

Tony Thinking Aloud xxiv

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

One of the most requested, liked and remembered hymns is no doubt – ‘All things bright and beautiful’ written by Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe about 150 years ago. She was skilled at hymn writing, she also wrote two of the best known Christmas and Good Friday hymns – ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ and ‘There is a green hill far away’.

This comes to mind because the title of the latest TV series - ‘All creatures great and small’ - is taken from the first verse. Two other books about James Herriot take their titles from the same verse. ‘All things wise and wonderful’ and ‘The Lord God made them all’.

This gives us the opportunity to think a little more about the pets that share our homes, who have provided comfort and support to us and, with the new TV series in mind, the Vets who have continued looking after us and our pets throughout the pandemic!

It is perhaps when we stand back and look at God’s creation in the animal world, we can appreciate the wonder. All creatures great and small – All things wise and wonderful - the Lord God made them all.

For the first line of the verse, not quoted here, we should look at the photos submitted for the Countryfile 2021 calendar. They have to relate to the title ‘Bright and beautiful;’!

Pause, wonder, and think in a different way about all God’s creation. Pause, be concerned for each other, all part of that creation, and the need to care for each other particularly as the pandemic is still with us and no thoughts of going away.