

Tony Thinking Aloud x

Its 4 a.m. in the morning, I get up and draw the curtains knowing the amazing dawn chorus will be there in strength. An aspect of nature we normally overlook. Our feathered friends are securing their territory and contacting their mates.

Contrast the same day, last Saturday, in the evening the Space capsule has just been launched, heading for the International Space Station.

In the morning an expression of creation in nature. Later talents and skills, still an aspect of nature, used to launch the exploration of Space, something which would have been science fiction not that many years ago.

Two opposite expressions of God's creation. Add to that a very different skill which we have all been given. The compassionate skill seen in recent weeks, which we can reflect in this "Volunteers' Week". The Volunteer is an entirely different aspect of creation. It acknowledges our personal feelings, our relationship with one another. The past three months has seen many aspects of volunteering, offering our care and support quite often to those we hardly knew or did not know at all.

Even though the outward expression in clapping has not happened this week we are still thankful for the NHS, all carers and everyone who supports our lives in this difficult time, and we pray with those who are bereaved.

All nature, all our experiences, all our skills and talents are aspects of God's on-going creation in the world.

Volunteer Week helps us reflect that God is ever present in us and all we do.

The Dawn Chorus is an aspect of nature we hardly notice, the Space capsule is a reminder of the different talents we all have been given. Volunteer Week, our relationship with one another.

We have in the past few weeks learnt afresh how much we can support and care for each other, the gifts we all have been given to achieve this.