

Tony Thinking Aloud lix

Monday was Whit-Monday until recently a Bank Holiday one of the first Bank Holidays given in the Bank Holidays Act of 1871. It was recently renamed and replaced by the Late Spring Bank Holiday which we celebrate on May 31st.

This last Monday was May 24th. Did you know it was Brothers' Day – your brother probably did not know either! Anyway, you can now give him a hug!!! May 24th 1738 was the day which, after a spiritual experience, led John and Charles Wesley to found the Methodist Church. On a personal note, I was ordained as a priest in Lichfield Cathedral on May 24th 1964. On a more sombre side, May 24th is the day HMS Hood was sunk in 1941, one of the early horrendous acts of the World War 2.

This Saturday is May 29th – Oak Apple Day. Folk would wear an oak leaf to commemorate the escape from the Roundhead Army by Charles II after having hidden in an oak tree at Boscobel Wood on the Staffordshire – Shropshire border. It was his birthday and commemorated the Restoration of the Monarchy after The Commonwealth Period. I am told (I would think up the 1930s) girls at school always remembered to wear an oak leaf otherwise boys with handfuls of stinging nettles would chase them (according to my mother in law and known as Oak and Nettle day in some parts of the country!).

This tells us dates are important for all sorts of reasons and we all have special days and other remembrances. Celebrating them with other people is always good.

One thing we have thought about more in Lockdown is to support others, especially those who have been alone.

Now we do not need to support in the same way.....but everyone needs a way to broaden out again, with care in different things. We have just thought of

special occasions, should we now share them in a wider way, perhaps with those we supported in the Lockdown.

We all have a birthday and many who have been self-isolating have had to celebrate on their own. Perhaps we can find out dates and send a card etc. A way of supporting each other, being remembered. As we thought last week, we are all here to live in relation to each other, the God given way of life.