50pm (last client 7:40pm)
		Open Circle – 8pm - 9pm
	– Doors close at 8pm sharp (arrive by 7:50pm).	
	– Meditation (most weeks), except:	
	– Discussion/Flower Reading (second Monday held in each month).	
Wednesdays	Open Circle	10am to 11am
	– Doors close 10am sharp (arrive by 9:50am).	
	– Meditation or Discussion/Flower Reading (alternative weeks).	
	– Light Morning Tea after the Open Circle.	
	Healing	11:30am to 12:20am (last client 12:10pm)
	Healing Meditation Service	
		12:30pm start (please be early)
	– Bring a small cut flower for a flower reading.	
Other Services Available		
– Baptisms (infants, children, adults)		
– Funerals, Interments of Ashes & Memorial Services		
– Blessings. Pastoral & spiritual counselling (limited service for both)		

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Progressive Spiritualists Church Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Country and waters on which we live and worship, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We value the contribution of all Indigenous people to the knowledge, preservation and education of spiritual matters and wisdom.

Overdue Library Books

There are a number of Church library books out on loan that are overdue.

Please check your bookshelves to see if you have any overdue books and return them to us. They can then be loaned out for others to read. Donations of books on spiritualism, other Christian philosophies and the like are always welcome. Please ask us. Many thanks for your help.

Volunteers Welcomed

The Church can always use some extra help in the garden, the grounds or inside the Church. This can be once-off or on an ongoing basis. We can arrange various days & times to suit most people's timetables. Please contact either Rev. Andrew, Michelle or Helen for more information. Thanks for helping!

Newsletter Subscriptions, Contributions, etc.

Subscriptions, contributions (articles, cartoons, etc.) and feedback to the Church Newsletter are always welcomed.

Please tell us what you want more or less of, what you enjoyed most, etc. We'd be most pleased to hear from you.

Please see Rev. Andrew or email your subscription, contribution & feedback to newsletter@progressivespiritualists.org.au

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Church always welcomes new members.
Membership is open to all who attend and/or support the Church.

This a good time to become a member as the new membership year has just started!

Membership gives you borrowing rights from the wide range of book in the Church library, voting rights at General Meetings and input in the running of the Church at these meetings.

You are not committing to any extra work if you become a member!

See myself, Rev. Andrew, Helen or another Committee Member if you have any questions or need more information.
Information flyers and membership forms are available at the front desk.

We would love you to have you as a new member.

On behalf of the Church Committee

Michelle Gardner
Secretary
(Email: secretary@progressivespiritualists.org.au)

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

ALL SAINTS DAY Sunday 3rd November



ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE

The Church will hold its annual All Saints Day Service on **Sunday 3rd November**.

The Service starts at 10am sharp. Please be early.

On this day the Church celebrates the lives of all those who have passed over before us and are now working for the higher good of all mankind.

There are prayers spoken and hymns sung for those who have made this transition into the higher of realms.

Light A Candle For A Loved One

You can also come and light a candle on behalf of a loved one (or loved ones) who have passed over this year or recent years on the day.

It is a beautiful and popular service so we would love to see you there. All are welcome, including family and friends.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday 10th November - 10am



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The Church will hold its annual Remembrance Sunday Service on **Sunday 10th November.**

The Service starts at 10am sharp. Please be early.

On this day the Church remembers those who gave their lives in service both in Australia and overseas, those who supported them and those who were affected by or lived in areas of conflict.

There are prayers spoken and hymns sung for all those who have made the transition into higher life via or as a result of active service.

Light A Candle For A Loved One

Come and light a candle on behalf of someone who served, or was affected by such service, on the day.

It is a beautiful and popular service so we would love to see you there.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

90th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE Sunday 17th November



**The Church is celebrating its 90th Anniversary
on Sunday 17th November at 10am.**

There will be speakers, followed by a light lunch.
All are invited to attend so please join us to celebrate this event

To assist with catering **please RSVP by Sunday 10th November**
to either:

Phone 0401 925 520
Email info@progressivespiritualists.org.au
Mail PO Box 796 Mt Lawley WA 6929
Church Rev Andrew or Helen

If you know any past members, visitors or mediums who would like
to attend, please get them to contact us as well.

We look forward to seeing you there.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

SMOKING CEREMONY Sunday 24th November



The Church will be holding a Smoking Ceremony on Sunday 24th November as part of our Sunday Divine Service. The service starts at 10am so please be early.

