

A few words from the Vicar

*O, the month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!
O, and then did I unto my true love say,
Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen.*

Thomas Dekker (c. 1572–1632),

So, it has arrived, the Merry Month of May. I'm not sure why May is considered merrier than any other time of year; it's not as if we're miserable for the other 11 months.

Obviously the description has more to do with poetic licence than reality. Nonetheless, the description seems apt because May marks the arrival of warmer weather (well, hopefully anyway), we are surrounded by new life in the animal kingdom and the trees are covered in greenery once more.

According to my sources (Wikipedia) the 'Merry Month of May' has associations with the 'Merrie Olde England' of English folklore; an idealised pre-industrial past of Lincoln Green, Robin Hood and his merry men, endless merrymaking (when did they find the time?) etc. Cue 'Jerusalem' for a rousing rendition of 'And did those feet in ancient time'.

I'm not knocking any of this by the way. I like being English (and British), our culture suits me down to the ground and as a nation I feel we can be proud of many things. Like so many others I might travel abroad for my holidays, but England (and the rest of the UK for that matter) is my home.

I could go on - you probably think I have!

So what's happening at Christ Church in the Merry Month of May? Quite a lot really.

On Saturday 14th May (11am – 2pm) we have our annual Spring Fayre. Yes, we do need the money, so please come along to support us. These are always fun events, always well

supported and it is good to see so many working hard (and having fun) generating a much needed boost to our finances. I don't know what the line-up is yet (or what I will be flogging on the Clergy stall) but you can be sure you can get a bite to eat from the café and purchase some yummy homemade jam and cakes.

In terms of our spiritual life, Archbishops Justin and John are asking all parishes to pray specifically for Church growth from 8 – 15th May as part of an initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We will be joining in and there will be a special service of prayer for Church growth in Church at 6.30pm on Thursday 12th May.

Sunday 15th May is Pentecost (or Whit Sunday if you prefer the Book of Common Prayer). At Pentecost the fifty days of Eastertide come to an end as we commemorate the coming in power of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples as they were gathered together. The Bible describes the event thus:

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:3-4 (NRSV)

Traditionally Pentecost is taken to be the Church's birthday (happy birthday everyone), a reason to make merry if ever there was one!

Red is the colour for Pentecost so Elaine and I will be wearing our red stoles. Why don't you come along to our main Pentecost Sunday service wearing something red too!

Every Blessing

Dave