

THOUGHTS for (Maundy) Thursday

With the present crisis it won't happen of course, but normally on Maundy Thursday the Queen picks a Cathedral and goes there with a posy of flowers and a bag full of money`. She meets a group of usually elderly men and women and gives each of them a little box containing 4 silver coins. It's all very symbolic and meaningful as you probably know

The number of people is the same - men and women - as her age, so there would have been quite a crowd this year. They are chosen in the diocese as examples of good and caring charitable workers, and I well remember when I was in Hove being asked to send suitable names, and in fact two of our nominees were actually chosen for the day.

For some reason unknown to me we have one of those little boxes at home, coins dated 1873. I have no idea how they come to be in our possession. They are marked with their value, 1, 2, 3 and 4 pence, but no checkout would know what to do with them nowadays, and specialist collectors would pay quite a lot for a set.

They are worth far more than the face value, and so of course are the Acts of (Random?) Kindness that they represent, especially in these troubled times.

As you know Maundy Thursday is largely remembered as Last Supper Day; but the name itself refers to the New Commandment that we "love one another", and who can put a value on that? Love is priceless.

The posy of flowers dates back to the time when the recipients, being elderly, would be expected to smell. Nowadays they wash!