

THE REVIEW

JANUARY 2020



**WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,
DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG**

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

Ministerial Services – Anyone requiring the services of a Minister should contact their own Elder who will make enquiries on their behalf.

Time of Sunday Services – 10.45 a.m.

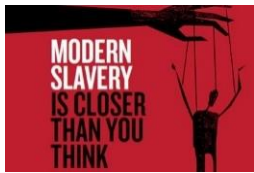
WEEKLY NOTICE SHEETS –

Please forward details of items and events for the weekly notice sheets to Peter Galloway – email pagalloway@hotmail.com or mobile phone number **07 763 912 670**.

COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY 2020.

ADVANCE NOTICE ... DATES OF CHURCH MEETINGS FOR 2020

SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2020, SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2020, SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2020



The Broth and Cake Lunch in November 2019 raised the sum of **£450** for our charity, **Hope for Justice**, which fights modern slavery. A big thank you to Judy and her helpers for the tasty lunch and thank you to anyone who supported this event. As usual, the table decorations (done by Win) were most attractive. The event was made even more pleasurable by John and Hillian Durell sharing film of their train holiday in Switzerland.

The Christmas lunch on Sunday 15th December raised **£376** and was a very enjoyable event when excellent fellowship was enjoyed along with the tasty lunch. The tables looked lovely with crackers and floral arrangements and we had extras from the box of chocolates given to us by the Korean Church members, along with a card with many messages of appreciation in it.

The Gift and Produce stall raised £201. Thank you to all who donated or bought items.



STUDENT EVENINGS ... in 2020 will be on –

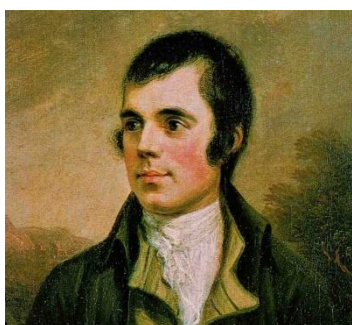
Tuesdays - 21st January, 18th February and 10th March 2020.

Church members and friends are welcome to come along and meet the students.

Our December 3rd evening with the students was well attended and we offered a light-hearted look at some of the customs and traditions over the festive season with the aid of a projected screen show undertaken by

Douglas Melville. The students appreciated the home bakes which featured, in particular, a Christmas cake made by Hillian Durell to a vegan recipe. Yvonne Melville had also made some novelty characters for the students which stirred their grateful admiration.

Janet and David Thornborrow



SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY 2020 –

There will be a Burns' meal with Haggis (or sausage for those who prefer that) in the Hall after the Service. Followed by a Quiz from Revd. Ruth Crofton. A donation for our charity **Hope for Justice** will be welcome. Please let Judy Banister know if you are going and have any dietary requirements.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH PREMISES HIRE CHARGES FROM JANUARY 2020

Church £15/hour. Hall £15/hour. Woods Room £7.50/hour
Kitchen £10 total rate for full use and £5 for light use, coffee/teas etc.

Charity Rates: £15/day or part of a day for use of premises. Discretion to be used when appropriate.

There will be no charges for our own activities within the Church which includes the Thursday Day Centre.

Other exceptions are the Resource Centre Monday Fitness Group, Foundation UK, Korean Prayer Group and Durham Churches Together.

If other exceptions need to be made, please refer to the Elders' Meeting.

We agreed to no booking of the premises on Sundays before 1.30 p.m.

These hire charges were discussed at both Property and Elders' Meetings in September 2019.



Everyone at **West End Refugee Service** would like to thank you all at Waddington Street URC for your lovely Christmas card and generous cash donation! Thanks in fact for all of your support over the year, we very much appreciate it. Merry Christmas and best wishes to all for 2020!
Melissa Younger. **Team WERS!**



Hi Janet,

I just wanted to provide a little bit of feedback from the people who attended our festivities yesterday at Waddington. Overall they felt it was an excellent day and one of our services users was moved to give a speech to thank all Foundation and everyone who supports us to deliver the service that we do. He gave a special

thanks to the Church as he noted that most of the people present would not have been able to have had a Christmas meal at all without your support and certainly not with other people. So, again, on behalf of all of us, THANK YOU!

