

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxxviii

I have been sharing thoughts about the pattern of nature over the past few weeks and living with nature especially at the coming of Spring . We live in line with nature. We have confined our activities more indoors during the colder days of winter and the brighter times we create at Christmas. Summer is coming, outdoor activities and holidays in the sun.

Then suddenly we realise there is another aspect of the challenge of nature that can hit us ... floods, bitter weather and now we learn of the enormous earthquake in the Middle East. Nothing like it for nearly 100 years. Not on this scale in our lifetime. A reminder of whatever – nature we cannot control.

What do you do? For some the natural reaction is to pray. I have always said this, in such a situation there is almost always nothing practical you can do. What if prayer means nothing to you? Makes me think hard about my faith! I fully understand if prayer means nothing to you and that such events must shake the faith of anyone. Faith can only be supported by experience in our own life, what we recall and have confidence in ourselves ...clearly not everyone feels this.

We should turn rightly to practical support - it may be far distanced from what has happened but financial help through national and international appeals may be the only way.

When you are told about someone who has had a sad experience we often rightly say – I will be thinking about you or ‘them’.

Reflect – thinking about people we do not know is surely the same – truly we feel alongside them in the Creation which we cannot control.

Prayer – yes if it is right for you. (Perhaps you should try it even if it is odd and uncomfortable). I would say pray if you can ... think about the situation – and give financial support if you are able.

Over the years folk may have prayed for us and we did not know ...and we have received comfort and benefit.

God bless.

There are National and International appeals including one by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). These can be accessed and supported on line at any time now <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>