Who Is Running The Ceremony

The Ceremony will be run by Len Collard, who is a Whadjuk Nyungar Traditional Owner. The Church is situated on the Whadjuk Country of the Nyungar nation.

Len is a highly respected Whadjuk Nyungar Elder and Traditional Owner. He is also a Doctor of Education (Honors Causa, Edith Cowan University) and an Emeritus Professor (School of Indigenous Studies, University of Western Australia).

About the Smoking Ceremony

Len will lead this traditional Nyungar ritual to not only cleanse and purify the specific area, but to also cleanse the spirit, body and soul. Warding off warra wirrin (bad spirits) and bringing in the blessing of kwop wirrin (good spirits), audiences experience a sense of truly feeling welcomed, safe, cleansed and blessed through the wash of ceremonial smoke on Nyungar boodjar (country).

There will also be a discussion of the significance of the area on which the Church is based, especially relating to Hyde Park.

All are welcome to attend this ceremony, including the purification.

More Information

Please contact Rev. Andrew if you need more information.

Look forward to seeing you there.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



OCTOBER SERVICE

Date: Sunday 27th October

Time: 10am sharp

Finish: 11:10am (approximate) *Followed by a light lunch (*)*

() Any type of food offering is always welcomed.*

All are welcome to attend & participate, including children.

Your choice of Communion (Bread & Wine) or a Blessing Only.

Children under 8 years and infants receive a Blessing Only.

All hygiene rules are observed. There's no sharing of wine.

An easy to follow instruction booklet is provided.

Free-will donation applies. EFT option is available (please ask).

Please arrive to be seated *ten minutes prior* to the start time.

Allow extra time for street parking, if needed, especially in evenings.

Please feel free to contact us if you need more information.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

ADVENT: Bringing Us Towards Christmas



Advent begins

Advent starts this year on **Sunday 1st December**. It's getting closer!

The Advent Services begin the singing of Christmas Carols within the Sunday Divine Services.

We also light a new Advent candle each week and the last candle (the white Christ Candle) on Christmas Day.

Come and be part of the preparation of the birth of the Christ Child within. We would love to see you then.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE Sunday 15th December

Our much loved annual Christmas Carols Service will be held this year on Sunday 15th December.

The service starts at 10am. Please be early.

There will be singing of beloved carols and celebrations during this service.

Flowers will be read.

Our annual Christmas story will also be told.

This will be followed by a informal light lunch so please "bring a plate" to share.

It's enjoyed each year by all who attend.

Please put this date into your diary!



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

HERE WE ARE

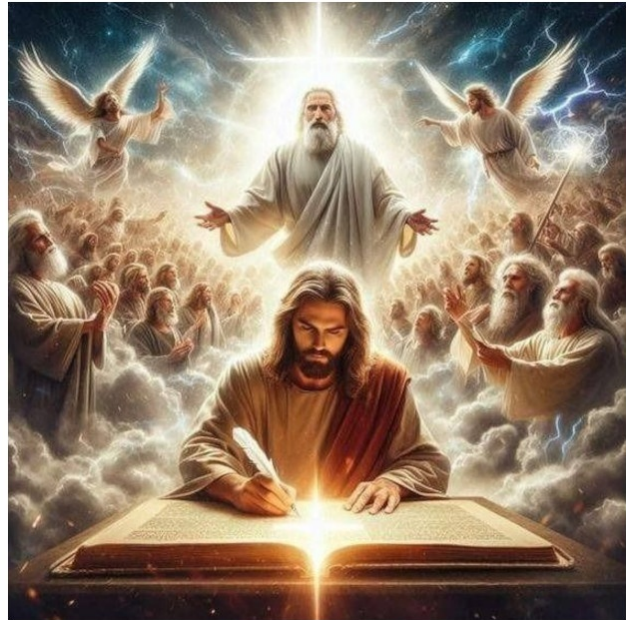
Welcome to you, vessels of the earth-plane, this beloved day upon your earthly calendar. I come to you from within the Cosmic Christ Light to bring you Peace, goodwill and Divine Love.

Many of those within your circle and around your Church are asking at this time: “where are we [*in the singular “I”*] to go forward from here?” They see the changes happening around them yet are not quite sure on how to progress forward.

This is somewhat natural for those spirits who are working upon the earth in earthly garments. You cannot see all that is happening yet alone what is to come. And so some are afraid, some are unsure and others seek direction from places where the information may not be as good as it could be.

We have a simple answer to all this. We are here. Here We are!

