

Happy new year! New Year's Eve~ 31st October

Sunset on October 31st marked the death of the old year. Dawn on November 1st marked the beginning of the year's cycle and the season of Samhain (pronounced "sow-ain") for the Celtic Christians (and the pagans) of the Dark ages. It is now, when the darkness overtakes the light, that the Christian Church chooses to celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. This Celtic new year comes at the start of winter and only a few weeks later than the High Holy days with which the Jewish new year begins. Both the Jews and the Celts count time from the cycle of dark to light and not as we do from light to dark. For example, the Jewish Sabbath starts at dusk of the day before (and not at midnight or sunrise).

At the St John's Celtic Group meeting-

7.45pm on Wednesday, November 4th at 10 Worcester Close
(home of Joyce and Mervyn Bracey)

we will be exploring this important time of year, looking at the symbolism associated with it and thinking about its relevance today. *Weather permitting* we will meet around the fire for a short time in the garden to mark this Celtic fire festival!

You are warmly invited to come along and join us to learn more about the spirituality of the early Celtic Christians and to share a time of worship and reflection. The group is open to all.

Please talk to any member of the group: *Joyce and Mervyn Bracey, Virginia and Chris Gifford, Lin Monks or Pauline Lovering* if you want any further information.

We very much look forward to welcoming you on November 4th

Pauline Lovering