



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: Hebrews 1:1 - 3

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Reflection:

In the 1947 film, *Miracle on 34th Street*, at the Macy's Department Store Thanksgiving Day parade, the actor playing Santa is discovered to be drunk by a whiskered old man. Doris Walker, the no nonsense special events director, persuades the old man to take his place. The old man proves to be a sensation and is quickly recruited to be the store Santa at the main Macy's outlet.

While he is successful, Ms. Walker learns that he calls himself Kris Kringle and he claims to be the actual Santa Claus. Despite reassurances by Kringle's doctor that he is harmless, Doris still has misgivings, especially when she has cynically trained herself, and especially her daughter, Susan, to reject all notions of belief and fantasy.

And yet, people, especially Susan, begin to notice there is something special about Kris and his determination to advance the true spirit of Christmas amidst the rampant commercialism around him and succeeding in improbable ways.

Last Friday many of us marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day by holding either our own family garden parties, or, with appropriate social distancing measures, a neighbourhood street party. The top end of High street turned into one of those events, beginning at around 3pm in the afternoon, and ending just after 9pm!

In those 6 hours we got to know our neighbours in ways we never thought possible. Folk shared personal stories, likes and hates, favourite past-times, concerns and hopes for the future. We learnt each other's names (everyone had a distinct advantage over me as my name is on the church noticeboard!), and enjoyed each other's company while pedestrians wandered in-between our tables, either with a bemused look on their face, or mostly a big smile. We've even setup a neighbourhood Whatsapp group and plan to meet up again in a similar way at the end of the month!

Miracle on the High street – that may sound a little dramatic, but as I've reflected on the event, I realised just how special that time together was, and why it hadn't happened a lot sooner. Maybe this period of confinement has taught us the value of spending time doing things just like this, and not be so self-absorbed with our own daily schedules that we forget what Jesus talked about so often – sharing with and loving our neighbours!

Breath-prayer: Thank you Lord Jesus that you reveal yourself to us in miraculous ways each and every day, if only we would allow ourselves to open our eyes and our ears to your working in our world.

