

Tony Thinking Aloud xxviii

It is good to know there will be a new vicar at St James before the end of the year. Folk are always interested in a new person coming into the community. The question all vicars are frequently asked is ‘when did you decide you wanted to be vicar?’.

I was in my final term at Grammar School and did not really know what I would do. I was on my way to the shops for my mother and I remember the thought came to me about being a vicar! As a family we always went to church. We can all have unanticipated experiences. I was at a Theological College, which had an introductory course for 16 year olds, within three months - to be precise 66 years ago last Friday!

We all have times like this when we are suddenly confronted unexpectedly with an answer to a solution we did not think about!

During the pandemic folk have been given the unforeseen chance to support others, perhaps those we do not know. We see an opportunity, we have to decide what to do - to help, or leave it to someone else!

We hear, too, of many charities which are not able to give the support they usually do because of lack of income, due to the reduced opportunities to raise finance. We see television adverts expressing these concerns. We may easily recall local appeals – we know there is a need, but do we respond to the request to us or leave it to others?

So, there are ideas, concepts, and opportunities - put before us perhaps without warning while inviting our action. We may feel the Hand of God is presenting these needs to us, others will just not be able to explain why or how? Challenges put before us – we ask ourselves how should we respond?

Decisions we make in response can make all the difference to others – and our own lives.