Anthony Oliver, Foundation Durham, 0191 386 2303



The Korean Church members who use our premises sent a lovely Thank You Christmas card and a box of chocolates for our members to enjoy. The card contained many warm messages – here are just two of them. “Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a very happy Christmas.”, and “We always appreciate your favour and kindness to let us use the Woods room for our bible study. Have a lovely Christmas you all! In Christ.”

Our new Minister, Marcus and his family, sent a card with good wishes for Christmas. Synod also sent greetings, as did John Drew (our Interim Moderator) who was ill but sends us good

wishes. We hope he continues to make good progress towards full health. Jessie Goodall also sent greetings.

Advance notice – Heinz Fuchs is kindly arranging a Choir Concert at Church in February, in aid of our charity **Hope for Justice**. The date and other details will be announced at Church and will appear on the Weekly Notice Sheet once they are available. Please support this event if you can.



Minutes of the Church Meeting held on Sunday, 1st December, 2019

Present – 31 Apologies – 2

1. The Revd. John Durell welcomed everyone and opened the Meeting with prayer.

2. The Minutes of the June Meeting were accepted as a true record and there were no amendments.

3. Matters arising –

* Update on fundraising for “Hope for Justice”. Sandy Ogilvie informed the Meeting that since June we had raised £1,700 and that there was more money on the way. Hope for Justice had played a significant part in the case of the Vietnamese immigrants, who had died in a container, and other incidents which had been in the news recently.

* Defibrillator. Work was continuing on this in cooperation with the Resource Centre and there were encouraging signs that the money needed may be supplied by the local parish council.

* Manse garage and roof repairs. This is in hand and should be completed by the end of January.

4. The manse central heating boiler. The Meeting formally approved the installation of the new boiler, which will now go ahead. The Revd. John Durell thanked the Property Group for its work with regard to this development.

5. After the Church Meeting approved unanimously the applications for membership from Heinz Fuchs, Rebekah Zhao and Richard Phua, the Revd. John Durell explained that they would be formally welcomed into membership at the communion service on 8th December.

6. Vacancy Matters, including the Terms of Settlement.

Les Thomson explained that the new Terms of Settlement were now in print and had gone to Synod, after which they would be sent for approval to the Church Meetings of the churches in the group.

The Church Meeting gave the Elders the authority to accept the Terms of Settlement on its behalf.

John Durell thanked Les Thomson and other members of the committee, on behalf of the Meeting, for the work they put in with regard to the Vacancy.

The Revd. Marcus Hargis has accepted our offer to become our new minister, is likely to occupy the manse at Low Fell and plans to move into the area during the February half-term.

Ron Todd said that he had been disappointed that, after the “preaching with a view” at Stanley on 13th October, the members of our church participated in what amounted to a separate meeting prior to the general meeting. He felt that this was offensive to members of the other churches of the group. It was important, he felt, that we now thought in terms, not just of our own individual churches, but in terms of our group of churches. John Durell agreed wholeheartedly that we must now think collectively as a church group, but explained that our Elders had made it clear before the meeting that they were unhappy with the procedure and that they felt that we were being rushed into a decision.

Yvonne Melville explained that the representatives of our church had played a full part in all the meetings, they had approached the procedure in an open-minded way in the interests of the group as a whole and had given prior warnings of some of the organisational weaknesses in the proceedings.

7. Transport. Sandy Ogilvie explained to the Meeting that from time to time some members found it difficult to come to church as far as transport was concerned. It was not a major problem at the moment, but was liable to become more serious as we grew older. He asked if drivers would volunteer to have their names put on a list of people who could be asked to help, on occasion, with transporting people to church. The Meeting agreed to this proposal.

8. The Meeting was reminded that all of the arrangements for Christmas services and other activities appeared on our Christmas cards.

9. A. O. B.

* Les Thomson informed the Meeting that the collection at the “preaching with a view” service had amounted to £395 which, at the request of the Revd. Marcus Hargis, had been sent to the mental health charity, MIND.

* Steven Howatt asked if the New Year’s Day meal could be at 1 p.m. His request was noted and will be discussed.

* The date of the next Church Meeting was 15th March 2020.

10. The Meeting ended with the Grace.

[Malcolm Reay]

EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,



Welcome to the first Review of 2020 and I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. There was so much information to be shared that it was decided to print a January issue of The Review so that everything could still be reasonably current and I hope you will enjoy this issue.

