

Tony Thinking Aloud lxxi

Now things are resuming more to their normal pattern, we are reminded that the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance will soon take place. Some people miss the correct day - it takes place on the Monday following the first Sunday after September 4th. Some records of the Horn Dance suggest that it was the time of Saint Bartholomew's Fair. (Saint Bartholomew's Day is August 24th, this Thursday). Some records call the above mentioned Sunday (near September 4th) Saint Bartholomew's Sunday! It seems all to do with the ten days lost when the calendar was adjusted in 1752! (September 4th is 10/11 days after August 24th) so the old calendar is being kept! (My grandma used to call January 6th Old Christmas Day – which is 11 days after Christmas– what do you make of that!).

Saint Bartholomew, let's think more about him, was one of Jesus disciples, but is not mentioned in Saint John's Gospel, the name Nathaniel appears there for the only time. Much has been written about them both being the same person. That is not so unusual I have frequently heard of someone being called by one name by his mates and another back home!

We are not different people if we have two names but it may reflect different aspects of our personality in different situations. Not quite the same, but there were two of us with name of Wood for much of my time at college. I was Wood 2 being the youngest. On the notice board it said Wood ij and I still have folk who call me 'Woodij' today – but there is only one of me!

We sometimes have to be different people - our response to someone who needs cheering up and a good laugh is different to supporting a friend who is shocked or worried. It is important to be sensitive to situations.

I suppose a person who knows you as a 'hail fellow well met person' can be surprised at your sensitivity. In the pandemic we have all had to respond to

different situations in different ways with God's help. May we continue to do so and not be completely caught up with what has now been deemed as normal. There are always others in need of support, in need of company, we are meant to react to and support each other. Perhaps the pandemic has reminded us of that, let's make sure we do not forget.