

Tony Thinking Aloud lxvii

'We're having a heat wave – a tropical heat wave – the temperature's rising, it isn't surprising, we're having a heat wave!'

We have heard this many times over the years – Irving Berlin wrote it in 1933 for the film 'As Thousands Cheer'. It has been heard in many films and many places since.

I remember the heat wave in 1976, when we came to Barton. I was obviously involved at Priors Lee, where we were leaving in getting everything ready for the move. I took my shirt off, it was so hot, and only wore a vest! I remember a couple of days later in Barton unpacking, family members wanted me to put my shirt back on – 'This is Barton, you know'!

A few years later you may remember everything and everywhere was iced up, almost all December. Christmas events were cancelled. No school Carol Services in church! The roads and pavements were so dangerous. I think it was a little better on Christmas Day.

Complete contrast ... we have to be prepared for anything. The Pandemic threw us into the unexpected. Needs became entirely different, a way of learning and supporting.

When I was first asked to write these musings about fifteen months ago, we truly realised everything was about to change, the Pandemic was not a three week wonder. So, we needed to think about how we could be positive, mainly in supporting others and looking with confidence to the future.

I appreciate you might expect me to say this, but I can look back over my life and see the Hand of God with me sometimes in the most demanding situations.

Sometimes looking back years later. I could give more details, but that is not for now!

Just as things are changing I hope you will look forward with confidence that the Hand of God is with us in all situations.