

Tony Thinking Aloud xl

In recent months I have listened to the Local Radio Service at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning. This Sunday I was up late and had to listen sitting on the end of the bed! What a difference, I listened more carefully and attentively. Meaningful thoughts at the beginning of the New Year.

We learn to do things differently. My friend has a really important birthday this week, but no going to the Old Vicarage for a meal, no visit, just a delivered gift and a phone call!

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became manager of Manchester United in December 2018. Fans were dubious about his appointment. Manchester United had not been in the top league position for many years now, their real glory days being in the past. This year they are there again. He has turned the team around in less than three years. Another example of the unexpected!

It is a time to expect the unexpected. To give thanks perhaps in a different way. Of course, we must remember with utmost gratitude the NHS, the carers, all we naturally remember just now, but we need to pause and be mindful of those who are bereaved too.

I want to take us a little further, what would we do without the Police , the Fire and Rescue Service, all who work to bring food to our supermarkets, all who work with them, local shops, and all essential services. Working without any special protection from the virus and with homes and families to support.

Everything is different to shall we say to eighteen months ago! We offer thanks for the vaccine and hopefully with our hand in the Hand of God we look with confidence to the future.

We will meet again! As the Queen reminded us, the words of Dame Vera Lynn.