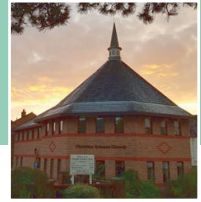


# Halloween Vs Thanksgiving



**As someone who is a life-long Christian Scientist and has always believed in a healing God of love, kindness and compassion, I have never been able to believe in ghosts, ghouls, spirits or trickery, so Halloween is the one event in the annual calendar which doesn't sit easily with me.**

When our children were small we went through the motions and bought pumpkins that they could enter into pumpkin carving competitions, and I made costumes for them to enter into fancy dress competitions. But as they grew older I was personally relieved when that stage of their lives was over and we no longer needed to be involved in Halloween rituals and traditions.

We still buy a pumpkin each year though, but not for carving. I use its delicious flesh to make pumpkin pies, pumpkin muffins and pumpkin soup, even using the outer shell as a soup tureen.

I have just bought another one, but this year we are going to do something very different with it – we are using it to write on!



With a Sharpie pen we are writing daily something that we are grateful for. We have worked out that since bringing the pumpkin home, and placing it in the front window, we have 43 days until our annual thanksgiving day service at church; 43 days to each write different things which we are grateful for. So far we have expressed gratitude for random things, from a gap in the traffic allowing us to pull out, to sunshine, friends, and our safe and comfortable home.

While Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada, and celebrates the harvest and other blessings, it is also recognised in all Christian Science churches around the globe, including ours here in Ashley

Cross. It is always held on the fourth Thursday in November, and is a full, one hour church service.

The first half hour is comprised of readings from the Bible and our textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, along with the singing of three lovely hymns and a solo, all on the subject of giving thanks; while the second half of the service is open for expressions of verbal or silent gratitude for goodness, healing and uplifting experiences of God's loving care.

In the Bible, which Christian Scientists study and gain inspiration from, we read in Malachi: *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"*

Whether you are filling a pumpkin with your words of gratitude or would like to join others for an in-person church service of gratitude, we would absolutely love you to join us in giving thanks!

**Member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Poole**

## Join us in Thanksgiving

Thursday 25th November  
at 7.30pm at our  
Thanksgiving Service

First Church of Christ,  
Scientist, Ashley Cross,  
Poole

2a Church Road, Poole BH14 0NN

Or online [www.cschurchpoole.org.uk](http://www.cschurchpoole.org.uk)  
Light refreshments – everyone  
welcome!



**Find out about the healing power of Christian Science**

Visit our Ashley Cross Reading Room:

85 Commercial Road

11am – 4pm Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays

11am – 2pm Saturdays

**Visit our Church Services**

First Church of Christ, Scientist

2a Church Road, Ashley Cross

And online [www.cschurchpoole.org.uk](http://www.cschurchpoole.org.uk)

10.30am on Sundays, 7.30pm on Wednesdays

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