

THE REVIEW

JANUARY 2021



Inside an Austrian Church

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

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk



Dear Friends,

Take a deep breath. Breathe. We're still alive and that's good news. While there's breath, there is hope for us; and even after we breathe our last, the life of the world goes on

It's worth reminding ourselves that we do indeed enjoy the gift of life. Yes, our health may be making living more difficult than we would like—and there is no getting round the fact that many reading this will be in some pain. But we can be thankful for pain relief, the support of the NHS, and for the people who help us do what needs to be done.

Yes, the world and national situation is looking grim, what with COVID, Brexit, and whatever else happens between my writing this and you reading it. But we can be thankful that bullets are not flying through our air and bombs are not falling on our heads.

Yes, life is more uncertain than usual. But we can be thankful for the constancy of God, life, and love ... what's more we can be thankful for uncertainty itself, for often in chaos comes creativity.

The year 2020 has been an extraordinarily creative year. Vaccines have been developed from scratch for a novel coronavirus. Businesses that have adapted to different trading conditions have thrived. People have adapted to create home offices, for a time many became school-teachers as well. Churches have put in place new policies, procedures and practices. As for Ministers, I myself in common with others have developed skills in media production, video editing, and sound recording.

It's just as well that Jesus trained his disciples to be adaptable—sending them out in pairs without provisions or purses, and seeing them return jubilant. Then Jesus left them to it, leaving his Spirit but not his physical form, so that his disciples would go on to form the church and change the world.

We are part of that continuing story which has a life of its' own, a life which will continue beyond ourselves. But while we breathe, we have a part to play in creating the next chapter, the one entitled 2021.

May this New Year be better for us all, but may it also be just as creative.

Regards,

Marcus

*Lord,
This has been such a difficult year,
With people often living in fear.
Thank You for being in our lives,
Supporting families, husbands and wives.
Your strength and love will carry us through,
For You are evermore constant and true.
We can come to You through prayer,
And receive in abundance Your tender care.
As the world around us in chaos revolves,
We face each challenge and what it involves,
Knowing You watch over all the land,
And will hold us, safe, in the palm of your hand.*

(L. Thomson)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

Ministerial Services – Revd. Marcus Hargis is contactable in the following ways:-

Phone: 0776 949 2629 and 0191 366 4930 (messages can be left on either).

Email: marcushargis@outlook.com For routine pastoral matters, please first approach your Elder.

Time of Sunday Services – 10.45 a.m.

COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2021.

Please be aware when submitting articles that our Church Magazine goes on the website and is available for anyone anywhere in the world to read.

DATES OF CHURCH SERVICES AT WADDINGTON STREET

There will be no services at Waddington Street until after 17th January at least.

Details when available will be posted on the church website and by email.



Received from WERS ...

Thank you to all of our friends at Waddington Street URC for your wonderful donations towards our festive appeal for our destitute clients and also for the cash gift.

We appreciate your continued support very much.

Best wishes to all for this Christmas and indeed for 2021! **Melissa Younger**



Photo competition —

As has been noted elsewhere, our church fundraising efforts have been derailed by Covid this year. As one way to redress that, we are holding a family photo competition to raise funds for St. Cuthbert's Hospice here in Durham and Christian Aid.

The competition is open to anyone with an association with the church. The photographs should be seasonal, (Advent, Christmas, New Year, Winter) taken indoors or outdoors and preferably

have a title. They must be taken by the 15th January and sent by email, with the name of the photographer, to our Minister, Marcus who will do the judging. (marcushargis@outlook.com) The cost of entry is **£5.00** for up to 4 photos. The winner's photograph will be used for the cover of the February edition of The Review.

Fees can be paid,

1. if we are open there will be a charity box in the vestibule on Sunday mornings, or
2. by cash/cheque payable to Waddington Street URC, and sent to Kath and Sandy Ogilvie.

Donations without photographs can, of course, also be sent to support the fundraising for our two chosen charities.



Juggling Jigsaws

During lockdown two of our friends set up an online jigsaw club. Over the weeks they amassed over 50 puzzles mainly of a thousand pieces and on a variety of subjects.

