

Tony Thinking Aloud xiv

Sunday sees the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the National Health Service. This birthday is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for all who have and continue to support us at this time. The NHS, carers and all who have readily made our lives possible for the past months. We are mindful of all the ways in which others have been put before self.

We have been reminded of all the NHS has done and is still doing over the years. You might like to reflect as a community on the Cottage Hospital, central for so many, many years and now the Cottage Wing. As Chaplain I was invited a number of times on previous significant anniversaries for a 1948 style lunch!

Remember the Big Hand Clap of thanks is this Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m.

In the past months we have perhaps come to think about others a little more; support for each other and our extended families and communities.

The thought and understanding of our shared humanity has come with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. In a time of worldwide pandemic, the focus truly emerges on all nationalities, all countries. We share the pandemic with all humanity. We are all 'made in the image of God' we have inbuilt love and concern for each other.

This enforced period has been one for reflection as well as a time of 'being together'. Perhaps we have taken time to appreciate the beauty of nature, a time for some peace and quiet as well as decluttering the house! I guess charity shops will have an enormous amount of new supplies to accept!

So, life has been different. Pause, think of those for whom it has been a time of sorrow, a new sort of normal life begins for us all! Remember the Virus is still with us and we need to take care for each other.

Prayers and thoughts are those of thanks, support for each other and concern for those in sorrow. Amen