

Thinking aloud ix

This Monday is Whit Monday. Many people will hardly remember it since the Spring Bank Holiday replaced it. Whit Monday was the first Bank Holiday granted in 1871, Christmas Day and Easter Monday were added.

This Sunday is Whitsunday, the New Testament reminds us of the help and support given to us by God in His Holy Spirit. It was a very popular day for Baptism when white is traditionally worn, hence Whit or White Sunday.

It's a forward looking festival, God's support for all we are doing and going to do. Lockdown is being relaxed a little on this Whit Monday, but life remains with a need for caution.

We must remember that there are many who are still advised to self-isolate, there are many others who remain cautious for various reasons and will not be rushing out to the shops to buy the latest treat from Birds'.

As we look toward to a more normal future it is important we continue to support the elderly and the vulnerable, we maintain our new friendships with neighbours and treasure close relationships with family and friends again.

We still need to support in our prayers the NHS and carers and everyone who restlessly works to keep life normal for us. There are still thousands who are bereaved.

The message of Whitsun is living with the support of the hand of the Creator God as we remember we are hopefully moving slowly beyond Coronavirus with enhanced compassion, support, and encouragement for all we meet.

Last weekend saw another important celebration, that of our Muslim friends, the keeping of Eid. In an interview about the festival and relating this year to Coronavirus, we learnt it is important 'To do one kind thing every day'. We should all reflect on that.