

whatever God things

THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Tony Wilson)

Reading: James 2:14 – 17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reflection:

Although I was born in the 1950s when the Second World War was an event in the past, I can remember as a child 'the war' being a constant topic of conversation among adults. By listening to what they said, and watching television programs about the war years, I became familiar with the names and roles of many of the leading people who had played a part in those events.

So, I was very sad when I heard recently of the death of Dame Vera Lynn at the grand old age of 103. Her songs, with their optimistic themes, did much to improve morale in the armed forces and among civilians. She did her bit by using her skills to contribute to the well-being of many people in those difficult times. Early on in the lock down I enjoyed watching Dame Vera being interviewed on television. She spoke about her song 'We'll meet again', which is so appropriate for us all now while we are unable to meet up with family and friends who are dear to us. She cheered people up at this new difficult time for our world. She helped give us hope for the future.

Earlier in the lock down Colonel Sir Tom Moore, at the age of 100, inspired us all by raising millions of pounds for NHS charities by being sponsored to walk laps round his garden. The May issue of 'Reform' magazine featured an interview with Bob Weighton, who at the age of 112 was reputed to be the oldest man in the world. Sadly, he died later in May. He had read 'Reform' up to his death, and had written a monthly 'Eco Comer' for his Church magazine.

I felt it wonderful that three people of such great ages hadn't given up on being involved and doing useful things. They are great examples to us all, young or old, to do our bit by working to advance God's realm on earth by making use contributions to the Church and to society in whatever situation we may find ourselves.

We should remember the words of the children's hymn, 'Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all'. Since the Ascension, when Jesus withdrew His physical presence from us, it is up to us, His followers, to do His work, for Jesus has no hands other than our hands with which to work in His world.

Breath Prayer: Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you. Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you Jesus, till I'm gentle too; till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

