

Tony Thinking Aloud cxvii

It is all go for celebrations. So many gold medals for the individual nations that make up the United Kingdom. The Commonwealth Games are very successful. I have been encouraging support for Uttoxeter lad Adam Peaty for some time. He achieved his 50 metres Breaststroke Final win to get the only Gold Medal in his events he had not won. Many have achieved individual success in the Commonwealth Games whilst all working as a team.

The achievement of the Lionesses in the Football Final. Another great accomplishment, but why were they denied a top of the bus drive through London? Is it still a sign that women's achievements are not the same as men?

Then at the same time the opposite, desperate concern from millions about the rise in energy bills. Families weighing up paying for eating or heating! Although thousands of people can just pay (you may be one) the concern of the plight of others is devastating. It does not seem a real concern to either of the potential Prime Ministers – their answer 'I will do all I can' does not feel meaningful to me coming from those I perceive it does not effect.

So, there is a contrast today about folk. Rightful celebrations for all the winners in the Games and the Euros, while others have nothing but financial anxiety.

What can we do? We are all separate individuals, there is no difference – as people – between us. Do we ever think of that? Individuals have their own opportunity to support. The Barton Church weekly newssheet states there is a special need for supplies at food banks – locally there are people who are dependent on them every day. It is a very little of response in a way, but we have to start somewhere.

I feel I am saying yet again but in a slightly different way and due to different circumstances, that we must respond to the needs of one another. Celebrate and cheer of the medal winners, for the Lionesses but there are others who need support in a very different positive way. We are all individuals, we all need each other, and we are all the same in the sight of God.

How to help? YMCA BURTON FOODBANK is in DESPERATE need of donations due to an increase in people who are needing to use the service. If you are in a position to be able to donate items, please drop them off at any of the churches in Barton, Dunstall or Tatenhill and RC Church and they will arrange for them to be taken to the Foodbank. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

There are also opportunities to drop donations off at most major Supermarkets.