

18th March 2022

Anniversary

“There are endless anniversaries of these days.”

James Tobin, Money, macroeconomics, and economic policy

I like anniversaries. It's not now generally remembered, but 19th April is Primrose Day. The British statesman and prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli, died on 19th April 1881. The primrose was his favourite flower, and Queen Victoria would often send him bunches of them from Windsor Castle or Osborne House. She also sent a wreath of primroses to Disraeli's funeral.

Martin Luther King Day is a Federal Holiday in the USA on the third Monday of January every year marking MLK's birthday on 15th January.

October 18th this year will mark the 100th anniversary of the launching of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Good old Auntie Beeb is 100 years old this year, and the BBC has a number of different programmes during 2022 to mark this significant anniversary.

So what about 18th March? For one thing, it's National Recycling Day. But it's also the anniversary of the day – March 18th 2020 – when I began writing my “Thought for the Day” pieces, emailing them, posting them in Facebook groups and publishing them on my blog. No flower to mark a special day; no public holiday to make sure it's remembered; no special events to celebrate its significance. It's just a day that matters to me, and, in “endless anniversaries”, will always mark the beginning of the first Covid lockdown and this enterprise that's become an integral part of my life.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote in *Holidays*:

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

This anniversary isn't secret. But it's certainly “of the heart”. For what I've shared with you during these past two years is from my own heart, and I hope and pray that, from time to time, something within a “Thought for the Day” has touch yours. Recycled? I hope not, as I've tried to offer new insights or fresh ways of looking at familiar things.

And will I be marking this “anniversary of the heart” again on 18th March 2023? You know, it's just possible that I will!

A prayer for today

Lord, thank you for “endless anniversaries” and for the pleasure they still offer. Amen