What we ask you to do is to place yourself in protection (as taught within your temple) and the Divine Love and Peace. And once in this state then ask your accredited guidance to come forward and to assist you if they can. There are matters of free-will and learning that need to be taken into consideration and so not always can the answers or the path be given directly to you.



We of the White Brotherhood are working hard at this time to bring new knowledge, new understandings and new learning down onto the earth-plane.

This is being done through well tested and developed vessels who have been assigned these tasks. These duties are being part of their earthly journey which they signed themselves up to before incarnation.

Much of this knowledge might seem arcane to some as it is the reapplication of the Ancient Wisdom in forms that mankind can accept and follow at this time. The Ancient Wisdom schools have been able to hang on to and hand over this knowledge over times past, especially throughout the darker periods of mankind’s history.

What is being brought through could be described as new wine in new wineskins [*c.f. Luke 5:37-39*]. The wineskins of the old cannot handle or store the new wisdom that is required for mankind to make the leap forward into the higher [*fourth and fifth*] dimensions that it (and each of you) will need to do.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

This does not mean what has been learned or taught in the past has no relevance or is incorrect. This is certainly not the case. What is required is the higher spiritualisation of the knowledge that is latent and waiting to be brought into being.

The vessels that will assist with this on the earth-plane are being guided by higher beings who have also dedicated themselves to this task. If you are one of these vessels then ask that you received what is needed at this time to assist all of mankind, not just yourself, and that the words be given which will help others to understand.

We are here to help with this task also for those who are not the higher vessels.

You **just** need to ask. We will help you to receive what is being provided to the earth-plane and/or to take you to the places (seen or unseen) where this knowledge is being curated and able to be given out.

So ask for the assistance of these beings so that you will receive what **you** need at this time, not what someone else is receiving.

All have different and defined roles with this great unfoldment. Some will receive, some will distribute, some will heal, some will assist and some will support those who have these tasks. All are worthy of what they are to do. None are in reality higher than another. It is an entire system that needs to be put in place for it to work as designed in God's plan.

So do not listen to the earthly prophets who spread thoughts and words of unkindness, doom and other negative ideas. They are working from the human or lower levels of the astral planes. Ask to receive the guidance from the higher beings and you will not be misled.

There are so many higher beings around you, waiting to be asked, waiting to help. You just have to look up, see, challenge and ask. They are most willing to help.

And as you receive this help then you will be uplifted as well. Not only brought out of the human realms but as you are taken into the higher places you will feel the refreshing breath of the Holy Spirit as it pours down from our Father Mother God. And with this enlightenment you will feel lightened as well in soul mind and body.

We will leave you now as you are ready to take this journey.

Ask and ye shall receive; knock and the door will be opened [*c.f. Matthew 7:7*].

May God bless you and go with you as you become the new being that you are destined to be. We send our love to all.

Amen.

WHITE EAGLE: SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us at this moment raise our voices and our hearts in thankfulness to God for the lives of all whom we love who have blessed and made happy our lives on earth.

O Gracious Spirit, we Thy children give thanks to Thee for the lives of the saints, the teachers and the saviours of humanity. We give Thee thanks for the joy which we have received through our own loved ones; and we pray this day that we may be united in spirit in the Light of Thy Son, the Cosmic Christ. We remember and dedicate our lives to the remembrance of love. Amen.

Friends, brethren, this is a Service of Remembrance. We would like to talk to you not only about this particular service here, but about all the services which are being held throughout the world at this time. You know, people nearly always make the mistake of thinking that all new ideas originate with themselves. They blindly take to themselves the credit for all the healthful, happy things which come about. While it is true that man has been given certain faculties by which he is able to think and plan and create, he must endeavour to understand that the origin of pure thought is not in the human brain. The ideas which men receive originate from a higher plane of life. Therefore, please understand this Day of Remembrance was first planned in the spiritual spheres before the idea was adopted by the mind of man. It is not generally understood by the masses that mankind during the past twenty-five or thirty years has passed through a degree of initiation. True it is that humanity has suffered, that the heart of man has been wrung and tortured with sorrow and pain; the sorrow of bereavement; the pain of weakness, distress and all the ills which have followed two great wars.

Many people are inclined to look around and wonder why God, if He be a God of love, has permitted this major degree of suffering. In a little while, even if not at present, man will begin to realise the great purpose which has been served by his sufferings. Do not think for one moment, my brethren, that we advocate wars. We do not say that it is necessary for humanity to endure such a measure of pain. But we do say that out of man's folly God brings forth good. In other words, God makes use of the mistakes and madness of men to bring about better conditions, to bring to man illumination and an awakening to the spiritual forces which govern life.

