

# MAVKA

## A Ukranian woodland spirit



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

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

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

As soon as the snow began to melt in springtime, they planted flowers near mountain caves. As everything turned green and blossomed, they swung on branches, frolicked in rye fields, picked flowers, wove wreaths, and danced.

Mavkas often interacted with mermaids. On “Mavka’s Easter” (Holy Thursday), mavkas and mermaids wandered through fields and forests. They transformed into humans and even enjoyed 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".*