

Tony Thinking Aloud i

I came to Barton in 1976. I remember it was a very hot summer. I had taken my shirt off and helped with the removals in my vest! Some of my family were very concerned about my dress - 'you need to mind your Ps and Qs in a place like Barton! 'In the weeks following I was very much on edge, worried. 'Had I done the right things to come this parish, different from anything before!'

As I look back over the years I see how I have been guided through my life, difficult times being part of the pattern. You will probably feel the same if you reflect. The Hand of God has always been there.

We are all in a time of concern and anxiety now, for ourselves, for family and friends and indeed everyone. The unseen Hand of God has not gone away, we can lean on Him for support and to strengthen our relationship with each other in our anxiety and in our prayerful support for those we applaud on Thursday evenings.

The sunshine of 1976 will break though, after we have made this demanding journey with each other in the Hand of God.

It may be you do not do God, as a friend of mine once put it, then at another time he quite surprisingly said to me, when he was up against it, 'you can say a prayer for me!' I said to him – 'thought you are not into that mate' he said to me 'I am when I need to be'.

I will say a prayer for you and everyone in this anxious time, perhaps you can spare one for me.

I am looking to the sunshine again when I can wash the car in my vest and Liverpool will officially be Premier League Champions!

May God bless us all.