

Tony thinking aloud vi

I lived in the County Town of Wiltshire during the war over my Grandparents' shop in the town centre. One evening in March or April 1945 I was taken out into the street in to see the first streetlight (gas light) in the town after the war, I had never seen one before!

Many have compared the lock down we now experience to the war years. Although there were celebrations in May the change in life in 1945 was very slow.

May 8 was a day of thanksgiving but peace was built on the lives of many who fell in the war. There were prayers of thanksgiving and sadness in prayers of remembrance.

On a personal note, 'Victory in Europe Day' saw great rejoicing but for those who still had family in the Far East and Japanese War the anxiety continued until August 15<sup>th</sup>. That was after Hiroshima on August 6<sup>th</sup>. My father was a Prisoner of War in Japan from 1942 to 1945, I met him off the train on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1945!

Our prayers today are prayers of gratitude for the NHS, for carers and all who support us in many ways at this time. We are mindful of those who are sad at loss.

Everything was gradually very different after the war, things did not go to just like 1939, it took many years for rationing to end (1954) but a light eventually glowed, and yes I saw my first banana.

So, in a sense, there is nothing new under the sun! These are times in which I invite you to remember that God in creation is always with us. We rest with our trust in Him.

On Friday night we will sing 'We'll meet again' recalling the optimism of wartime and the thanksgiving at the end. Things will eventually be the same (or

something like). We must learn from the past, which is always a good thing, and trust in God as we did in war time.