So we find that after the first great war a plan was conceived to set apart a certain day in the year as a Day of Remembrance of those who had passed on. This is no new celebration, for its like has always been known in ancient races. Possibly some of you have read that in Ancient Egypt it was the custom to keep a similar day of remembrance of those who had passed onward into another life. In the modern world is so much rush, such a scramble to obtain possessions and even to get food to sustain the body, but there has been little time to give thought to those believed to be dead. Only after mankind had been tortured through war did the idea take root. As we have already told you

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

the idea arose from the concept of the Almighty Powers in the heavens. For it was thought meet that a day should be established when men's minds would be raised to the afterlife, when men's hearts would quicken in love to those who had passed onward. The purpose of this is to bring about a link between the two states of life: the spiritual and the physical. The moment when all thoughts are centred upon that afterlife raises the vibrations of the whole community, for then a light goes forth from the human heart. Love is always a light. So, when men and women are pouring out love to those in the world of spirit, they are sending out light. This causes the heavy fog which has settled around humanity to become less dense. The mists begin to disperse, and those in the world of spirit to rejoice, for they too are eager to come closer to those they love on earth. They themselves feel the warmth of your love. They too rejoice at this brief reunion and long for the time when all mankind will peer beyond the material, beyond the physical life to realms of light and truth.

You know without our assurance that you are now encircled by a vast company of radiant spirits. Looking at them, as we do, we see countless numbers of spiritual beings robed in the sun. These are they who have come out of great tribulation and are clothed in raiment whiter than snow. They are here with you now, and not only those men and women who passed onward in youth, but your own particular friends and dear ones. It does not make any difference. Those who come are not necessarily men and woman of the forces who died in the service of their country. Many other souls have laid down their lives in service, such as mothers who have lived devotedly for their families, or many a brother or a sister, or husbands and wives, or any of those whom you have loved and who have loved you and who have made sacrifice in their everyday life on your behalf, even as you may have sacrificed for them. Do you not see that this constitutes a bond of love? Remembrance is love; then remember them in love.

This remembrance is very important as regards the spiritual evolution of humanity as a whole. The Christian Church teaches that Christ is the Saviour of mankind, the esoteric meaning of which is that love, or the Christ Light (which is love) is your Saviour, as is the Saviour of every human soul; because only through love does the soul rise into the heaven world, and reach beyond the heaven world in to the highest; for there is no limit to the spheres to which the soul may rise when it has been saved – or released by the Christ love.

We will pause, my children to send our love to these dear ones in the world of spirit.

During this silence their love flows to you and is the healing light. Do not make the mistake of thinking that when your dear ones pass away they become too high and too pure to return. Do not think, because your loved ones live in a sphere of light and a state of bliss that they are cut off from you; that they will go onward without you. We would like to correct that error. When love enters the heart, even when the spirit is still embodied, you will notice a radiance in

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

the flesh. You may claim, 'O what a nice face So-and-So has! How radiant he looks!' His is the radiance of the spirit, of love shining through the flesh. It does not remove the person because he or she is beautified by love. On the contrary it draws that loved one closer. This same rule applies to those who have passed onward. They are not removed because they are clothed in the radiance of the sun. On the contrary, the more spiritual a soul becomes the more human it grows, the more understanding of your earthly difficulties. If you could meet the Master face to face, you would find your Master a very dear friend and companion, and not at all like a plaster saint. The illumined souls of men do not condemn their younger brethren; they do not even judge them. They love them. We would have you open your hearts confidently to these radiant friends. Ask for them to come close, and you will feel their companionship, and they will whisper words of love to your heart.

In this manner, my children, we would have you remember the purpose of this Day of Remembrance. The purpose is to thin the veil between the earth people and those in the beyond, because the age of Aquarius is the age when man's higher consciousness has to be developed, unfolded.

We have often referred to the incident when Jesus told His disciples to follow the man carrying the water-pot, which is the symbol of Aquarius, the new age. You too are asked to follow the man of the spirit, so that your higher consciousness may be stimulated and unfolded; and the progress, the development of each person there spreads all over the earth a state of receptiveness to the message from the spiritual leaders in higher spheres.

Man does not live by earthly bread alone, but by every word which cometh from the mouth of God. This earth planet cannot continue if the people do not open their consciousness to the spiritual messengers. It is the Will of God, part of the plan of spiritual evolution for the spirit messengers to come close to awaken mankind from its sleep; and to pour into the minds of all peoples the message of the Living Word, the Christ message.

