

THE HANDY GUIDE FOR  
**PUMPKIN  
HEROES**

*ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS,  
RECIPES, GAMES  
AND MORE...*

RESOURCES FOR CHURCH YOUTH LEADERS, PARENTS AND FAMILIES  
TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN DISCOVER ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL OF US THIS HALLOWEEN

Dear Friends,

### We're thrilled to bring to you a second year of Pumpkin Heroes!

In 2017, many hundreds of churches across the UK discovered how Patch and his adventures could shine light into Halloween for children aged 4-10. And we hope that this year's pack will continue to help you have a fun and hope filled time with the children in your church and community.

You'll find plenty of ideas in this guide – from stories, activities, games, to our very own theme song – all designed to help children have fun, whilst learning more about God's love for all of us. If you joined us last year you may recognise some of the tried-and-tested favourites alongside some fresh ideas. Have fun as you pick and mix what works for you, for your event, for your children and local community.

We look forward to seeing your photos, ideas and the fun you have as you share God's love at this time of year.

With every blessing,



*Chine*

Chine McDonald  
Head of Christian Influence and Engagement

@WorldVisionUK  
#pumpkinheroes

World Vision believes that by working together with children, their communities and our supporters and partners, the lives of the world's most vulnerable children can be transformed.

We bring together people – of all faiths and none – in almost 100 countries, to improve children's health, education, water, protection and sources of family income.

As a Christian organisation we aspire to reflect God's unconditional love in everything we do.

Images © 2017 World Vision

# BEFORE YOU GET STUCK IN

Here's a quick checklist to help you plan a fantastic event for your children.

## READY

- 👤 Decide on the date of your event – Wednesday 31 October or a weekend close to it (perhaps even a Sunday morning might work best for your church community.)
- 👤 Read the book or watch *Patch the Pumpkin and the Lost Little Girl* and try out our sample crafts and recipes.
- 👤 Plan your party.

## STEADY

- 👤 Gather a team to help out with the event – don't try to manage things all on your own.
- 👤 Buy craft equipment.
- 👤 Carve or decorate your pumpkins – best done a night or two before so they still look their best for the big event.
- 👤 Print off or photocopy the 'Patch-tivity' sheet, which has a colouring page, word search, maze and more! Find it in your folder or online at [pumpkinheroes.com/pack/resources](http://pumpkinheroes.com/pack/resources).
- 👤 DON'T FORGET TO INVITE THE CHILDREN! We have posters, and some fantastic invites for this – or you could make your own... Why not encourage the kids from church to invite their friends too? Lots of people are looking for positive and safe things for their children to do at Halloween so this could be a life-saver for them.

## GO!

- 👤 Decorate your church hall or home with fairy lights, orange balloons, lanterns and pumpkins.
- 👤 Get your craft or cooking equipment ready.
- 👤 Pray that the children will learn about God's love for all His children.
- 👤 Have fun!

If you, your church and children enjoy Pumpkin Heroes you might like to get our prayer resources from [worldvision.org.uk/together](http://worldvision.org.uk/together) or give a donation so that together we can transform the lives of the world's most vulnerable children and communities at [pumpkinheroes.com](http://pumpkinheroes.com)



# PLAN YOUR PUMPKIN HEROES PARTY

The first rule of any kids event is to keep the little ones entertained (i.e. busy) at all times. And as daunting as that may seem – fear not.

A party outline (with estimated timings) will be your best friend here – remembering to balance physical activities with quieter ones like colouring or face painting so that every child finds something they really enjoy.

This sample plan should take about two hours – but you can always lengthen or shorten your event with a few simple tweaks.



Get your event off to a great start by inviting the children to dress up as superheroes or perhaps even some of Patch's vegetable pals. An awards ceremony or fashion parade could even be incorporated into your event to celebrate their efforts.



Claire, King's Church Children's Worker © 2017 World Vision

**Upon arrival** – have some resources (colouring? children's construction blocks?) up your sleeve to keep everyone entertained. You could try biscuit or lantern making or have the “Patch-tivity” sheet for them to do (all the information is in this pack).

**Kick Off** – with some good old party games (we have some examples on page 7)

## LEAD ON TO PATCH THE PUMPKIN HUNT

Take your kids on a special journey of hope around your church or community. The next page has a little more information about planning the perfect Patch the Pumpkin Hunt.