The group members lacked storage space once the jigsaws had been completed and after several weeks of juggling the jigsaws around David and I offered to store them temporarily in our loft. So, as one of our fund raising activities the jigsaws can be taken and completed upon payment of a donation towards our nominated charities – St. Cuthbert's Hospice or Christian Aid.

If interested then phone or email me and I will ensure a jigsaw is delivered to your door. The jigsaws can either be returned to me when complete or passed on if desired.
email jthornborrow@outlook.com or phone (0191) 384 3702



Hello to church magazine editors.

I would be pleased if you could include in your next editions some exciting news of mine. I shall be one of the exhibited artists at the BALTIC Open exhibition from 6 January – 6 June 2021. Full details are at: www.baltic.art/baltic-open-submission Viewing will be by free ticket and will of course depend on the local Covid alert situation at any given time.

BALTIC Open Submission celebrates creativity in the North East; the vast number of entries and the works included in the exhibition highlight the variety and high quality of arts practice across the North East. The exhibition seeks to give visibility to arts practice from individuals and collectives that may not previously have been seen by a public audience. My own work is

an installation of ceramic figures on a foundation of compost and I attach an image showing a detail of the piece entitled 'Elements of/and/in Time'.

There are many ways to 'preach the Gospel at all times, use words if you must;', and conceptual art is one such subtle method. Over time I look forward to sharing more of my ideas with you all.

Regards

Marcus

When we pray for peace, let us not pray for the glib peace of ignorance or the easy peace of indifference. But rather, we ask for the honest peace of struggles acknowledged, the demanding peace of forgiveness, the longed-for peace of justice established. Lord grant us peace.
[From the Newsletter of Bethel URC]



EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,

I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2021.



Welcome to the first edition of The Review for 2021 – I hope you will enjoy it.

There are some humorous items to try to lift everyone's spirits in these difficult times.

Heard on the radio recently on **Good Morning Sunday ...** "Across Wales on Christmas Eve people will stand on their doorsteps and at 7 p.m. will join in singing Silent Night." What a lovely idea to share in the Christmas message in this way. Also heard on radio: "FEAR – make this an acronym for: **FACE EVERYTHING AND RECOVER.**" What an excellent suggestion.

Also, from Father Brian d'arcy –

"The meaning of life is to give life meaning."

Yvonne Melville's dressed Chocolate Oranges made me smile – Santa hats, reindeer, Christmas tree and Christmas pudding! Well done Yvonne.



What a huge disappointment it was to many people when the Christmas window for meeting family and friends was cut to Christmas Day only. Let us hope that the mutant strain of Corona virus can be halted in its spread and that we can get back to some semblance of normality soon. (This letter is being written just before Christmas.)



Bright spots in 2020 came from our kind neighbours and our new great grandson, Vinnie Benjamin, who we have yet to meet and here he is (left).

My thanks to anyone who has contributed to this month's Review.

I should be grateful if any

contributions to The Review for February 2021 could be sent to me by the date given below.

Lucille Thomson

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday February 7th 2021.**
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 24th January 2021.**



Notes from Elders' Meeting on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 (held on ZOOM on line)

1. The meeting opened with a reading from Matthew chapter 4 verses 8 to 23 and a prayer from a daily meditation handbook published by the URC.
2. Marcus introduced the Elders to those who had been nominated to become serving Elders. They were observing the proceedings of the meeting as part of their decision making process.
3. Ruth Crofton's weekly notice board prayer with accompanying notes is to be placed on the website.
4. Yvonne has organized the Christmas cards from the church and sent them out. She was thanked for her hard work and efficiency.
5. Marcus stated that he has provided his contact details in response to the Foundation Charity's requests for people willing to offer friendship towards the ex-offenders, the homeless and other vulnerable people in society. The charity will identify and screen those who are in need of this support prior to making contact.
6. Doris has written about St. Cuthbert's Hospice for the December Review; Yvonne's quiz and notification of the seasonal photographic competition are also in this edition. Yvonne continues to make and sell beautifully knitted decorations covering chocolate oranges. Kath and Sandy are distributing them and banking the money raised for our identified charities of St. Cuthbert's Hospice and Christian Aid.
7. It was noted that the Elders had a meeting by Zoom online on the 29th November 2020 to discuss whether the church should reopen for Sunday worship. It was decided that the church would remain closed until after the government review of the Covid-19 tiers on the 16th December. The Elders will hold a zoom online meeting on the 17th December to make a decision on opening the church for worship during the remainder of December.
8. District reports were given with those mentioned to be remembered in prayer.
9. Janet Sarsfield has had a large number of enquiries on booking our premises, including a request from the Mothers' Union to hire the whole building for three separate days. The Elders discussed this request in conjunction with the buildings use by the Waddington Street Centre, with a planned final decision to be taken in 2021.
10. The Elders agreed to contact those in their district with the names of the nominated Elders for approval, prior to a service of induction and ordination
11. Yvonne has agreed to give contact details as a representative of our church on the Northern Synod website.
12. Marcus agreed to give his contact details for students who are remaining in Durham over the festive period and we will also give details of our services for the rest of December when these are finalised at the Elders' meeting of the 17th December 2021.
13. The next Elders' meeting will be Zoom online on Wednesday 6th January 2020 at 7 p.m.
(Janet Thornborrow)

