

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Anniversary

**“The holiest of all holidays are those  
Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;  
The secret anniversaries of the heart.”**

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Holidays*

Longfellow is right. There are many anniversaries – perhaps even most of them – which are never made public, remaining silent and apart, personal and private, what he has called “the secret anniversaries of the heart”. You’ll have yours as I have mine. So, Longfellow is right – but not today!

For today, I *will* speak of an anniversary that is important to me. For today, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, is the first anniversary of the day I began sending out my “Thought for the Day” and posting them on an on-line blog.

A year! A whole year! I’d considered stopping these when the first lockdown eased, and things were beginning to get back to some kind of normality. But these pieces had become such an important part of my life – and to be honest, a crucial coping strategy in some bad times – that I decided I would keep going with them. I’m glad I did.

A year ago today, I wrote about an American soldier, on a bus in Sweden, falling into conversation with a stranger – whom he discovered, to his surprise, was none other than King Gustav Adolf VI. A king and a GI, on the same bus, travelling in the same direction. Over this past year, I’ve been pleased to have comments and feedback on what I’ve written – on-line posts, emails, letters, phone-calls and conversations. Important in all of these has been the recognition that *we’re* all in this together.

If I write about things you’re feeling, it’s because we’re all in this together. If I express what you find hard to articulate, it’s because we’re all in this together. If I start a train of thought for you, or if the little prayer is as much as you can cope with, it’s because we’re all in this together.

We’re on the same bus, travelling the same way. On this anniversary, I’m glad to have your company, your interest, and our togetherness.

### **A prayer for today**

*What is secret can be shared, if it makes us one.*

*What is silent can be spoken, if it brings us closer.*

*Let that be between me and God, and with the people I love. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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