**Getting Crafty** – with craft activities and baking. Depending on the size of your event, you may want to divide into groups and have stations with different activities going on simultaneously.



## READ THE BOOK OR WATCH THE FILM

Get everyone settled, and share the story *Patch the Pumpkin and the Lost Little Girl*.

Enjoy the story by watching the cartoon film including the voices of Adrian & Bridget Plass or narrate the voices of the many characters yourself when reading the story book to your children.

You can download the illustrations from the book – if you'd like to project these onto a screen at your party.

Both the film and illustrations can be found at: [pumpkinheroes.com/storytime2018](http://pumpkinheroes.com/storytime2018)



# SHINE REAL BRIGHT (SONG)

## CHORUS 1:

**D D/F# A/F#**  
Share God's love  
**G G/A A7**  
Shine God's light  
**D D/F# A/F#**  
We're Pumpkin Heroes  
**G/A D**  
And we'll shine real bright (repeat)

## CHORUS 2:

**D D/F# A/F#**  
We're gonna shine  
**G G/A A7 D D/F# A/F#**  
We're gonna shine  
**G/A D**  
Shine real bright (repeat)

## VERSE 1:

**Bm E7**  
Everybody in the world  
**G2 D/F#**  
Needs God's love, God's love  
**Bm E7**  
Every sad and lonely child  
**G2**  
Needs God's love,  
**D D/F# A/F# G G/A A7**  
Let us shine!

## VERSE 2:

**Bm E7**  
Everybody who's afraid  
**G2 D/F#**  
Needs God's light, God's light  
**Bm E7**  
Every dark and scary place  
**G2**  
Needs God's light  
**D D/F# A/F# G G/A A7**  
Let us shine!

## NOTE:

Chorus one and chorus two can be sung over the top of each other forming a bit of harmony, but as both parts are really simple even kids could have a go!

Why not make up your own actions for the song?

You can share videos of your song performances with us @WorldVisionUK and #pumpkinheroes

And if you want to sing-along with the Shine Real Bright song – find it online at [pumpkinheroes.com](http://pumpkinheroes.com)

# PUMPKIN FUN AND GAMES

You may have some of your own – but here are our favourites:

## PUMPKIN, PUMPKIN, PIE

This is basically a good old game of 'Duck, Duck, Goose!' with a twist on the words.

## PASS THE PUMPKIN

Why not hollow out a pumpkin and fill it with wrapped sweets. The children can pass it around a circle and when the music stops, the child holding the pumpkin can choose a sweet treat.

## PUMPKIN RELAY

Split the children into two lines and give them each a pumpkin of roughly the same size. The children will need to pass the pumpkin over their head and through their legs. When it gets to the child at the end of the line, that child needs to run to the front – this goes on until the children are back in their original positions. The first team wins!

## PUMPKIN CORNERS

Place four pumpkins with different carved pictures in four corners of the room. If you haven't got time to carve different pumpkins, print four pictures of different pumpkins from the internet. Place a picture of each of the different pumpkins into a bag. Put some music on and when it stops, ask the children to run to a corner. Pull a picture out of the bag and all the children in the corresponding corner have to sit out. Keep going until you have your winner.

## PATCH-TIVITY

Your Pumpkin Heroes can have great fun finding and colouring Patch and the friends he meets at World Vision's Child Friendly Space. Then they can enjoy the special word search, maze, and join the dots to create a familiar friend!





# FIND PATCH THE PUMPKIN HUNT

This treasure hunt is a great way to help decorate your party but more importantly also a powerful metaphor for us all to shine God's light, as the lit pumpkins shine out in the darkness. You can create the hunt in your church or outdoors in your community, whatever works best for you and your children.



## GETTING STARTED

A day or two before your party, begin by decorating and carving your pumpkins to look like Patch and his friends – not forgetting his little heart! Then on the day, create your hunt hiding your pumpkins with a tea light inside each one (LED for safety). With each pumpkin leave a little message or drawing for the children to find. We've given you some suggestions below – helping to reinforce the message of caring for and helping others.



## THE HUNT

You can make the hunt easy and simply let the children find the hidden pumpkins and messages or you can create a fun map of your church or community. And if you want to challenge the older ones, you could even create an answer sheet for the children to collect the special pumpkin messages they find.

Here are examples of some messages and drawings you could hide with the pumpkins:



Be a kindness hero!

Every time I help someone, I let my light shine.



let your light shine

Never be too busy to think of others  
Mother Theresa

Let's become an army of kindness!