Tae A Virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht aboot ye
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
Yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your, loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle 'doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be...19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look aboot
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think ye'll wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried.

Ye micht be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up.

Willie Sinclair ... March 2020.

[I hesitated to share this Ode with you before now due to the seriousness of the situation and the number of deaths caused by Covid19. But now that there is a vaccine, you may see this as hitting back at the virus. A translation is available for non-Scots! Editor]

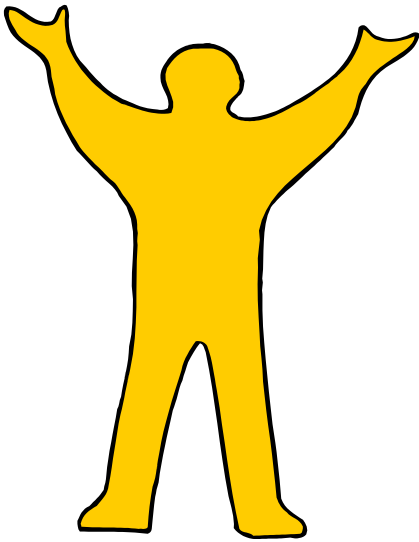


(See Exodus 14)

04-20-1999

I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES





THE JOYS OF JANUARY!

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergy and lay,
They're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!

The hectic Christmas season
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker
They don't get that much sleep.

The overworked Churchwarden
And their sides-persons team,
Who don't get time for boredom
But only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over;
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!

They laugh and smile with pleasure
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!

By Nigel Beeton

(Thanks to Val Hodgson for
this item from the magazine
of her former church.)

[Thanks to Jill and Bethel URC Newsletter
for these great one-liners!]

“Respect your elders. They graduated from
school without the Internet.”

“Behind every angry woman stands a man
who has absolutely no idea what he did wrong.”



“Behind every successful man stands a
surprised mother-in-law!

“I thought getting old would take longer.”

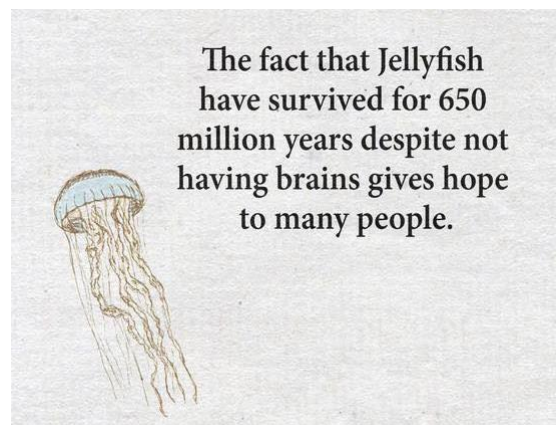
“A wise man once said – nothing!”

“Some things are just better left unsaid -
and I usually realise it right after I say them!”

“When we lose one blessing, another is often
most unexpectedly given in its place.”

