

Tony Thinking Aloud lxxvii

When I arrived home on Friday, I realised I had filled the car with petrol just about the same time as it became obvious from the News that there was about to be a petrol problem. My first thought was I was thankful I had a petrol in the car!

Feeling thankful, saying thanks... or perhaps taking things for granted... how do we fare? (My mother would always say to me, Tony, did you say thank you?).

This is the time of the year to think about Thanksgiving. Most churches have their Harvest Festival (Harvest Thanksgiving) about now. Many of us associate it with the well-known hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter'

This is an all embracing hymn. It emphasises all that is needed throughout the year to ensure a plentiful harvest. The good seeds need the snow in winter to help swell the grain, we need the sunshine and soft refreshing rain. (Although sometimes it does not know when to stop!). We are helped to see we are dependent on nature, the seasons and we can but be thankful we have harvest to 'keep us going' for the year. The hymn states 'We thank you then, Lord Creator, for all things bright and good'.

Pause and think! I was grateful I had petrol. I might well have thought, thank God I have petrol! 'Thank God' can be a kind of 'off the cuff' remark. I have written before about my understanding of the guidance of God in my life. I say 'thank you' to God for that.

The Challenge of Harvest! Do we appreciate enough it is all part of Creation? Difficult to challenge that – but we still need to think about what we mean by Creation and where it comes from in the first place! (Or is it the first place?).

'We thank you, then, Creator, for all things bright and good, the seed time and the harvest, our life, our health our food

We cannot leave this subject in the comfort we have food in plenty, we need to pause consider and support, as much as we can, those who in so many parts of the world including this country need us, our practical gifts and monetary ones too.