

## Tony Thinking Aloud xlvi

Have you noticed whenever a Cabinet Minister comes on the television, if in an office, there is always a Union Flag close by? Even if it is propped up against a bookcase!

Presumably this is to remind us the minister is speaking for the four countries of the United Kingdom.

Alongside this there are Patronal Saints' Days! My mate in North Wales will text me on Monday to make sure I have a daffodil on hand for Saint David's Day (he will not expect me to wear a leek!). March 1<sup>st</sup> is the National Day of Wales celebrated from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. David was a missionary who travelled on pilgrimage throughout Wales and Britain. After his death his influence was recognised, he was later canonised. The Cathedral at Saint David's is still central to remembering the Patron Saint.

The next day, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we remember a Patron Saint nearer home, Saint Chad, the First Bishop of Lichfield. He came from Lindisfarne (Northumbria) some way to be Bishop of our Diocese. He is credited with the Christianisation of Mercia (this part of England). He died on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 672. His fortitude and commitment to Christianity is for us to reflect on today, as we live in this diocese following his example of faith.

There will always be people of note and importance, some locally and some nationally. It is not always folk that everyone knows that makes a difference. Someone may rightly say to you, your advice helped and guided and made an enormous difference to me. You might not have realised the significance of what you said.

So, we look up to Patron Saints and leaders. We need however to remember we are all here to help and support each other. God helps and supports us in our lives, we may appreciate it more sometimes than others. His guidance helps us to support each other. The pandemic has, for example, been a particularly significant time for being alongside one another.