C.S.Lewis

“God never said that the journey would
be easy, but He did say that the arrival
would be worthwhile. Max Lucado



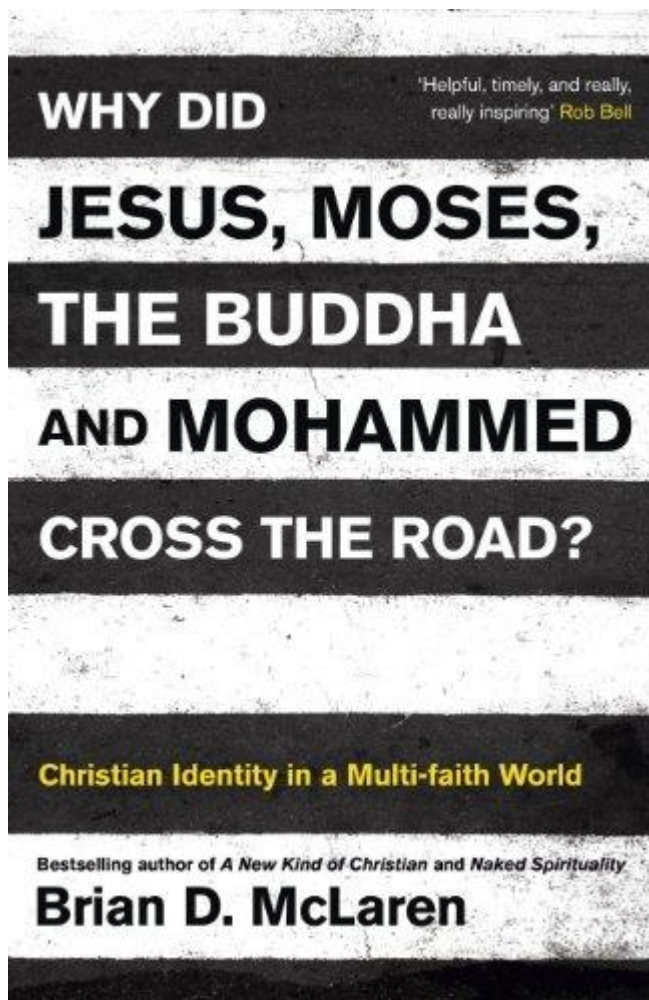
“I hate it when people act all intellectual
and talk about Mozart while they've
never even seen one of his paintings ...”



Spreading the Gospel ... (following on from Marcus' ways of spreading the word.)



A few years ago we sent in photos of a Gospel cart at the Living Museum at Dudley. More recently, we also came across a less attractive Gospel carriage at the Blists Hill Victorian Village near Ironbridge. The Gospel Car was originally a tram car that ran in Wolverhampton. It was also a Sunday school. **David and Janet Thornborrow**



An Elder's question ...?

"Why did Jesus, Moses, The Buddha, and Mohammed cross the road?"

Yes really! It is not a trick question, but the intriguing title of the latest book that I have read. It examines our Christian identity in the multi-faith world that we now inhabit, which may sound rather complicated and obscure. But being written in layman's language, and its 257 pages of text being spread across 29 chapters, its contents are easily absorbed in bite sized chunks. And given that it is by far the most interesting book that I have come across this year, I strongly recommend that you put it on your reading list for 2021 (if you have not already seen it of course).

Its author, Brian D. McLaren, is a leading American evangelical Christian pastor and writer. And being published by Hodder & Stoughton in paperback at £9.99, it is not unduly expensive to buy. Finally, my answer to the question in its title? - in the hope that we will follow them.

Ron Todd

Durham City Picture Quiz – with photographs you may or may not recognise – see how you do!
Thanks go to Durham Pointers and their friends who compiled this Quiz and took the photographs for their Newsletter. See if you can spot any of these locations next time you are out and about.

1. Which churchyard is this?



2. What church is this?



3. Which building is this?



4. Where is this plaque?



5. Where are these romantic stairs?



6. This is near to which pub?



6. The Angel Inn
Bridge, near to Revolution
5. Riverbank to Framwellgate
4. Entrance to the Market Hall
3. Freemasons Hall, Old Elvet
2. Elvet Methodist Church
1. St. Margaret's Churchyard

ANSWERS

Did you know? (1)

Although Durham University was formally established in 1832 there had been a number of efforts to form a university before that date.

