

Tony Thinking Aloud xvii

This week sees two important saints' days both with connections to Barton Parish Church. Significant and important days continue to take place. Birthdays, anniversaries, special days will have been kept by everyone since the beginning of the lockdown. In May we all celebrated VE Day +75 in ways we would not have expected. The observance of the end of World War II + 75 comes on VJ Day August 15th.

Saints were almost always ordinary people, the good Lord changed the life of Mary Magdalene, and James was a fisherman. It is interesting the original dedication of the church was to Mary Magdalene but changed when the Church in England separated from the Church of Rome (Mary Magdalene was considered a catholic saint so had less recognition in England). Saint James, the replacement at Barton has a feast day three days later (25th July)! In 1881 Barton became a parish in its own right separate from the mother church at Tatenhill. An Order in Council was made by chance on Saint Mary Magdalene's Day (July 22nd) in 1881. The parish has had its 139th birthday this week!

So special events have been with us all and taken place in the past four months, and the world continues on its creative way. We can look forward with positivity, remembering Her Majesty the Queen quoting Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll meet again' – and this week some may reflect on Liverpool winning the Premier League and the words 'We'll never walk alone'

God is there with us whether we think about Him, acknowledge Him or not. We do not walk alone and we look onward with confidence. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those who have supported folk in so many aspects of need, the shielding and each other! We move on hopefully with more concern and support for each other, whoever we meet.