

Tony thinking aloud v

No May Day Bank Holiday this year! We probably forget we have only had one since 1978! May Day as a significant day in the year goes back to ancient traditions and customs.

The most obvious, Maypole Dancing and Crowning of the May Queen, are customs more frequently seen today as fun time at Primary Schools. However Morris Dancing is more widespread especially this month.

May sees the beginning of the warmer weather, summer is coming. Ancient May Customs focus on 'reminding' the earth to wake up and provide crops in the summer!

The thoughts remain with Rogation tide about now (May 18 – 20). The time to ask God's blessing on the 'fruits of the earth', for which thanksgiving is made at Harvest Festival in the autumn. Rogation comes from the Latin word 'Rogo' 'to ask'.

There are lots of 'old wives tales' too. 'Cast no clout until May is out' – does it mean the flower or the month? Some people say you should not wash your blankets in May, there any many others!

It is a time to reflect. My lawn will grow whatever is happening in the fight against the Virus. The crops will grow, we will all benefit. The sun will shine, the rain will come. Ongoing creation on which we all depend.

'Queen 'has just released a new version of a pop classic – it is now 'You are the champions' for those we applaud on Thursday night - the NHS, the carers and all who are maintaining life for us at this time. They are in our prayers with our family, friends and everyone, particularly with those who are sad at a time of loss.

We think about the future, listening to the Prime Minister on Thursday, on looking forward – to the sunshine and the green pasture which is ahead.

If we reflect on being in the Hand of God that does not change. God in creation is there all the time. We have all come through a time of difficulty, now we share our anxiety with everyone and look forward with confidence to the future.

May the blessing of God be with us all.