From 1278 there was a Durham Hall at Oxford which was set up for the training of monks from the Benedictine Abbey at Durham. In the 1380s Bishop Hatfield expanded Durham Hall into a fully fledged college which now included secular students. This closed during the reign of Henry VIII when he dissolved the monasteries. Trinity College was opened on the site of Durham College which now had no links with Durham.

During the Commonwealth period, after the Civil War and the execution of Charles I (1649), the Puritans closed the Cathedral and surrounding buildings. It was decided to use them to house a new Durham College in order to educate those in the North so they did not need to head south for their education. This new Durham College was approved by Oliver Cromwell and the Privy Council but it did not have the authority to confer degrees. There was strong resistance from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge to raise it to university level as they believed this would be the start of a decline in the quality of education and it would set the precedent for more universities to be opened.

They needn't have worried as this plan never got off the ground because Charles II was restored in 1660 and the Cathedral was re-opened. It was not until Charles Grey (Earl Grey tea and Grey's Monument, Newcastle) became Prime Minister (1830-1834) that Durham University was founded which broke Oxbridge's monopoly. Grey's aim was to increase access to higher education for the middle classes and in remembrance of his work Grey College, which was opened in 1959, was named after him.

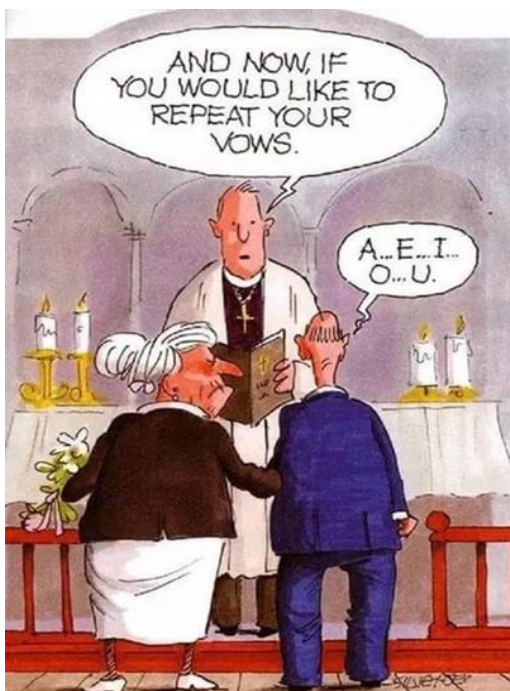
Did you know? (2)

In 1237 Thomas de Melsonby, the Prior of Durham, allowed an acrobat to walk a tightrope between the Cathedral's two western towers on a feast day in order to entertain the monks. Unfortunately this poor man fell to his death so this destroyed all chances of Melsonby ever becoming a Bishop.

(With thanks to Durham Pointers for this item from their Newsletter.)



Smile time ... With thanks to Bethel URC Newsletter for these two items.



WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of mouse should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of both be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Top 10 New Year's Traditions Around the World.



Welcoming and celebrating a new year is believed to be the same in all countries, but in fact this is not true. Although most of the countries around the world celebrate the same occasion, they differ in the way of celebration to the extent that you may find weird traditions. Welcoming a new year in different ways is caused by the several differences that can be found in cultures and beliefs. Fireworks, music, light shows and laser

shows are considered to be highly essential for celebrating a New Year in any country; however there are still many differences that you can find in celebrating a New Year whether it is on the New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. There are specific things or actions that are believed in some countries to bring good luck or at least affect the person's fate in the New Year if they are made. Do you know anything about these beliefs? If your answer is NO, take a look at the following top 10 New Year's traditions around the world to discover more about the different ways of celebrating a new year.

10. Throwing dishes at front doors – Denmark



In Denmark, Danes welcome the New Year and celebrate New Year's Eve by throwing dishes at front doors to bring good luck. Your luck in Denmark is decided by the number of dishes thrown at your front door. The number of broken dishes signifies the number of loyal friends whom you have. So, the more broken dishes you find in front of your door, the more friends you have and the luckier you will be in the upcoming

year.