If you were not able to get to Lumière, Angus Robson's photographs will give you a flavour of what was on offer. I am grateful to Jan and Angus also for the report on their visit to Countryfile Live at Castle Howard. Also in this issue, David Thornborrow has elaborated on his thoughts about the Prayer Tree in Church and on the 12 days of Christmas – you learn something new every day!

The most unusual sight Les and I saw in Durham just before Christmas was a double-decker bus which was being driven by Santa Claus! Don't know if the reindeer were on strike! Sadly we were not quick enough to get a photograph of him.



Revd Ruth Crofton led the Christmas Eve Carol Service and sent us all home with a smile on our lips. She also led the service on Christmas morning and again it was a lively service with a good deal of humour, as we tried to work out the story from the sweets she produced from a bag.

The Nativity set reappeared, much to everyone's delight as it has become a part of the service over many years. It was made as a gift to Ruth when she left her last charge to come to us in Durham and she has kindly loaned it to the Church since then.



The fundraising group have organised many enjoyable events which have provided excellent opportunities for fellowship and I shall be looking out my tartan sash to wear at the Burns' meal on 19th January. This is a new venture so please support it if you can.

What an amazing man Robert Burns was – to be able to appreciate all that was wonderful in nature while enduring such great hardship and backbreaking toil.

I should be grateful if any contributions to The Review for February 2020 could be sent to me by the date given below.

Lucille Thomson

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 2nd February 2020.**
Contributions please to Lucille Thomson at church or BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**
or e-mail **lesthomson@talktalk.net** - no later than **NOON on Sunday 19th January 2020.**

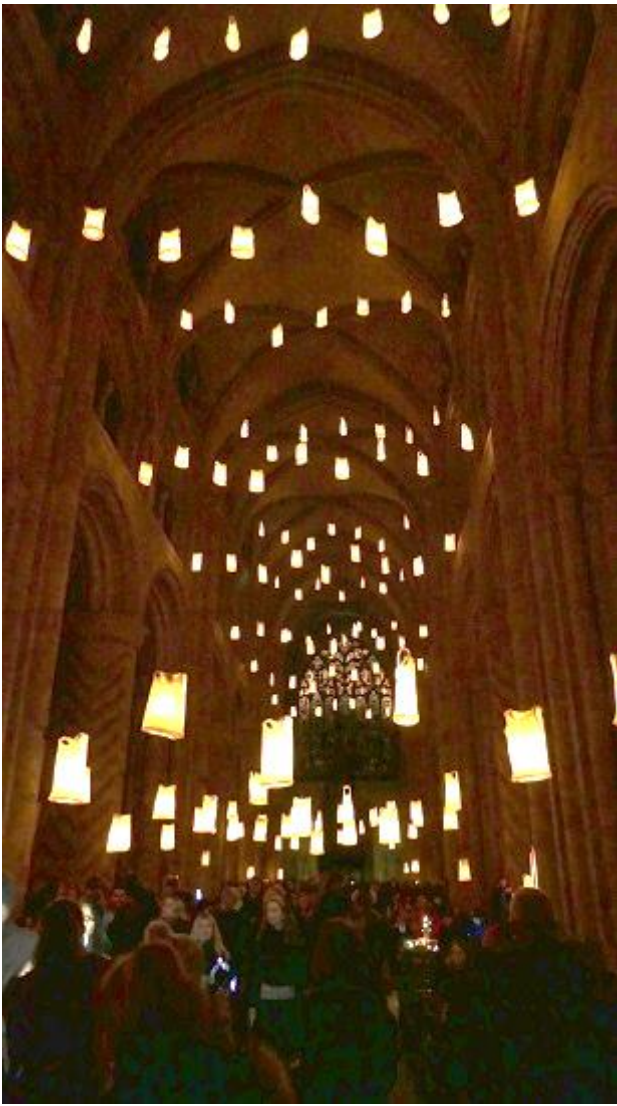
Durham Lumière 2019

On what proved to be the only fine evening of the four that Lumière was held, we walked down into town to try and see all the light shows. We only failed on two counts. One exhibit wasn't where we thought it was and we gave up trying to see the Botanic Gardens display when we saw a massive queue. By the time we got back home at around 11.00 p.m., we had walked over 10 miles, but the whole show was worth the effort, despite huge crowds in places. It's a lovely way to showcase the city of Durham and there were people there from all over the UK and abroad too.

