

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxxvi

Last year I had one solitary daffodil early in January. I was proud of it but guess many of you had the same.

It has arrived again this year, but a little later and will bloom I hope any day (I do have a crocus). Now February is on the doorstep we can look forward with confidence to the New Year.

I guess you have seen and no doubt have, snowdrops. I always looked for them around the 1953 Coronation Oak Tree in the Vicarage front garden. I am sure they will put on a great show this year - Coronation year.

There is a lot of folk law about snowdrops. They symbolize new beginnings, hope, courage, renewal the ability to overcome challenge.

The snowdrop is like a candle in the garden. February 2nd is Candlemas Day. You may recall in the Bible Jesus being presented in the Temple – on the fortieth day after his birth also the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The old priest Simeon, when he saw Jesus, said ... A Light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of the people of Israel. Many churches have a Mass (Holy Communion) on Candlemas Day when many candles are lit and taken in procession... Some churches and homes keep Christmas decorations up to this day.

You probably know of places with Snowdrop walks, there is one near Carsington Water. There are many sayings – some people will not have snowdrops in the house.

The Weather lore for the month relates to Candlemas Day Thursday February 2nd.

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,

Winter will have another flight.

If Candlemas day be cloud rain,

The winter will not come again.