

Tony Thinking Aloud xvi

Oh dear! Raining this morning, it is Saint Swithin's Day (Wednesday July 14th) we can expect rain of some kind every day for forty days! The weather lore relates to the reburial of Saint Swithin (971) Bishop of Winchester. It is said he disapproved of his reburial and this was shown in the rain that came for forty days! 'March winds and April showers bring forth the sweet May flowers' Weather forecasting around the weather on Candlemas Day (February 2nd) re whether the winter is over or not!' Red sky at night, shepherds' delight, red in the morning shepherds' warning.' There are many more!

Where do these forecasts come from? Observation I guess! You observe and remember! Remember there was no weather forecast on the tele to give advice. In the war public weather forecasts were suspended, they were so important for war strategy that they were not made public on the wireless for six years! We remember and relate – 'there is rain in the air' for example.

Maybe just now we are more observant. I was at Blithfield Reservoir last week, it was the unbelievable beauty of the clouds I remember. Clouds are about all the time but we do not often think about them, their beauty is part of ongoing creation!

Life goes on, we are beginning to get used to doing things a different way. I think if we reflect life has kind of slowed down, we appreciate things differently.

Many will have recalled Jack Charlton this week, in a quieter more thoughtful way! I am conscious Liverpool has won the Premier League but the achievement has been appreciated more perhaps as it is not overshadowed by endless noisy crowd appreciation. Hopefully, we are more positive about each other, for example in the experience of queuing with other masked shoppers to go into Morrisons.

All this as the world in creation journeys on its daily way. A kind of reassurance as we hold in our thoughts and prayers the NHS, the key workers, the carers and those who support our daily lives , those close to us, the lonely, those who are especially sad, and all we encounter each day in these uncertain times.