

Tony Thinking Aloud xci

Perhaps you remember this famous sketch from the Two Ronnies in 1976 - 'Four Candles' when a workman visited an ironmonger in search of 'four candles' or should that be 'andles for forks'! I was reminded of it because I have been watching an interesting TV documentary featuring Offa's Dyke, marking the border between England and Wales, which brought back memories for me having lived in Shropshire and visiting Montgomery where there was an ironmongers shop called 'Bunner' which was established in 1892 and still run by the same family. They sold everything from a single screw to a quad bike. There were lots of shops like this, the last one I remember was Barker Brothers at Derby Turns.

If I had wanted 'four candles', I would have had to buy a packet of five, but I could have had a choice of fork handles.

So why all this talk of candles? Well, Wednesday February 2nd is Candlemass Day, this year it happens to be a notable date to - 2.2.22! Forty days after Christmas. It commemorates the day the old priest Simeon witnessed Jesus being brought to the Temple by his parents, as was the custom. He recognised him as the Redeemer - The Light to lighten the Gentiles - candles are used in church to commemorate the occasion hence Candlemass.

It is February, often called the 'gateway to the year'. Snowdrops in the gardens. The sign of bulbs pushing up already shortly to bring displays of daffodils. Birds may start to build their nests. Spring is in the air! Perhaps I will need a fork handle too!

Remember: If Candlemass Day is fair and bright
Winter will bring another flight
If Candlemass Day be cold and rain
Then winter will not come again!

A time to be positive, to look forward and remember all we have learnt and experienced in the Pandemic. May I remind us all again that we are all God's children here to help each other. Here to share the Light of Candlemass in our lives as we move into another year. March sees the first day of Spring!