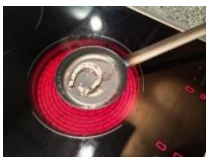
9. The first one to enter the home should be lucky – Greece



Your luck in the New Year in Greece is associated with the first one who enters your home. This is why the first one to enter the home in the New Year should be lucky in order to bring good luck and this person should also enter with the right foot to make things go right in the coming year. Smashing a pomegranate to the floor is also necessary to guarantee abundance, good health and joy to all the residents of the home in the New Year. Children are also believed to bring

good luck because of being the most innocent in our world.

8. Melting tin for telling the future – Finland



Do you want to predict what will happen to you in the next year? You have to do like the Fins. Look for any piece of tin and pour it into cold water after melting it. The molten tin will be turned into a random shape that is used for predicting what is going to happen in the upcoming year. Random shapes like animals especially cows signify abundance, rings and hearts refer to marriage or engagement, ships

indicate travelling, horses signify a new car and keys indicate career achievement. Any broken or fragile shapes signify misfortune.

7. Predicting the next fiancée by playing games – Belarus



There are several ways that we know for predicting what is going to happen in the future, but games are considered to be the strangest and funniest way for telling the future. Single ladies in Belarus play a nice game on the New Year's Eve to predict the next fiancée. A pile of corn is placed in front of each single lady and a rooster is released to walk towards the single ladies and the piles of corn in front of them. The first single lady to be approached

by the rooster is expected to be the next fiancée.

6. Want to travel, carry an empty suitcase – Mexico



Travelling to new places for experiencing exciting adventures is really one of the most amazing things that you can ever do to enjoy your time and forget all the problems that you may face in your life. If you want to make the next year more exciting by travelling and experiencing new adventures, you have to do what the Mexicans do on New Year's Eve. The Mexicans believe that carrying an empty suitcase and walking with it when the clock strikes midnight brings travel and exciting adventure to the New Year. So, why do not you try this idea if you want to travel in the coming year?

5. Painting doors in red and hiding knives – China



The New Year in China is welcomed by hiding all the knives at home in order to make sure that no one will be harmed or cut by those knives at the beginning of the New Year. Cutting yourself by a knife on the New Year's day in China signifies misfortune and means cutting the good luck of the whole family in the upcoming year. In addition to hiding knives, the Chinese paint the front doors of their houses in red to ensure good luck and happiness in the New Year.

4. Communicating with animals – Belgium and Romania

Farmers in both Belgium and Romania believe that the animals have the ability to talk on New Year's Eve at midnight and this is why they try to communicate with them to hear what those animals say. The clever farmers who succeed in communicating with their cows and hearing what they say are believed to be lucky for the upcoming year. Do you have cows to try hearing what they say at midnight on New Year's Eve?

3. Throwing out old furniture – South Africa



Most of the people around the world welcome the New Year by decorating their homes - trying to change their look to be more inviting, but for those who live in Johannesburg they believe that this is not enough for welcoming the New Year. Locals in Johannesburg welcome the New Year with new furniture and throw the old appliances and furniture out of the window. So, be careful while walking in the streets of Johannesburg and watch your head!

2. Banging bread against walls and doors – Ireland



In Ireland, the Irish are said to try to chase out the evil spirits and bad luck on New Year's Eve to keep them away in the upcoming year by banging bread against the doors and walls of their houses. Doing such a thing is not only thought to bring good luck and invite good spirits to the next year, it is also believed to make the food plentiful for the upcoming year.

1. Staying with the dead relatives – Chile



We may forget to invite some of those whom we know and are still alive to celebrate this happy occasion with us, but for the locals in Talca it is completely different. Locals in Talca are not like us at all as they spend the New Year's Eve in the graveyard to welcome the New Year while being with their dead relatives.

Welcoming the New Year in Talca with the dead ones is accompanied by using candles and playing classical music.

Other New Year's Traditions

There are other weird new year's traditions around the world such as wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve in Italy, bringing a gift for others to bring good luck in Scotland, eating round foods in Philippines, swimming in a frozen lake in Russia and Siberia, wearing white clothes in Brazil, burning scarecrows, putting a coin in the cake to bring good luck to the one who finds it in Bolivia, eating lentils in Chile, wearing colourful underwear in Ecuador, eating seven times on new year's day in Estonia, ringing the bell 108 times in the temple in Japan, swinging fireballs around the head in Scotland, planting trees at the bottom of Lake Baikal, eating 12 grapes in Spain, throwing buckets of water on others in Thailand, kissing one another when the clock strikes midnight in the United States in addition to other traditions that are really interesting and make the celebration more exciting.