This is the purpose of the Day of Remembrance. Never let it pass without entering into the sanctuary of prayer and meditation. Hold communion at the altar of the spirit; receive the bread and the wine of the Cosmic Christ. This is for the healing of the nations; and this, and only this will lead humanity into the paths of peace and progress – and onward to eternal and perfect life.

God bless you. God bless you, children; the love of the heavenly hosts is flowing, flowing, flowing to your waiting hearts.

[Source: Sunday Address, 14th November 1948, St Mary Abbots Place, London, The White Eagle Lodge]

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

A PRAYER FOR ALL HALLOWS EVE

"From ghoulies and ghosties
And long-leggedy beasties
And things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us!"
[An old Scottish prayer, origin unknown]

In our modern culture in the West, or most of it, this night is known as Halloween, and it is largely a harmless time of dressing up and getting lollies —all pushed by commercial culture. Connected with it is ideas of witches, pumpkins, hobgoblins, and ghosts. Some Christians even pronounce it 'pagan' and based on demons and evil. Modern day 'pagans' (or wicks) have adopted it and often use it to celebrate non-Jewish / Islamic / Christian religion. Though many argue that this is based on ancient beliefs, especially pre-Christian Celtic 'religion,' we don't possess much information about those practices. The Celtic Druids did not write anything down.

However, most of us in the Western world only encounter kids in costumes, or adult costume parties, that have no connection to spirituality at all. It is merely a reason for a social outing.

But I am interested in history, and in reviving old traditions if they prove spiritually helpful. The original day was a Celtic festival practised in Scotland, Ireland, and many other lands. It was called Samhain, and it was the end of the old agricultural year and the beginning of the new one, summer was over and winter was beginning. As you can imagine, for cultures that were dependent on the agricultural year (unlike most of us moderns), this was a crucial time. Animals were brought in from pasture, the surplus were slaughtered for meat during the winter. The harvest had ended, so preparation of food to last through the winter was also part of this.

The Celts believed that the spiritual world and the physical world were closely connected. Ancient Jewish people and early Christians seemed to have thought so, too, though many of us modern believers seem to have adopted a more secular view of a strict boundary. Still, most think that God can intervene in the physical world if he chose to — even today. But the Celts thought it was more than that. Certain times of the year were "thin" times, where the boundary between the physical and the spiritual was almost non-existent. The boundary between summer and winter, spring and fall, the end of a day and the beginning of the next — all of these times were "thin" times. Samhain (Halloween) was one of these times as the world transitioned from one season to the next. So, in addition to the importance of the end of the harvest and pasturing season, this was also a time where it was possible to cross over or at least communicate with the Other World. This led the people to often leave out treats — food — in

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

case their ancestors happened by. There were also fires or talisman to keep away any of the dearly beloved who might be a bit angry at you!

When Christianity came to the Celtic lands, these beliefs about the spiritual world were very easy to understand in Christian terms. God was close by. Jesus had 'crossed over' from the Other World to this world in a thin time. The dearly departed could be honoured, because they were with God in the Other World. So November 1 became "All Saints' Day" — a slight shift in theology as a day to honour those believers who had died and were with God. The night before became All Saints Eve, or All Hallow's Eve (eventually evolving into "Hallo'eve" and then "Halloween"). While some might say this is a "Christianising" of a pagan festival and therefore a bad thing, I would suggest it is the opposite. After all, when we bring someone to the faith, are they not "Christianised" in a manner of speaking. The ancient Christian missionary (like St. Patrick) who brought Christianity to the Celts saw the people they converted as having a sense of the spiritual, but they were simply mistaken in some of their ideas about how it all worked and who God was. So they taught them properly and enabled them to practice and think about their festivals in God's terms. God is the one who created the seasons, and the harvest, and the animals. It should be celebrated from that point of view.

Some churches today use this evening as a time to put up pictures of their members who have died in the last year and remember them, thank God for their lives, and pray. Other churches hold their own "Halloween" with games and candy and such (which seems less connected to Christian history to me, but that is my preference). Many churches hold prayer vigils and engage in fasting and prayer, and some visit the burial sites of loved ones or church leaders.

In any case, if you wish to celebrate a change of seasons as part of God's creation and connected with Christian history and practice, try the prayer below, or simply pray and thank God for those you have known who have left this life.

