

Tony Thinking Aloud lxi

I switched on the radio and was surprised to hear applause! The programme 'Any Questions', if I can I listen on a Friday evening I will, it must be the longest running programme starting in October 1948. It completely outran 'Mrs. Dale's Diary'. I remember 'Any Questions' coming to my home town, I was keen to go to a live Radio Programme, and my father thought I was old enough at about 15! I remember the setting clearly and especially the Chairman, Freddie Grisewood. (The Robin Day of his 'day').

So why the surprise at the applause? We have not had it during the Pandemic – Any Questions was in the hollow, as it were – in the studio. The applause made me feel we were getting back to normal, the programme was out in the country again with an audience.

During the programme one of the questions was – 'What do you want to keep after the Pandemic?' I think it was Ann Widcombe who wanted the things that brought us together.

We can ask ourselves what we have learnt, thought about, questioned, or understood better. Supporting each other, doing things together perhaps. I actually felt more bonding and concern for each other, in that context, when we could go to church again!

Perhaps like me you have noticed obvious things – particularly in nature. Why do those beautiful pansies in the garden grow in that amazing yellow? Almost talking to me! Maybe we have learnt to appreciate more!

Now (as the applause comes back on 'Any Questions') let us not slip back into what was normal, and instead continue to appreciate people and things more. An opportunity to grow together ----- Grow together in a God given way of mutual support.