

Tony Thinking Aloud c

The first musing was a result, basically, of being asked by one person - 'can you write something for us to think about' – at the beginning of the Pandemic.

This is my 100<sup>th</sup> attempt. I am disappointed it does not qualify for a greetings card from the Queen!

However, I much appreciate the many encouraging comments over the past two years. With the 'Lichfield Mercury' ceasing to publish after 200 years (where I had been their village newshound) the opportunity also came along for me to create 'Needwood News' as a companion to the 'Musing'.

It is reasonable when 100 is reached to look back and reflect. And yes, a certain amount of that has happened, but most particularly it is an opportunity to look forward.

The object for me of Needwood News is to be aware of what is happening locally, to give support and feel part of the active community.

The Musing is more personal. Look back at them, they paint a picture of a journey we have all been on in our different ways. How we have had to think about other people, provide support, and relate to need. We have had more time to pause and think. Perhaps we appreciate nature more – I certainly do! Thinking of nature, creation – I have observed and enjoyed my small garden so much more and the visiting birds have become friends!

I suggest at this 100 stage ... we pause, take five minutes to reflect as I suggested recently. Appreciate life and nature, think about the impact of the last 100 weeks on the lives of others as well as our own. How do we respond going forward, there are still many challenges and opportunities out there, respond to charities perhaps, think about the less fortunate ... do we support the food bank for example? Give thanks at being able to be here for others.

Pray for others, mindful of God working through us in his creation. Just wonder at the world, we will soon find ways to respond. We shall be needed shall we say for the next 100!