

Thought for the Day: 8-14 February 2021 by Albie (with some help from Rev. Wendy)

Hi everyone. It's Albie the dog here. My humans are Rev Wendy and Dale. I know lots of you enjoyed my thoughts about my favourite things last year, so here are some thoughts on things which are definitely not my favourite. Not at all. Not one tiny bit.

Monday - Change

My least favourite thing is change. I am a dog of habit. I do not need people to start changing the correct order of events in my day (breakfast, walk, sleep, walk, dinner, sleep). I do not need the furniture moving around or my claws clipped. Change is bad.

However, Wendy doesn't seem to agree. One day she came home with a new bed for me. What was she thinking? The old one was holey, smelly and lumpy. It



was perfect. But after a while, and with some treats to bribe me, I found that the new bed was better. It was bigger and softer and has my name on it (apparently!).

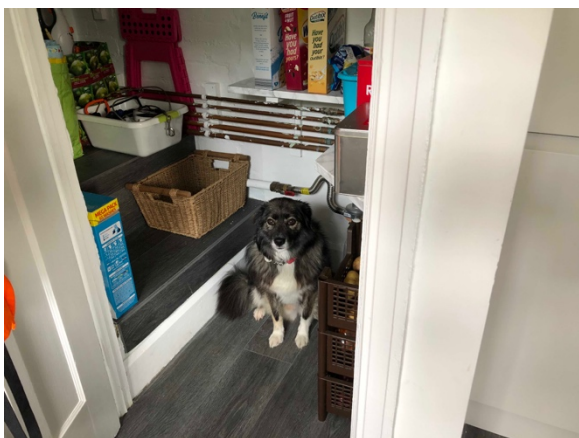
Wendy tells me that people often don't like change either, that churches sometimes don't like change. But then they discover that change can sometimes mean

better. Wendy says to think of 'growth' not 'change'. She's so annoyingly positive sometimes! Like a cockerpoo. But my bed made my life better, so perhaps she's right.

What might you want to change? Why not talk to God about it, and decide with Him what to do next. You may even find a new favourite thing. How fabulous is that?

Tuesday - Thunder

My least favourite thing is thunder. And fireworks, which is another name for thunder. When I hear thunder/fireworks I shake and shiver because I think the world is going to end. When I was a dog without a home, I would dig a hole and hide under a bush. Wendy knows this because I did it in the garden when I first moved in with her.



But what if the thunder/fireworks happened when I was indoors? I discovered that I couldn't dig a hole, but I could hide in the larder. Wendy was very kind about this and would sometimes put my bed in there. If I was extra scared, she'd even sit in the larder with me. I'm a bit braver now and usually just go and find someone to cuddle. This is 'progress' - whatever that might be.

Wendy says that when she is scared, she talks to God and he makes her feel safer. This must be true, because she never hides in the larder.

What are you scared of and where is your safe place? Who is it that understands and comforts you? If you don't want to sit in a cupboard, you could try talking to God and see if that helps. He's there waiting to listen, wherever you are hiding. How fabulous is that?

Wednesday – Car Journeys

My least favourite thing is car journeys. I get to sit in the boot on a furry rug and I have a window to look out of, but I still don't like it. Wendy thinks that it's because I only went in a car a few times before I went



to live with her. And on those journeys, I was in a cage and not going somewhere at all nice. When I get in the car, she never takes me somewhere not at all nice. Car journeys mean interesting walks, visits to Granma (who

specially cooks me roast beef. Yes, really!) and occasionally even the seaside. I still don't like a journey, but I love where they take me.

Do you like journeys? Either actual journeys or pretend ones – ways of getting from one place in your life to another. Or are you like me and feel journeys are risky

and scary? Wendy says people have a faith journey and sometimes it's really hard going. Sometimes it feels tough to pray, or worship, and sometimes it seems God is getting further away and not nearer. When we feel like that maybe we need to think of what it'll feel like when we arrive. How happy we will be. There might be roast beef or seagulls, or whatever makes you happy.

Better still, Wendy says God is actually on the journey with us. God is in the boot of the car with me. How fabulous is that?

Thursday - Washing

My least favourite thing is being washed. And brushed. And towelled dry. And going to the groomer.