"Father,
All-Powerful and Ever-Living God,
Today we rejoice in the holy men and women of every time and place
May their prayers bring us Your forgiveness and love
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen."
[The Liturgy of the Hours]

[Source: A Prayer for All Hallow's Eve, Halloween, Samhain, Mark McDowell, Praying Through the Bible]

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

HALLOWEEN, ALL SAINTS DAY & ALL SOULS DAY

Allhallowtide

Allhallowtide, Hallowtide, Allsaintstide, or the Hallowmas season, is the triduum (three days) encompassing the Western Christian observances of All Saints' Eve (Halloween), All Saints' Day (All Hallows') and All Souls' Day, which last from October 31 to November 2 annually. Allhallowtide is a "time to remember the dead, including martyrs, saints, and all faithful departed Christians." The present date of Hallowmas (All Saints' Day) and thus also of its vigil (Hallowe'en) was established for Rome perhaps by Pope Gregory III (731-741) and was made of obligation throughout the Frankish Empire by Louis the Pious in 835. Elsewhere, other dates were observed even later, with the date in Ireland being 20 April. In the early 11th century, the modern date of All Souls' Day was popularised, after Abbot Odilo established it as a day for the monks of Cluny and associated monasteries to pray for the dead.

Etymology

The word Allhallowtide was first used in 1471, and is derived from two words: the Old English word halig, meaning saint, and the word tide, meaning time or season (cf. Christmastide, Eastertide). The latter part of the word Hallowmas is derived from the word Mass. The words hallow and saint are synonyms.

History

The Christian attitude towards the death of martyrs is first exemplified in the New Testament, which records that after the beheading of St. John the Baptist, his disciples respectfully buried him. Stephen was likewise "given a Christian burial by his fellow-Christians after he had been stoned to death by a mob." Two of the Ante-Nicene Church Fathers, Ephrem the Syrian, as well as John Chrysostom, both wrote about the importance of honouring the dead; the theologian Herman Heuser writes that in the early Church, the feast days of the martyrs were local observances, with churches being built on those sites where their blood was shed. Frances Stewart Mossier explains that this changed during the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire, saying that:

"This arrangement worked very well at first, but soon there were more martyrs than there were days in the year, and so one day was set apart in honour of them all, and called All Saints' Day. This took place about the year AD 610. The day of the year on which the festival first occurred was the first of May, and it was not till two hundred years after that it was changed to Nov. 1, the day we now observe. The Christians of those times were in the habit of spending the night before All Saints' Day in thinking over the good and helpful lives of those in whose honour the day was kept and in

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

praying that they might be like them. Services were held in the churches, and candles and incense burned before the pictures and statues of the saints. It was to them one of the holiest, most significant days of all the year."

Following the establishment of All Hallows' Day and its vigil, All Hallows' Eve in the 8th century A.D., Odilo of Cluny popularised the day to pray for All Souls, forming the third day of the triduum of Allhallowtide. The octave of Allhallowtide, lasting "eight days was established by Pope Sixtus IV in 1430 for the whole Western Church." The octave, however was eliminated in the 1955 reforms of the Catholic Church, although it continues to be observed by many Continuing Anglicans and traditionalist Catholics, among others. The faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence by visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead during this octave of All Hallows. In the United Kingdom, the Church of England, mother church of the Anglican Communion, extended All Saints-tide to include Remembrance Sunday in the 20th century.

All Hallows' Eve

All Hallows' Eve, often contracted as Halloween, is the eve of All Hallows (All Saints' Day), and the first day of the Allhallowtide. According to some scholars, the Christian Church absorbed some Celtic practices associated with Samhain [a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year] and Christianised the celebration in order to ease the Celts' conversion to Christianity; other scholars maintain that the Christian observance of All Hallows' Eve arose completely independent of Samhain. On All Hallows' Eve, Christians traditionally believed that the veil between the material world and the afterlife thinned. In order to prevent recognition by a soul, "people would don masks or costumes to disguise their identities"; in North America, this tradition is perpetuated through the practice of trick or treating. In medieval Poland, believers were taught to pray out loud as they walk through the forests in order that the souls of the dead might find comfort; in Spain, Christian priests tolled their church bells in order to allow their congregants to remember the dead on All Hallows' Eve. The Christian Church traditionally observed Hallowe'en through a vigil "when worshippers would prepare themselves with prayers and fasting prior to the feast day itself." This church service is known as the Vigil of All Hallows or the Vigil of All Saints; an initiative known as Night of Light seeks to further spread the Vigil of All Hallows throughout Christendom. After the service, "suitable festivities and entertainments" often follow, as well as a visit to the graveyard or cemetery, where flowers and candles are often placed in preparation for All Saints' Day (All Hallows).

[Continued on the next page...]

