

Tony Thinking Aloud xcix

And now it is Spring! The first day, March 21st, was on Monday. So, what of the weather... The best known saying is 'March winds and April showers bring forth the sweet May flowers' we certainly had the March winds!

This past week has seen March 25th, Lady Day – the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first quarter day of the year, not so much of account now but it was when lots of bills came through the door, the Quarterly Accounts. I can remember my grandmother getting the money out to pay the gas and electric bills promptly at the Post Office. Everything personal then and usually in cash! It was an important day, and still is, for the sale and settlement of rent on farmland.

Lady Day is an important day in the Church Year. Relating to the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary to tell her she was to be the mother of Jesus, (Saint Luke Chapter One).

Appropriate this year as it is two days before Mothering Sunday, traditionally the third Sunday before Easter. The naming of it as Mother's Day is taken from a similar day in May in the USA, without the same background. The name Mothering comes from relating to the mother church in the area. In this area, Tatenhill Church, much older than the rest. Families went together to the Mother Church. Over the years the emphasis has been moved to mothers and parents... Today it is an opportunity to remember with love and gratitude all our mothers did or are doing for us. Our parents did so much and supported us in our early years, a chance for appreciation.

Pause and think about this, reflect, offer a prayer of thanksgiving – and when still possible add a gift or support in some way...

The other quarter days are Midsummer Day (June 24th) Michaelmas Day (September 29th) Christmas Day (December 25th).