

## Tony Thinking Aloud Iviii

A crisis has occurred. Cadbury have made it known there is a likely to be a shortage of 99 Flake Chocolate bars. There is a struggle to keep up with supplies. Unbelievable if 99 Flake Ice Cream cones are not available at the 'always there' ice cream van at Blithfield Reservoir.

But why 99? Cadbury state the true origin of the name is no longer known. The most likely explanation..... In the 1930's many ice cream makers country of origin was Italy – 'the home of Ice Cream'. In the days of a monarchy in Italy the King was guarded by 99 specially chosen men. Subsequently anything really special or first class was known as '99'!

May 17<sup>th</sup> brought the easing of the lockdown... what was your 99? A really special happening that day? Did it relate to you alone? Did you take yourself out to breakfast at the Red Carpet Cinema Bar? Did you have the long awaited hug with family and close friends? Perhaps you took the family to Alton Towers! Maybe you made a longer car journey that has not been possible until then to see a friend who had been virtually on their own during the lockdown.

Your '99' could have been personal to yourself, involve close friends or family, or made all the difference to someone who had been alone for weeks. We need to keep in mind the things we did to support folk in the Pandemic, and continue to do so.

We also need to continue to be cautious, Covid has not gone away but we can continue to keep it at bay. The support of family, friends and neighbours needs to continue, perhaps the months of shielding and supporting others has made this more obvious in our lives. We are not just individuals; we live with support of others. If we have thoughts about God we will see we are all part of a 'family' which can look to Him and each other for guidance and support.