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

All Saints' Day

The second day of Allhallowtide is known as All Saints' Day, All Hallows, or Hallowmas. Occurring on November 1, it is a "principal feast of the church year, and one of the four days recommended for the administration of baptism" in Anglicanism. In some Christian denominations, All Saints' Day may be "celebrated on the Sunday following November 1." All Saints' Day is a holy day to honour all the saints and martyrs, both known and unknown. All Hallows is "a universal Christian holy day," but it has a special importance in the Anglican Church, Catholic Church, and Lutheran Church. The liturgical colour of All Saints' Day is white, which is "symbolic of victory and life." While honouring the Church Triumphant, All Hallows seeks to especially "honour the blessed who have not been canonised and who have no special feast day." On All Saints' Day, many Christians visit graveyards and cemeteries in order to place flowers and candles on the graves of their loved ones. This is a common practice in countries such as Spain, Poland, the Philippines, as well as certain parts of the United States, such as Louisiana. For Roman Catholic Christians, attending mass is compulsory, as All Saints' Day (All Hallows) is a holy day of obligation; for members of other Christian denominations, such as Methodist Christians, though not mandatory, attendance at worship services is encouraged.

All Souls' Day

The final day of Allhallowtide is known as All Souls' Day, and is also called the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed. All Souls' Day focuses on honouring all faithful Christians "who are unknown in the wider fellowship of the church, especially family members and friends." However, today, 'All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day have become conflated, and many Christians remember all the dead souls or "saints" on All Saints' Day.' The observance of All Souls' Day "was spread throughout Europe" by Saint Odilo of Cluny in the late 13th century. Like All Hallows' Eve and All Saints' Day, family members often attend mass and visit the graves of their deceased loved ones, placing flowers and lighted candles there. In many Anglican and Roman Catholic Christian services, a 7th-century AD "prayer The Office of the Dead is read out in churches on All Souls' Day." In England, a popular tradition associated with All Souls' Day is souling, in which "bands of children, or of poor men, went round to the houses of the well-to-do on Souling Day, as they called it, begging money, apples, ale, or doles of cake. In some parts specially baked cakes were prepared in readiness to give away; they were called soul-cakes." The individuals who go souling often chant rhymes as they go door to door; for example, an old saying goes: "A Soule-cake, a soule-cake, have mercy on all Christian souls for a soule-cake." Historically, in France, on All Souls' Day, "the burial fraternities were especially active in decorating the churchyard, and everywhere priests led a procession around the graveyard and blessed the graves."

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

THE GRUMPY OLD MAN

Once not so long ago there lived a grumpy, ugly and rather smelly old man. He hadn't always been this grumpy or this smelly when he was younger, it was life's circumstances that had dealt him blow after blow and left him feeling this way.

He would spend his days trying to find food and shelter but everyday town folk and villagers would chase him away, teasing him and calling him names as they went. Many days were spent like this, hungry and alone.

With the beginning of a new day, the grumpy, smelly old man picks himself up from the dirt and starts walking the usual main road in search of food. What starts out to be a normal day for our grumpy, smelly old man certainly isn't going to end that way.

The first village he walks into looking for a kind-hearted soul who would give him some food, turned out to be terribly mean indeed. The moment the villagers see him walking towards them, fresh new insults are hurled in his direction.

"Hey you over there you!" Shouted one man "you smell so bad my pigs have just hidden. Ha ha ha"

As the grumpy, smelly man hears this new insult he can feel himself becoming just a slightly bit more grumpier and slightly more stinkier than he had been a few moments before.



"Oi smelly britches" laughs a little girl.

"Get out of our town you grumpy smelly thing" shouts an angry woman.

"Leave us alone" adds another "you're not welcome smelling like you do and looking as ugly as a dog's dinner"

Again as these new harsh words are spoken, our grumpy, smelly old man can feel himself grow just a little bit more grumpy and slightly more stinky. The mayor of the town steps forward and delivers the final harsh words telling our old grumpy, smelly old man to leave.

Walking out of town our old man is feeling awful, he's terribly hungry and extremely lonely. He feels even more grumpier than he did this morning and starts muttering under his smelly breath all the way to the next village.

[Continued on the next page...]

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

It just so happens that our grumpy, smelly old man's luck was about to change. For within the very next village they lived a wise man of high repute and a master in dealing with all matters of the heart and mind.

Upon entering the village, there seemed nothing unusual or special about this new place. Fresh insults were hurled in his general direction. Most he had heard before but they still hurt and he already felt slightly more grumpy than he did a moment ago. His heart sank and he began to feel like his life was hopeless. He was sure he wouldn't eat today.

