

## Tony Thinking Aloud Iv

'March winds and April showers bring forth the sweet May flowers' - that is what I was always told.

Now the daffodils have gone I am waiting for more flowers to come, but the trees are now well out. I can hardly see the house at the bottom of my garden!

One of the perhaps unexpected outcomes of Lockdown, I have followed the progress of the year, particularly in my garden. I am not the only one who has realised this, it was recalled in the Radio Derby Act of Worship on Sunday morning.

You may well have noticed how prolific the Blackthorn has been this year. It is fading now. I have been told that there is always cold weather still in store until the Blackthorn has gone! An observation of nature over the years.

Look out for the Wild Parsley (or Queen Anne's lace), the buttercups (hopefully) the dandelions, there should be Lady's Smock and the long awaited Bluebells. As the month moves on listen out for the early cuckoo call!

It is May Day on Saturday. The ancient traditions are still observed in a light hearted manner in some places, especially the Crowning of the May Queen and Maypole Dancing. It was the time when the ground was addressed reminding it to start the growing season. Next Sunday (May 9<sup>th</sup>) is Rogation Sunday (from the Latin 'Rogo', to ask). The time of prayers for God's blessing on the growing season and the harvest.

In this time of Lockdown when we have had time to observe the pattern of growth we can appreciate the working of the Hand of God as we come to Spring and Summer. Perhaps it is easier through this opportunity to see and appreciate the Hand of God is always there to guide, help and support.