

## Messy May Day



The first day of May is known as **May Day**. It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is said to be a time of love and romance. It is when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs that are expressions of joy and hope after a long winter.

Maypole Dancing is traditional. On May Day, people used to cut down young trees and stick

them in the ground in the village to mark the arrival of summer.

People danced around the tree poles in celebration that the start of fine weather allowed planting to begin. Maypoles were once common all over England. Schools would practice skipping round the pole for weeks before the final show on the village greens. The end result would be either a beautiful plaited pattern of ribbons round the pole or a tangled cat's cradle, depending on how much rehearsing had been done!

I love the light as spring and early summer begin. It is energising which must be from the hope that spring and summer bring. Life seems full of possibilities and potential for me. Wouldn't it be amazing to feel like this all year round? Maybe you do, but even as a believer in Jesus, the light of the world, I struggle in the greyness and darkness of winter. I love the lighter longer days where new beginnings feel possible.

I cannot imagine living in darkness as those who have no sight do. Like blind Bartimaeus and then to see just like that? Actually, I wonder how easy it was - he couldn't beg anymore - so did he get a job? I always want to know more than the story tells us!

Sometimes it is not just physical darkness that hangs over us but the darkness of grief; the loss of something or someone that meant something to us, the weight of a worry... When things that have ended, end well, new beginnings are easier but life is messy and sometimes emerging into the light after time in the dark is painful and challenging - I think it might have been a bit like that for Bartimaeus. Maybe that is when we have to learn to lean heavily on Jesus, the light, our light to help get us through. Sometimes that may mean leaning on the 'Jesus' in others that hold us and guide us when we can't see the way. Giving up our pride and self-reliance and saying "please help me"...

I ask God's richest blessings on you and your family this May as the spring light fills and transforms our world and that you will soon be telling stories to me how the light of Jesus has changed how you see things.

Love, *Liz*

Please send any photos of **Messy Mark** to [stmarkseditor@virginmedia.com](mailto:stmarkseditor@virginmedia.com) and Hazel will try to put them on our website.

### **Dates for your dairy**

**May 5th** - Tattenhams Market, 10-2pm Crafts Stalls, plant sale and coffee and cake cafe

**May 12th** Quiz night Saturday 12th May 7.30 pm to raise money for Christian Aid in St Mark's hall. A quiz, raffle and light supper but please bring your own drinks. No charge but we will be asking for donations and after costs, remainder goes to Christian Aid. People will compete in teams of up to eight so why not invite friends and make up your own team. If you come on your own, you can join up with others to make up a team on the night. There is a sign up list at the back of the church or alternatively you can contact Keith Nelson: 01737 212458

**Messy Munchkins** each Tuesday during term time from 9 -10:30. For preschoolers and their mums/carers. Sensory messy play around a theme, time of singing and very short Bible / faith story. Ask Liz or Anne for more details.

**May 13th** Sunday@4: An interactive service for all the family with Bible stories, different styles of prayer, quizzes, craft, singing, fun, learning together about responsibility, community, sharing and caring for others. Help in growing your family's faith. Bring some food to share. The next Sunday@4 will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>. If you want to know more speak to Rachel Ruddmore, Liz or Des

[www.stmarkschurch.me.uk](http://www.stmarkschurch.me.uk)