

Tony Thinking Aloud xxv

This is the 25th Musing! A sort of Silver Anniversary! Have you noticed this is a time for Anniversaries? We have had the 125th Last Night of the Proms, the four hundredth marking of the Voyage of the Mayflower, the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and 105th Birthday of the Women's Institute.

How do we keep any anniversary? Remember and forget! Reflect and remember important aspects? It would have been our Wedding Anniversary this week, I always remember coming out of church and hearing the church bells ringing and wondering what it was for!!

The Last Night of the Proms was different, you could reflect on the words at the end, you could hear them clearly. Did you agree that they should be sung, were they appropriate for the 21st Century? There was the fortitude and determination of those on the Mayflower. The resolve of the pilots and air crew and those supporting them against an overwhelming situation in the skies in 1940 – our understanding that we have freedom bought for us by those who died in time of war. I was barely out of my pram in 1940. I find it quite disturbing to realise it was such a dangerous time. I unknowingly lived through it!

It is helpful to look back but important to look forward. To build on past experience with commitment and positivity for the future.

In the past 25 musings we have repeatedly remembered that all time is part of ongoing creation. The Hand of God has been there to support each and every one of us, and still is if we put out our hand to hold it!!

Perhaps we can learn by looking back at the Great War and remember Sir Harry Lauder's words. 'Keep right on to the end of the road, keep right on to the end. Though the way be long, let your heart be strong. Keep right on round the bend. Though you are tired and weary still journey on. Till you come to your happy abode.'

Our confidence and determination keep us going in this difficult time not just for ourselves but for others too, we are all in it together.

Sir Harry Lauder wrote the song after his son was killed in action in France. Though the way be long, let your heart keep strong. When all you love will be waiting there at the end of the road.