



Dear Friends

Here we are poised to set foot into May. I began to think over what May meant to me as a child, the promise of warmer weather and what seemed like endless summers. May at our primary school meant fervent preparation for May Day celebrations. The voting for the May Queen that had some dubious goings on, a minor take on party political

broadcasts of today. But I digress. The maypole was brought out from its storage space in the Oast of the house next door and some very talented ladies set about re-ribboning and flower garlanding it. Each young girl was expected to make her flower headband, if lucky with the help of Mum or Grandma and there were some spectacular creations come the day. The boys had to make a flower stick and all were dressed in their finest for this highlight of the school year.

Before that there was the somewhat tortuous rehearsals and the appointment of partners. I can still remember my last partner, a very tall spindly lad named Jacob, a somewhat strange partner for the tiny girl that I was in those days. As well as the grazed knees when we tripped each other up. the mess and tangles we all got into with the ribbons exasperated the teachers who of course had done this so many times before, but refused to demonstrate their prowess.

In case you have never experienced this activity, the tradition of dancing around the Maypole, dates back to medieval times and is a celebration of spring and fertility. Dancers, often children, hold onto the ribbons and weave around the pole, creating intricate patterns. This festive celebration, symbolizing the return of life and fertility to the earth, is still observed in many parts of Europe, and links cultural heritage with the joy of spring.

I wonder what memories you have of the month of May in days gone by?  
I thank God for the changing seasons and all we can experience at His hands.

Glory be to God in the world around us:

In sun and shade, day and night and the rhythms of the seasons

**Glory to God**

**Amen**

Blessings Lynne

**The Dance of the Maypole**

In the heart of May, the maypole stands tall,  
Ribbons and laughter, a colorful sprawl.  
A dance that weaves the threads of spring,  
In May's bright morning, hearts take wing.

**Did You Know?**

This ritual involves a tall pole adorned with flowers, ribbons, and sometimes crowns of roses as part of May Day festivities,

# The Church in Hope Street LEP



## CHURCH NOTICES

### MAY 2024



*Hope does not disappoint us,  
because God has poured out his love into our hearts  
by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us  
Romans 5:5*

*Mission Statement*  
*Our mission is to help all people understand  
and respond to the depth of God's love for them*

Meditation 11:15am Church  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

## Dates for your Diary

TakeTime is a series of relaxing guided meditations based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius

**TakeTime Together**  meets on Fridays, 11:15am in Church  
*Please speak to Margaret for more information*

### Living with Dementia

Now meeting **EVERY THURSDAY** until further notice  
Please contact Janet for more information.

**Membership for this much needed group has increased.  
More helpers are needed. Interested? Please speak to Janet.**

### Contributions welcome for FOOD BANK & COMMUNITY BUS

*Thank you* for donating food items - packets, tins etc. and toiletries for the food bank and the Community Bus.

### DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK COFFEE MORNING

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10:30am – 12 noon In the Alec Stride Hall  
*Donations of TOMBOLA prizes would be very welcome please*



### SUMMER COFFEE MORNING

Summer Coffee Morning in the Alec Stride Hall

FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 9:30am-11:00am **date confirmed**

ADMISSION FREE - ALL WELCOME

*REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE, TOMBOLA, CAKES and more*

### LEADER'S MEETING

The next Leader's Meeting will be on **MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 at 2:00pm** in Lynne's office.

### CHURCH MEETING

The next Church Meeting will be on **MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 at 2:00pm** in the Church. **ALL WELCOME**, so please try to attend

### BIRTHDAYS

30<sup>th</sup> April Marie

5<sup>th</sup> June Hilary

5<sup>th</sup> May Anne Rymill

17<sup>th</sup> June Joyce

27<sup>th</sup> June Margaret

**Notices for June should be available from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Meditation 11:15 am	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Church
Morning Service 10:30am	<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Lynne le Masonry
Prayer & Care 9:30am Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am <b>All welcome</b>	<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Church Church
Meditation 11:15 am	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Church
Morning Service 10:30am	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> Kathy Gambell to speak	Local Arrangement
Prayer & Care 9:30am Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am <b>All welcome</b>	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Church Church
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>		
<b>DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK COFFEE MORNING</b>		
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 10:30am – 12 noon In the Alec Stride Hall <i>Donations of TOMBOLA prizes would be very welcome please</i>		
Meditation 11:15 am		Church
Morning Service 10:30am	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION</b>	Joe Gregory
Prayer & Care 9:30am Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am <b>All welcome</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Church Church
Meditation 11:15am	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Church
Morning Service 10:30am	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jenny Thompson
Prayer & Care 9:30am Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am <b>All welcome</b>	<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Church Church