

## Tony Thinking Aloud lxx

Sunday is August 15<sup>th</sup>. Every date is significant in some way. Of course, every day is someone's birthday! Christians all over the world remember the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15th. In this country Saint Mary is a very popular dedication for a Parish Church, Dunstall being one. Records suggest there was 'Mary's Pool' on 'Church Meadow' opposite the church. This and the possibility of an early church or hermitage from old records has a connection with the dedication today.

August 15<sup>th</sup> was a very significant day in 1945, the end of War in Japan – VJ Day. Very important to so many families including mine. It was the first day of peace after World War II. A day everyone longed for with hope for a very different future.

If we are seeking other significant events on August 15<sup>th</sup>, it is the birthday of Princess Ann (who was born in 1950) as of course were many others. I well remember being in London within a few days. We went to read the announcement on the rails of Buckingham Palace.

All future looking!

When we think of Mary, we think of Christmas.

When we think of VJ Day, we give thanks to all those who made great sacrifices so we could be free.

Birthdays always mark the beginning of a new stage in our lives.

So, we think of the pandemic, we are now more forward looking, more positive on August 15th this year. We remember to be thankful for all who have given so much support on the journey we have all been through. WE think of those no longer with us, may they rest in peace. Our prayers for those who experienced a parting. We must be positive if cautious and look forward with hope.