Angus and Jan Robson



7.



8.





Notes from Elders' Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2019

Present – Sandy Ogilvie (Chair), Kath Ogilvie, Donald Mackay, Yvonne Melville, Doris Jackson, Helen Cockburn, Janet Thornborrow, Ruth Cranfield, Rev. John Durell.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Kathleen Clasper.
2. The minutes of the last meeting held on 6 November 2019 were accepted as a true record following an amendment to section 5(b) which originally stated Kath and Sandy Ogilvie would arrange to meet Charlotte Holmans, when it should have been Kathleen Clasper and Rev. John Durell.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
 - a) Church Christmas cards have been produced and are in the process of being distributed to church family members. Yvonne sought clarification on some additional people/groups to send our Christmas cards to this year.
 - b) Rev. John Durell had arranged a meeting with Charlotte Holmans but she subsequently had to cancel the meeting due to a family emergency. John is waiting on Charlotte getting back in touch with him to rearrange.
4. District reports were given and prayers offered.
5. It was noted with great pleasure that three new members are being welcomed into the church family during the communion service on 8 December. Arrangements for the service were discussed.
6. There was nothing new to report in terms of vacancy matters.
7. As Janet Sarsfield is in the process of producing a new church directory, the Elders reviewed our current directory for accuracy and noted amendments to pass on to Janet.
8. Correspondence
 - a) The Northern Synod have sent out information outlining a revision to the policy on Lay Presidency at Communion. This was discussed briefly.
 - b) Yvonne has received information about the role of the Northerly Synods' Listening & Reconciliation Service.
 - c) CAP (Christians against Poverty) are organising a training day for folk in the URC who may be interested in getting involved with the organisation. It was agreed to advertise this in the church magazine.
 - d) The Elders have received and dealt with a letter from Ruth C and will reply directly to her.
9. AOB
 - a) It was agreed that New Year's Day lunch will be held at 1p.m. on 1 January 2020 and those attending will bring food to share with others.
 - b) Sandy advised that our heating system has been playing up and that we hope to have a new part fitted prior to the service on Sunday.
 - c) There has been a request from Ron Todd to attend our next meeting to update us on the Guild of St. Raphael.
 - d) Doris asked about the response to the request for volunteers to help with transport at our recent church meeting. Several people have come forward to volunteer to help occasionally.
 - e) The Elders noted that Les Thomson as pulpit supply secretary has done a great job during the vacancy and the variety of preachers he has found has been much appreciated by the congregation. The hope is that in joining the wider group of URC churches Les would continue to invite folk from a wide ecumenical circle. Sandy was asked to convey the Elders' thoughts to Les.
10. Next scheduled Elders' meeting is Wednesday 5 February 2020 at 7 p.m. which Yvonne will chair. Janet will take the minutes. The meeting closed with Elders saying "The Grace".



The Partridge in a Prayer Tree

Prayer trees in churches are certainly not a new phenomenon. They provide a visual way of communicating our thoughts; often about the people and things that we long for. *An Advent Prayer Tree* is an extension to this notion.

Advent is a time of expectation as we look forward to the celebration of Christ's birth. Advent with the culmination of Christmas can also be an opportunistic time to reconnect us with people and share time as well as offer gifts that extend memories, bring comfort and joy. Paradoxically, this is a time of year when we are often reminded of the fragile nature of relationships in families, the local community and in the wider world; furthermore the inequalities in our society and our world. Advent can re-awaken grief and loss, expose deprivation, feelings of despair and hopelessness.

It is a good period, therefore, to focus upon the things that *money just can't buy* – the value of family, friends, neighbours and those who directly or indirectly contribute to our wellbeing. It is a good time to be reminded that the air, land and waters of our planet need to be cared for with respect.

