

## Tony Thinking Aloud xcii

Every publication, every magazine, every newspaper every form of communication will feature – and rightly – the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee this Sunday. Most people will know that the Queen and Prince Philip were in Kenya at the beginning of a Commonwealth tour at the time of the death of her father King George VI. It was up to Prince Philip to inform his wife.

If you are of an appropriate age ... do you remember how you found out, we had a new monarch? Many thought a Coronation would follow very quickly!

It was a sad time of national mourning which affected the whole country, and we would have understood that more deeply last year at the death of Prince Philip but were unable to because of Covid.

The Queen has a special place for most people, they remember when they saw her, they respect the positive leadership she has given the country and Commonwealth.

This comes at a time when Tonga has been in people’s minds because of the devastating tsunami which caused horrendous damage on the islands. I would have known little of this collection of islands, but for Queen Salote of Tonga attending the Coronation. It was not the best of weathers, yet Queen Salote, I remember, took part in the procession in an open carriage regardless of the weather. I guess some will remember that too.

In a way the tsunami in Tonga has slipped from the news but the consequences are still a major anxiety and concern to the islands. So many of the Queen’s engagements as Head of State are not remembered in detail. We have an

opportunity to think back and be thankful as she celebrates her fourth Jubilee. No previous British monarch has done this.

This helps us think back together and remember people. Folk and situations which slip to the back of our minds but should not be forgotten.

We give thanks to God for all the Queen has done. Her leadership and outstanding commitment to duty. We may not remember in detail but basically, we do not forget. Just as we still continue to remember those who are dependent on us and need us today.