

Tony thinking aloud iv

‘God for Elizabeth, England and Saint George’!!! ***

This week sees the Queen’s birthday and Saint George’s Day. ‘Jerusalem’ is often thought of as an alternative National Anthem, in fact when King George V first heard it he said that he preferred it to the National Anthem!

‘And did those feet in ancient time walk upon England’s mountains green? And was the holy Lamb of God on England’s pleasant pastures seen?’ The Apocryphal Legend that Jesus was brought in his youth to England by Joseph of Arimathea (we read of him in Saint John Chapter 20 verse 38) a tin merchant, to Glastonbury to be precise is the subject of ‘Jerusalem’ .

We are reminded that although we associate Jesus with events in Palestine, the message of God is for everyone, everywhere. You can go to the holy land, you can go to Glastonbury (although no festival this year), wherever – God is near, we can relate to him.

Just now our prayers are for family, friends, loved ones, indeed everyone at this time of uncertainty. We remember those who are unexpectedly mourning the passing of loved ones. We most certainly commend all in the National Health Service, carers and those who maintain the life of the country in our prayers too.

We are uncertain about the future, ‘Jerusalem’ is an anthem of confidence. Now we are reflecting more on the ‘dark satanic mills’! Jesus brings us all the support we need if we accept it, we will indeed ‘not sleep’ until we have built Jerusalem again in England’s green and pleasant land in the months and years ahead.

May the Jesus of Glastonbury be with us at this time, with those we love, with us all.

*** re Shakespeare Henry V Act III