

Tony Thinking Aloud xviii

Many diaries designate August 1st as Lammas Day, although not widely kept.

Lammas Day marked the nominal beginning of the Harvest. Lammas being 'Loaf Mass', the first loaf made from the harvest being used at the Mass, or Holy Communion. A day of special celebration which can be traced back to Saxon times.

People were dependant on the harvest in their own community, there was no van to bring Mothers' Pride to the Co-op each morning!

This was saying thank you for the new harvest, the first loaf being used in God's service. Now it is more customary to say thank you at the end of the season at Harvest Festival in September or October.

When little Johnnie is offered his birthday gift, he is encouraged to say thank you (first) before enjoying the present!

Thank you has been foremost to us in recent months. Perhaps we do not always appreciate things as much as we should, we take so much for granted.

Over the weeks we have reflected together on the beauty of nature, everything that supports us each day.

The Lord's Prayer says 'Give us this day our daily bread' – Lammas can help us to stop and think about that. We may take harvest for granted. Perhaps we too need not only say thank you for all who support us in the pandemic, but to those who around us support our living. The support, the giving of time, the encouragement we forget is there for us each day.

So for Lammas, we remember the ongoing harvest, and all those things we need to reflect upon.

The Saxons, for whom Lammas Day was very important and were so obviously dependent upon the local harvest, have something to tell us!