

MAVKA

A Ukranian woodland spirit



In Ukranian mythology **Mavkas** appear either as children or beautiful young women with long, flowered hair and dressed in thin, white shirts.

Mavkas are beings with sweet, round faces, beautiful and tall in stature. A mavka always wears a floral wreath on her head.

Mavkas make their homes in forest trees, which become like sisters or mothers to them, or in bushes, in fields, or grass.

As soon as the snow begins to melt in springtime, they plant flowers near mountain caves. As everything turns green and blossoms, they swing on branches, frolic in rye fields, pick flowers, weave wreaths, and dance.

Mavkas often interact with mermaids. On "Mavka's Easter" (Holy Thursday), Mavkas and mermaids wander through fields and forests. They transform into humans and even enjoy ordinary human food.

Since 2022, nearly 80 Ukrainians (spread over 27 families) have been made welcome and have found sanctuary in Faringdon & surrounding villages. In gratitude, and as an amazing token of these bonds of friendship, our Ukrainian guests have commissioned a lifesize wooden sculpture of "Mavka".