

Tony Thinking Aloud xx

We celebrated VE Day in an unexpected way. 'Street parties' were held with folk going into their front gardens, parties of an informal kind – at a safe distance. Many see the end of the war as being VE Day, but the war continued in the Far East. VJ Day this Saturday, August 15th, reminds us that World War II did not end in May.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day is being commemorated in a manner conversant with the present pandemic. It is no longer appropriate for large crowds to be focused on The Cenotaph or Buckingham Palace. Everything is appropriately focused on the National Memorial Arboretum.

We have all had birthdays and anniversaries to keep in this unusual time. We have observed them differently or perhaps hardly at all. Friends of mine with long term plans to get married abroad last week have had to rethink for next year.

Like so many things just now life has had to travel at a different level. It is interesting what some people have learnt or tried during 'empty times'. Our thoughts remain with God who is always with us whatever we attempt and in whatever situation we find ourselves.

So it is V J Day the end of World War II we are called to pause and remember those who died in time of war. If it was not for them we would not have the freedom we enjoy today.

Reflect then on the Kohima Epitaph - 'When you go home. Tell them of us, and Say ... For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

I guess we are not always conscious of the price of our freedom.