Sometimes these things all happen in one really bad day. Apparently, this is because I smell. And I admit that I do. I smell of dog. This is a good thing. I also drop my hair on the floor. This is obviously not a problem because Wendy has a special machine which magics it away. But Wendy tells me grooming makes me less itchy and in

summer I won't get so hot. And to be fair, my least

favourite thing is the noisy machine which sucks up the hair, so it's best if that stays in its cupboard.

Wendy says that humans have to clean up, too. And while humans weirdly enjoy showers and baths, most find it a lot harder to feel that their 'insides' are clean – their thoughts and words, their actions and reasons for doing things. This is tricky for a dog to understand, but Wendy says that people feel unhappy if they don't feel clean inside, because that's not how God wants them to be. Luckily, the solution is easy. Wendy asks God to make her feel clean inside and it just happens. Without any shampoo.

Is there anything you need to ask God to take away today? Because he is ready to make feel you all clean and glossy inside. How fabulous is that?

Friday – Other dogs



My least favourite thing is other dogs. When I was a dog without a home, lots of the other dogs weren't very kind to me. Wendy has worked this out because I have lots of scars of bites and scratches on my skin.

So, when I first lived with Wendy, I was scared of the other dogs but gradually I got braver. And as I learned to love Wendy more, I realised the other dogs might want to take her away. Or might even bite her. So, I

told them to go away by barking. If they didn't go away, I would growl and jump at them. Strangely, this didn't make Wendy happy and we've had lots of chats to help me learn that she will never leave me and doesn't need or want protecting.

Are you scared of any other people? Is it because they are bigger or noisier than you? Or because they look different to you? Is it because their fur is a different colour? Do you worry they will take things away from you?

Wendy says most people are like me, and have to work really hard to love everyone else. I'm still learning to love German Shepherd dogs. And Huskies. Are you like me? Do you need to ask God to help you to love certain kinds of people?

Wendy says that the best thing is to remember that everyone (and perhaps everydog) has God in them, so you have to try to treat them as if they are Jesus. That means you are like Jesus. How fabulous is that?

Saturday – Being ignored

My least favourite thing is being ignored. I am undoubtedly incredibly cute. And adorable. I know this because I get told it a lot. Yet some people think it's ok to ignore me. This is very hurtful.

Sometimes my special humans are busy doing something else, like playing on their flat screeny things. They call this 'work'. I've discovered that hitting

them with my paw usually sorts that out. They tell me they can't fuss me all the time. Why? And that I'm needy. That's good, right? But most of the time, the 'hitting with paw' thing works.



But sometimes we meet other people who just completely ignore me. I sit and look at them in my cutest way. I roll over and wave my paws in the air. Nothing. No reaction at all. It's like I'm not there.

Imagine how that feels.

Wendy says there are people who are ignored, too. Sometimes those people are somewhere else far away, and that makes them super easy to ignore. For example, I can easily ignore dingos. Sometimes they are right in front of you, so you just pretend to ignore them (cats are very good at this. It is their super power).

Wendy says the people who get ignored were the people Jesus noticed and spoke to. And Jesus told us to notice them, too. Why not notice them in your prayers today? And, also, God never ignores people: how fabulous is that?

Sunday - Waiting

My least favourite thing is waiting. I try to be patient, but it's really hard. If Wendy is in the kitchen, then it

must be dinner time. Now. If she puts her shoes on, it must be time for a walk. Now. Waiting for something you want to happen is really, really, hard.

Wendy says that people are all waiting at the moment. That they are trying to be patient but that it's really hard. They are waiting for something they call 'lockdown' to end. They are waiting for something called 'normal' to happen.

As people can still have walks and dinner, I couldn't really understand their problem. But Wendy explained that she wasn't allowed to hug people and that we couldn't visit the rest of our family and then I saw this was a Very Bad Thing. Hugs and visits are very important.



Wendy says she has to keep asking God for the strength to carry on being patient, and that this really helps. God gives her hope that soon she will be able to hug again.

If you are finding it hard to be patient, then perhaps today you could ask God for strength and patience and hope. And to be allowed hugs and visits, soon. Because when that happens, it will be... what's the word?

.....Fabulous!