The Advent Prayer Tree presented to the Church in December had four layers:

- 1st Sunday in Advent - Hopes and Wishes for **where we live and the people around us**
- 2nd Sunday in Advent - Hopes and Wishes for **our Nations**
- 3rd Sunday in Advent - Hopes and Wishes for the **Peoples of our World**
- 4th Sunday in Advent - Hopes and Wishes for the **Air, Land & Waters of Our Earth**

At Christmas we might sing a Carol which tells of gifts given on Christmas Day and each of the following 11 days. It was my hope and wish that we might develop the Advent Prayer Tree for use in Advent 2020. Perhaps the feedback we received from the labels on our 2019 tree (including those hopes and wishes offered by the University students) might inspire our thoughts.

The first day of Twelvetide, is Christmas Day and is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also, as the carol goes, the day on which "My true love gave to me - a partridge in a pear tree". Both "my true love" and the **partridge in a pear tree** represent **Jesus** — the **partridge** because it's a bird that will sacrifice its life to save its children.

- **The second day** of Christmas is Boxing Day and is also known as St. Stephen's Day in countries outside of the UK – it is the day of the Christian martyr St. Stephen.
- **The third day** of Christmas celebrates St. John the Apostle, who wrote the Book of Revelation.
- **The fourth day** of Christmas is the Feast Of The Holy Innocents - the day when people remember all of the baby boys who were killed by King Herod in his search to kill the Baby Jesus.
- **The fifth day** of Christmas is remembering St. Thomas Becket - he was the Archbishop of Canterbury in the 12th Century and was killed on December 29, 1170, for challenging the King's authority over the church.
- **The sixth day** of Christmas remembers St. Egwin of Worcester, who died on December 30, 717, he was known as the protector of orphans and the widowed.
- **The seventh day** of Christmas (New Year's Eve) celebrates Pope Sylvester I. In some eastern European countries New Year's Eve is still known as Silvester.
- **The eighth day** of Christmas (New Year's Day) celebrates Mary the Mother of Jesus.
- **The ninth day** of Christmas honours St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen - two important fourth century Christians.
- **The tenth day** of Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus – this marks the day Jesus was named in the Jewish Temple.

11.

- **The eleventh day** of Christmas celebrates the Feast of Saint Simeon Stylites who spent 37 years living on a small platform on top of a pillar in Aleppo.
- **The twelfth day** of Christmas, January 5, is also known as Epiphany Eve – it's the day before January 6 which is known as the Epiphany.

David Thornborrow



The Camel's Lament by Charles Edward Carryl (1841-1920)

1.
Canary-birds feed on sugar and seed,
Parrots have crackers to crunch:
And as for the poodles, they tell me the noodles
Have chickens and cream for their lunch
But there's never a question
About MY digestion –
Anything does for me!

3.
Lambs are enclosed where it's never exposed
Coops are constructed for hens:
Kittens are treated to houses well heated,
And pigs are protected by pens.
But a Camel comes handy
Wherever it's sandy –
Anywhere does for me!

2.
Cats, you're aware, can repose in a chair,
Chickens can roost upon rails,
Puppies are able to sleep in a stable,
And oysters can slumber in pails.
But no one supposes
A poor Camel dozes –
Any place does for me!

4.
People would laugh if you rode a giraffe,
Or mounted the back of an ox,
It's nobody's habit to ride on a rabbit,
Or try to bestraddle a fox.
But as for a Camel, he's
Ridden by families –
Any load does for me!

5.
A snake is as round as a hole in the ground,
And weasels are wavy and sleek:
And no alligator could ever be straighter
Than lizards that live in a creek.
But a Camel's all lumpy
And bumpy and humpy –
Any shape does for me!

A Visit to BBC Countryfile Live at Castle Howard. [By Angus and Jan Robson]



Jan organised a trip to Yorkshire to visit the BBC Countryfile Live event at Castle Howard and we drove across the day before, via Sutton Bank, calling in at Byland Abbey and the Yorkshire Lavender Centre. We stayed in a B&B on the outskirts of Pickering, within sight and sound of the North York Moors railway.

The event at Castle Howard was huge, with enough going on to keep us moving around all day. We visited on the first of the four days the event was on. We were amazed at the sight of the mighty Shire horses, all dressed up and parading around the ring, and there were some smaller horses too.



13.

There were a couple of sculptures, of a horse and a Highland cow and calf, cleverly made from metal.



There were some old steam engines powering old farm equipment and an old-fashioned fairground roundabout.



All the BBC presenters were there and Jan had a chat with Matt Baker, with whom she shares a birthday.

