

Tony Thinking Aloud cxii

So, we have come to July. What are you looking forward to? Those glorious hot summer days we always expect for the holiday season perhaps? Best look out though, its Wimbledon – some say it always rains! Well, the Centre Court does have a roof when required should rain happen! Remember Saint Swithin's Day in the middle of the month is always associated with wet weather.

Some things do not change; I have been watching Wimbledon on the television – everything about as it was last year. The officials react and dress the same. The game to a stranger is itself extraordinary, to explain scoring is not easy...15/30/40 and what is the 'advantage'? At least explaining the scoring in cricket is more straightforward even if the game itself is more complex.

My Best Man did his National Service in the Royal Air Force as I did too. I remember, because of where he was stationed, he had the opportunity to be a ball boy at Wimbledon. I guess what he did then was identical to the ball boys on the courts at Wimbledon today! Kneeling in exactly the same way as today to race out to pick up any out of place ball!

Last week we thought about how it was good that we can adapt and give people the right support.

This week a reflection on things which do not change – not particularly Wimbledon but in nature perhaps. The passing of the years, the growth and sequence of nature in our gardens, as in the world where we all live. Stability is important, we know what basically to expect and how to react.

But ... we may still pray for and be concerned for one another in this stable world for we all still have individual needs in the unstable manmade world around us.

A thought for the month ...

Let's get back to nature, July, and the weather...July 15th is Saint Swithin's Day. He was Bishop of Winchester, a very humble man. He wished to be buried in the Cathedral churchyard where folk would walk through...a little later it was thought he should be buried in a more honourable place in the cathedral. It is said on the day for the removal it rained for forty days...

Our weather law for this month....

St. Swithin's Day, if thou does rain, for forty days it will remain;

St. Swithin's Day, if thou be fair, for forty days 'twill rain nae mair.