Be bold, be beautiful, but above all be kind.



A great life is made up of small acts of kindness and love.

# PUMPKIN CRAFTS

## PRAYER PUMPKINS

This craft is so easy – it's become one of our favourites! These cute little pumpkins can help your kids to pray for children whose lives are tough and who face problems they may not have thought much about before. This could be done at any point during your party to provide a bit of quiet time. The final results could be incorporated into the story-time, as prayers for those in need all over the world and as a reminder to continue sharing God's love with others.



### What you need:

- 🍷 About 7 strips of orange paper roughly 1cm wide by 10cm long
- 🍷 Green paper cut into a leaf shape
- 🍷 Glue or staples
- 🍷 Pens for writing prayers

### What to do:

- 🍷 Encourage the children to write a short prayer on each of the orange strips, or to write the name of a country where life is a bit harder for children.

#### Example prayers

Please comfort children who are afraid  
 Help us to be kind  
 Please feed children who are hungry  
 Help children who are in danger  
 Help us to think of others  
 Thank you God that you care  
 Thank you for our friends

#### Countries where the world's most vulnerable children live

Democratic Republic of the Congo  
 Sudan  
 Somalia  
 Syria  
 Uganda  
 Kenya  
 Sierra Leone

- 🍷 Hold the ends of the orange strips together and then fan them out in a circle with the prayers on the outside.
- 🍷 Fasten the ends together with glue or a staple and then stick the top ends together to form a ball.
- 🍷 Get the children to write their name on a leaf shape and stick it to the top of the pumpkin.



## MAKE YOUR OWN PATCH

This no-sew project will keep kids happy for a while, as they create their own Patch – or another of his gang...

### What to do:

- 🍷 Turn an orange sock inside out.
- 🍷 Fill it up to half way with beans or rice.
- 🍷 Mould your sock shape to a nice round pumpkin-y shape before putting a thin stick (or pipe cleaner) inside that will become your stem.
- 🍷 Fasten the pumpkin shape with a rubber band.
- 🍷 Cut out leaves, nose, and mouth out of felt and stick with fabric glue (or hot glue if you have someone who can go on hot glue duty). Alternatively, draw on with fabric pen. Same with the googly eyes.
- 🍷 Voila – the sock is a pumpkin character! Now just to keep the new little pumpkins all in check and make sure they behave!

### What you need:

- 🍷 Orange socks - one per child
- 🍷 Rice or Beans
- 🍷 Rubber Band
- 🍷 Black and Green Felt
- 🍷 Large Googly Eyes
- 🍷 Thin stick or green pipe cleaner
- 🍷 Fabric Glue or Hot Glue
- 🍷 Fabric pens would be a great alternative if you want something simpler to create eyes and other features



### What you need:

- 🍷 Clean jam jars with the labels removed
- 🍷 Tissue paper cut into heart shapes
- 🍷 PVA glue
- 🍷 Wire
- 🍷 LED tea lights
- 🍷 Small luggage labels with the verse Matthew 5:14 "You are like light for the whole world" written on them
- 🍷 Orange ribbon, string or wool

## JAM JAR LANTERNS

These beautiful lanterns can be filled with small LED tea lights to remind children that they can shine God's light in the world.

### What to do:

- 🍷 Simply get the children to stick the hearts onto the jam jars with PVA glue. They can put as many or as few on as they like.
- 🍷 Wrap the wire around the neck of the jar and then loop the end over like a handle.
- 🍷 Tie the luggage label with the Bible verse onto the handle.
- 🍷 Pop the tea light inside to remind children that they can bring light into the world.



# PUMPKIN TREATS

## GINGERBREAD PUMPKINS

These tasty treats can be a well-earned snack for the Pumpkin Heroes, or be given away to others as a sign of God's love.

If you don't have time to make the gingerbread from scratch, you can buy ready-made dough from the supermarket.