There was a large selection of farm animals and a huge variety of farm sourced food and drink stalls, arts, crafts and country skills demonstrations.

On the way back home we called in at Sutton Bank to see the view from the edge of the cliffs. It's certainly impressive and worth the short walk from the car park.



ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

JANUARY 2020	5th Richard Phua	12th Deacon Jane Middleton	19th Mrs. Barbara Ledger	26th Mrs. Maranny Jones	
FEBRUARY 2020	2nd Soo Illingworth	9th Revd Robert Fisher	16th Pauline James	23rd Revd Dr. Matthew Previtt	

ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

JANUARY 2020	5th	Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. W. Surtees
	12th	Mrs. K. Clasper	Miss B. Tinsley
	19th	Mr. D. Shirer	Mrs. K. Clasper
	26th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson
FEBRUARY 2020	2nd	Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	9th	Mrs. D. Jackson	Mrs. H. Cockburn
	16th	Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. H. Todd
	23rd	Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mr. M. Reay

If in doubt about your duties any Sunday, please check the list on the Vestibule notice board.

Please remember – You are responsible for arranging your own replacement.

ELDERS' MEETINGS (1st Wednesday of month) at 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020 and
WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2020

PROPERTY COMMITTEE (usually 3rd MONDAY of month) at 2 p.m.
But meet as arranged between the Committee Members

“Don’t be afraid to ask dumb questions. They are easier to handle than dumb mistakes.”
(Thomas Fuller)

Ten people talked three million Israelites out of entering the Promised Land – that’s how dangerous a vocal minority can be.

Convictions: A belief is something you hold. A conviction is something that holds you.
People generally have too many opinions and not enough convictions.

The world at its worst needs the church at its best.

Brains and beauty are God’s gifts; character is your own achievement.

“The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much;
it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

[From *A Box of Delights* Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]



FLOWER ROTA

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

SUPERVISOR each month is Mrs. J. Graham

January 2020

5th - Mrs. Y. Melville
12th - Mrs. Janet Sarsfield
19th - Mrs. Janet Sarsfield
26th - Mrs. Janet Sarsfield

February 2020

2nd - Mrs. F. Waller
9th - Mrs. K. Clasper
16th - Mrs. D. Bramwell
23rd - Mrs. D. Jackson

To provide flowers where there is a Vacancy, or join the Flower Rota, or donate to the Flower Fund, please contact Mrs. Jean Graham.



COFFEE ROTA – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

January 2020

5th Fiona Bowater, Malcolm Reay
12th Janet Thornborrow, Judy Banister
19th Heather Todd, Val Hodgson
26th Yvonne Melville, Jean Graham

February 2020

2nd Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley
9th Win Surtees, Kath Ogilvie
16th Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson
23rd Fred Robinson

Please decide and agree on who is responsible for bringing the milk.
You are responsible for arranging your own replacement.

Obedience: Never have everything 'your way'; have everything 'Yahweh'.
No man ever got lost on a straight road. (Abraham Lincoln)
Jesus was one child who knew more than his parents, yet he obeyed them.

Parents: 'Before I was married I had three theories about raising children. Now I have three children and no theories.' (John Wilmot. Earl of Rochester 1647-1680).
Percentage of fathers who say they read to their kids: 61.
Percentage of kids who agree with this figure: 28.

It takes the hammer of persistence to drive the nail of success.

'Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.'
(Charles Schultz)

[From A Box of Delights Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]

For the year ahead:

Alleluia!

Rejoice, all Christians,
Rejoice, whoever is able,
God has done great things for us.
Rejoice with mighty voice
that he loved us so dearly
as to have become our friend.

Joy, joy upon joy!

Christ defends us from all suffering.
Delight, delight upon delight!
He is the Sun of Grace.



Behold, my soul,
how your Savior comes to you,
Forever burning with love,
so that in the manger
he lies on a hard bed for your benefit,
to redeem you through his blood.

Joy, joy upon joy!...



Jesus, how shall I thank you?
I confess that my salvation
comes only from you.
May I never waver from you.
Take me for your own,
thus my heart and mind will feel

Joy, joy upon joy!...

Jesus, lead your followers
deeper and deeper into grace.
Grant, we pray you,
renewal to your brothers:
give to all Christ's people
peace and a blessed year.

Joy, joy upon joy!...



Alleluia!