

Halloween

BE THE LIGHT

Featuring:

Ideas that take the scare out of Halloween, but leave the fun

Ideas that are simple and require little preparation

Ideas to impact your community



How can you 'Be the Light' at Halloween?

If you've not already done so, do take a look at the '**Reject, Receive, Redeem**' article written for Halloween. It helps explain Halloween a lot better and puts it in a Christian context and discusses how we might react to Halloween in a way that glorifies God.

However, this 'Be the light' kit focuses on what you might do if you've decided to 'redeem'

Halloween. We've put several ideas in this pack that hopefully will kick start you to using this celebration as an opportunity for you to shine brightly as you seek to 'be the light' in your community. We've tried to include simple ideas that need very little preparation to more complicated ones like hosting a light party, as well as ideas for everyone regardless of

stage of life.

Whatever you choose to do, be intentional, make a plan and put it in to action. This is an opportunity for you to 'be light' don't let it pass you by.

If you need any more help or ideas don't hesitate to contact the Beacon office on info@thebeaconchurch.com we'd love to help!



Reverse trick or treating

Instead of 'trick or treating' why don't you 'reverse treat' and take sweets to neighbours? This could be a great one for kids as it provides you an opportunity to explain why you want to do things differently, but if you wanted you could let them accept treats in return so they don't feel they are missing out. Plus if you like to bake why not make it a family activity and get the kids to make cupcakes or cookies with you?

Sit with an elderly neighbour

Halloween can be intimidating for some, why not consider sitting with a neighbour on Oct 31st and open the door to trick or treaters for them. This could have a huge impact for that person and take a lot of fear out of the night.

Have a fireworks night

If a light party is too big an event or too child orientated, why not have a fireworks party at Halloween and have hot drinks and hot dogs? Even Aldi sells fireworks, just make sure you know how to do this safely.

Dress up & dinner

How about holding an adult only fancy dress dinner? You could keep it simple and get take-away or go all out and have fancy themed food. There's a separate 'Be the light' kit available specifically designed to help you organise a dinner party, contact info@thebeaconchurch.com if you'd like to receive a copy.



Join a community party

There are lots of local Halloween parties that are taking place all over Stafford. If there is one taking place in your local community you could consider attending? Decide in advance what you will reject, redeem or receive and ensure that anything you do 'reject' you do it very graciously. Or if you didn't feel comfortable attending you could explain why, but support your community in other ways like offering to clear up.

The cheerful door opener

The easiest way to redeem Halloween is to cheerfully open your door to trick or treaters. These are almost always young children who are just enjoying a fun opportunity to dress up and eat lots of sweets!

Redeem this part of Halloween by making your house a welcome place of light, give generously, cheerfully and make use of some of the 'Bags of Hope' we have available.

Why not.....

- Have a smiling pumpkin light your doorway, or carve a cross in one.
- Decorate the front of your house with fairy lights
- Open the door in costume (non spooky), funny glasses or hat
- Give sweets (or healthy treats!) out generously
- Give out some of the child appropriate 'Bags of Hope' we have available



The Light Party

In the past we cheerfully opened our door to trick or treaters (and there was a lot of them!). Last year I wanted to take a bit more control over what Halloween might look like for our family. So we, with two other families, hosted our own take on a Halloween Party.

What you could call a light party.

When I was a kid light parties were just for the Church kids so they didn't feel left out, this party was for our community because we want to 'be the light' in what is traditionally a time of darkness.

How was this different?

- We took the scary out, so nothing designed with blood and zombies, but bats and spiders are ok
- Using as much light as possible, in the decorations, games and this year if we are brave enough the sparklers!
- No tricks, just treats
- No knocking on strangers doors, we are holding this outside our houses
- Superhero costumes and encouraging spook free dress up

How else can you redeem your Halloween or light party?

THE INVITES

Take the opportunity to explain very simply why you are choosing to do things slightly different and scare free.

Not sure how to do this? Then why not make use of the invites we've designed (see page 4) and ask the office to edit them with your party time and location. To request this email

info@thebeaconchurch.com

THE COSTUMES

Take the lead yourself in the spook free dress up. Why not go for a colourful wig, superhero costume or 70's dress up. Stay away from witches and zombie brides, but celebrate something happier and fun.



THE DECORATIONS

The key to a good light party, is well lots of lights in the darkness! Why not try saving your jam jars and putting battery operated fairy lights inside. Hunting down those IKEA tea lights or popping some paper lanterns over the lights. There's lots of colourful options at poundland (perhaps avoiding the blood stained bandages), but you could take advantage of the silly string and colourful spiders webs.



Once the lights are sorted, then there's the pumpkins! Here the world is your oyster! Go for crosses, happy faces, minions, the death star! The only limit is your imagination – and perhaps your carving skills!

FOOD

Depending on the time of your party you might want to feed your guests. Keep it simple (hot dogs and donuts are always a winner). We are just gave away sweets as prizes, but if you'd like some healthier alternatives you could try fruit kebabs on a pumpkin head or draw faces on tangerines.

CRAFTS

For our party we are asked parents to bring along a pumpkin. This is very easy to do just don't forget lots of spoons for scooping out the inside and somewhere to put them – this can be messy.

We've always found it helpful to get kids to draw the carving on first (bring out the sharpie pens) and supermarkets and wilkos do cheap pumpkin carving sets which work well.

GAMES

This is a great way to move away from trick or treat, but instead hand out sweets as game prizes and an opportunity to introduce lots of light into your party.

Why not try adapting some traditional games with glow sticks so that they can be played in the dark?

Be the light - Halloween

You could try a ring toss, bowling, glow balloons or ball games. Then there's traditional Autumn games such as apple bobbing, jumping in leaf piles or if your very brave sparklers!

THE GIVEAWAY

An obvious take away for the kids is lots of sweets! But, what about giving away a 'Bag of Hope' these contain a colouring sheet and a selection of Bible stories. You could give this away whether at a light party or for trick or treaters. Register your interest at info@thebeaconchurch.com. Or collect them at your congregation.

THE PREPARATION

Obviously there's food to buy, invites to give out and games to get ready, but don't forget to pray. This is an opportunity for you to 'shine' in your community (Phil 2:15) as we choose to 'be the light'.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matt 5:16.

SAMPLE INVITES



Whether you choose to reject, receive or redeem Halloween - don't be afraid of the dark, for we know the KING of the light! Page 4