Hearing the commotion and the insults being dished out to someone new in town, the highly revered wise man approached the scene.

He watched as a local boy hurled a fresh new insult towards the grumpy, smelly old man. Seeing how the onlooking crowd just laughed he felt sorrow for this man. He also witnessed something else. He watched how each fresh new insult made the grumpy, smelly old man just ever so slightly more smelly, and a little more grumpy.

And so he began to hatch a wise plan.

He explained to the villagers how this man was suffering. The only cure for this great suffering, he said, was kindness. He told the local villagers that they must begin to praise the grumpy, smelly old man and bestow happiness upon him. For only this, he said, would heal the wounds of hatred found in this poor man's heart.

On hearing this the villagers hearts went out to the grumpy old man.

"Welcome to our village" a young women said to the old man.

"You must be tired with all your walking let me help you" said another and gently took the old man's shoulder.

And sure enough just like the wise man had said. Every time they welcomed the grumpy, smelly and old man into their hearts. And every time they bestowed praise and kindness towards him. He would become ever so slightly less smelly and a touch less grumpy.

And the more the villagers could see with their own eyes how sending kindness towards the grumpy old man was working. The more they praised him with their words of positivity, love and happiness. And the more the villagers gave compassion from their hearts the more the smelly, grumpy old man was becoming a happier and nicer person altogether.

Until eventually ever trace of the ugly, smelly, grumpy old man were replaced by a handsome, kind-hearted and happy old man. He spent the rest of his days living in that wonderful little village. And became a life long student of the wise man who had turned his life around.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

QUOTES ABOUT REMEMBRANCE DAY

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

– Thomas Campbell, Hallowed Ground

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today."

– John Maxwell Edmonds

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."

– Laurence Binyon, For The Fallen

"The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them."

– Czeslaw Milosz, The Issa Valley

"We were preparing not Peace only, but Eternal Peace. There was about us the halo of some divine mission. We were bent on doing great, permanent, noble things."

– Harold Nicolson, British delegate to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference

"They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion."

– Dylan Thomas, And Death Shall Have No Dominion

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-
roes."

– Maya Angelou

"Praising what is lost makes the remembrance dear."

– William Shakespeare, All's Well That Ends Well

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below."

– John McRae



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

SOME FUNNIES FOR THIS MONTH

Twas A Dark And Stormy Night

A man's car breaks down in the middle of the night. He knows the area well and realizes that the quickest way to the nearest service station is through an old graveyard.

He's walking along the headstones when in the distance he hears a faint tapping noise. As he gets deeper into the graveyard, the eerie tapping gets louder and louder. He very anxiously turns a corner and sees the source of the tapping is an old man with a hammer and chisel, hunched over a headstone.

Relief washes over him and he says, "I was beginning to freak out because of that noise. I thought this place might have been haunted. What on earth are you doing here so late at night anyway?"

The old man merely continues chiselling and says "They spelled my name wrong."

Hot August Night?

It was a cold night and I had a long walk home.

But I remembered there was a shortcut which passed through a graveyard. I was a bit scared to take this shortcut but gathered all my courage and thought that in the daytime many people take this shortcut so why not at night.

There was no one along the walk but when I reached the middle of the graveyard I saw a man sitting on the grave all alone. I was surprised at first but then with some courage, I asked him.

"Hey I was so scared to pass through this graveyard at night and you're sitting here all alone, aren't you scared?"

Man replied: "Scared. Why? It was hot inside the grave and so I came out and sat down"!

His Last Symphony

A man is walking in a graveyard when he hears Beethoven's Third Symphony played backward. When it's over, the Second Symphony starts playing, also backward, and then the First. "What's going on?" he asks a cemetery worker. "It's Beethoven," says the worker. "He's decomposing."





*Portion of "Saint Francis of Assisi", Philip Fruytiers (17th century)
Feast Day: 4 October*

Matthew 11:25-30 (NRSV)

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

'Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.'

[The Gospel Reading for the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4th October]

Progressive Spiritualists Church Inc.
388 Stirling Street, Highgate WA 6003
PO Box 796, Mount Lawley WA 6929 - Telephone 0401 925 520
Email: church@progressivespiritualists.org.au
www.progressivespiritualists.org.au
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
progressive.spiritualists.church.highgate.perth](http://www.facebook.com/progressive.spiritualists.church.highgate.perth)
Instagram: www.instagram.com/progressivespiritualistschurch/