

Tony Thinking Aloud lxii

Our support for others has been much in our minds for months. We have surprised ourselves at our adaptability to new situations - how we have had to be there for other people as well as family and friends. Things and priorities have changed over the last eighteen months.

Situations can change. The Para Olympics are with us again this week, despite a delay of a year. Our first contact with the Olympic Games was for many of us when they were in England in 1948. Television coverage was extremely limited, to few televisions! I remember 'going to the pictures' (as it was called then, not Cinema) with my father to see the full length film some weeks after the games, which covered it all. I have told you he was Prisoner of War in Japan – how could he have possibly imagined the Olympic Games not once but twice and the Para Olympics even in Japan! Things do change.

Our thoughts in all the news at the moment are with the ongoing situation in Afghanistan. Thousands of people suddenly caught up in unbelievable anxiety about their future. Politicians realise they have a 'real situation' where lives depend on their decision. In a way we feel helpless when we watch television news or follow on social media. My mother naturally watched the television news frequently aghast at similar distressing situations. She said things like 'how dreadful', 'how awful', 'there is nothing we can do'. I remember I did say to her you can pray about these situations and people!

Prayer may not be for you. You may remember my mate who said to me 'Say a prayer for me' in a difficult situation. I said, 'I thought you did not believe in that sort of thing'. His reply being - something like 'sometimes needs must'. I leave that thought with you.

I suggest we should not see ourselves left helpless in demanding situations and concerns – but share thoughts in Prayer to God.