[This recipe makes about 20 biscuits]

### What to do:

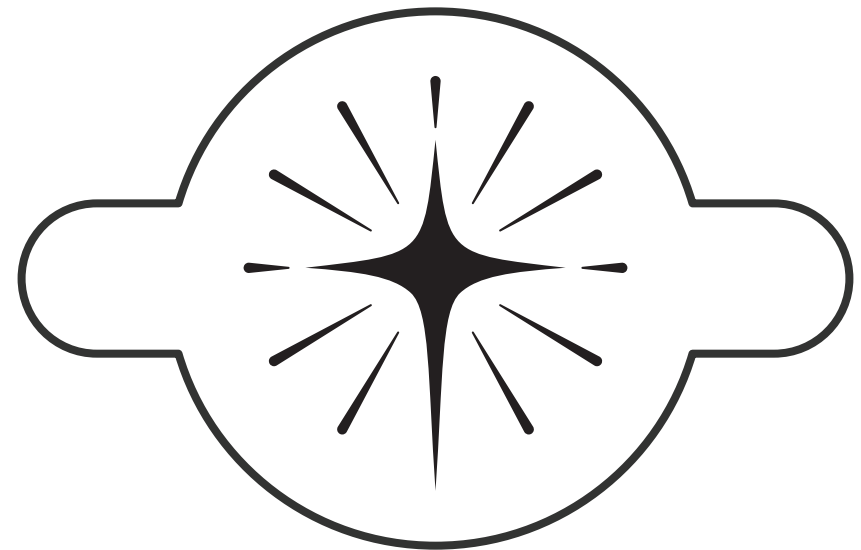
1. Preheat the oven 190°C.
2. Put the flour, ginger and soda into a bowl and rub in the butter.
3. Add sugar and stir in the syrup and egg to make a firm dough.
4. Separate the dough into small balls for each child.
5. Get the children to roll out the dough so it's roughly about 5mm thick (if you don't have enough rolling pins, the side of a jam jar works just as well).
6. Use a pumpkin shaped cutter to make your gingerbread pumpkins!
7. Put the biscuits on a sheet of baking paper on a tray and bake for 10-15 minutes until golden brown.
8. When they're cool, the children can decorate them.
9. The children can then pop them on the plate with the Bible verse written on – if they have time, they can decorate these plates too.

### What you need:

- 350g plain flour
- 2 tsp ginger, ground
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 100g butter
- 175g soft light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 4 tbsp golden syrup
- Pumpkin-shaped cookie cutter
- Icing tubes for decoration
- Paper plates with "You're blessed when you care" Matthew 5:7, written on them



# PUMPKIN FACE PAINTING TEMPLATE



PHOTOCOPY THIS PAGE

Use this space to jot down ideas and notes.

## OUR PUMPKIN PARTNERS

A number of great organisations are supporting Pumpkin Heroes this year. Check out their websites to get some extra treats and resources.

### Scripture Union

We're working alongside our friends at Scripture Union again this year as we both have a heart for sharing God's love at Halloween. Their Light Party Pack can be used alongside our Pumpkin Heroes resources.

National Children's Advisor for the Church of England, Mary Hawes, shares her thoughts on how we can make the most of Halloween. And the pack is full of other advice and top tips from children and youth work experts.

As well as this, the Light Party Pack contains lots of new ideas for games, creative makes, food and activities for ages 5 to 18. Plus it includes creative ways of exploring the Bible with children.

Together, let's share the light of Jesus this Halloween!

To get your free Light Party Pack from Scripture Union, visit [lightparty.org.uk](http://lightparty.org.uk)



### Meaningful Chocolate Company

The 2018 Meaningful Treat Box comes with 30 Treat Packs and a leader's guide. Each pack has a bag of Fairtrade chocolate buttons and a Challenge Activity Poster which includes a word game, picture puzzles, a call to buy Fairtrade, to say a prayer, a national Leading Light competition and a challenge to give a treat to someone less well off by donating to World Vision. All with the themes of Being a Hero and Being a Light. Buy for your kids or events such as Pumpkin Heroes. [realhalloween.org](http://realhalloween.org)



### United Christian Broadcasters

Bless the kids at your Pumpkin Heroes party, or any trick or treaters who might come to your door, with a Bag of Hope from UCB and World Vision. Each free bag contains a great Bible-based booklet and activity sheet for children to enjoy!

[ucb.co.uk/bagofhope](http://ucb.co.uk/bagofhope)







"You're here to be light,  
bringing out the God-colours in the world ...  
If I make you light-bearers, you don't think  
I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you?  
I'm putting you on a light stand.

Now that I've put you there on a hilltop,  
on a light stand —shine! Keep open house;  
be generous with your lives. By opening up  
to others, you'll prompt people to open up  
with God, this generous Father in heaven."

—Matthew 5.14  
(The Message Version)

**World Vision UK**

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