Waddington Street URC – Christmas Quiz – 2020

Answers

**Congratulations to the winners -
Sylvia and Ian Warburton with 29/30.**

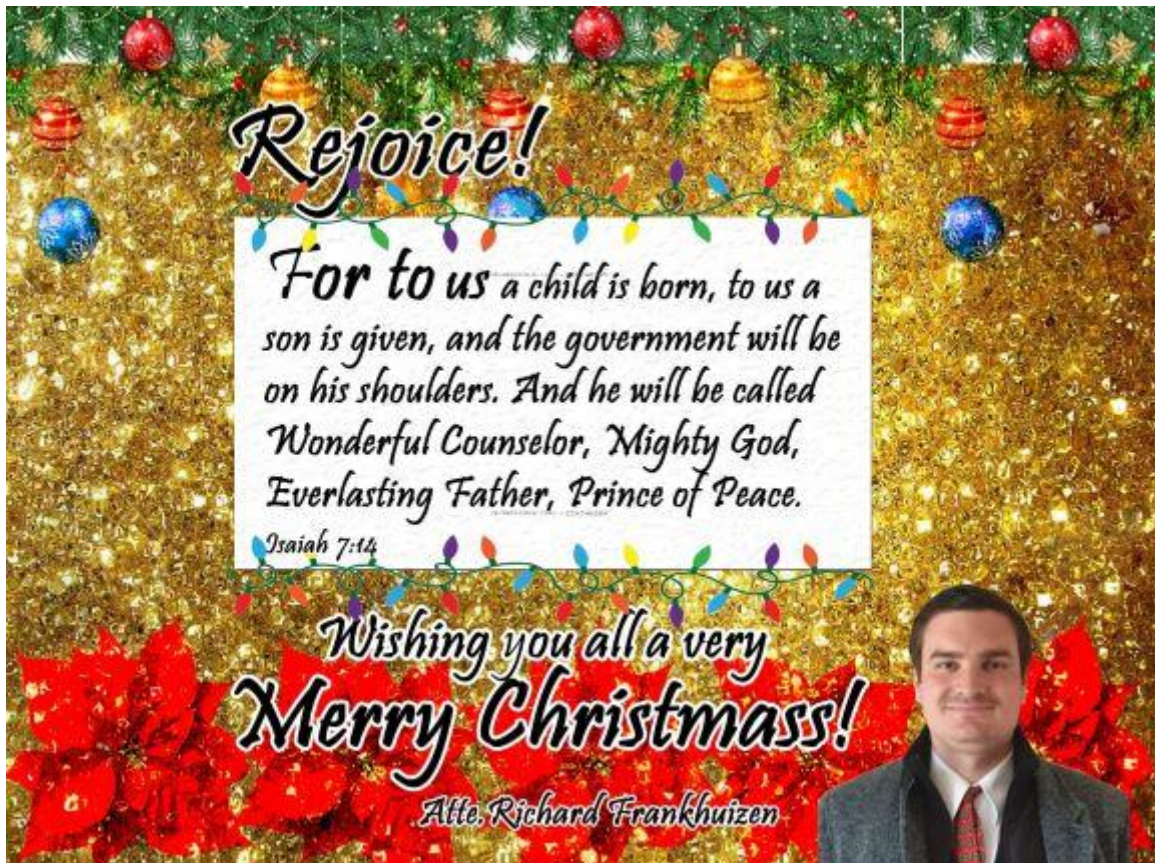


1. 2018. 2. Hero. 3. Robin.
4. Four – (Donner, Dasher, Dancer and Prancer).
5. Advent. 6. Frankincense. 7. The Indian Ocean.
8. Joyeux Noel. 9. Jacob Marley.
10. No need to be afraid.
11. Mincemeat is the traditional filling for mince pies.
12. Carpenter. 13. Hogmanay 14. Orange.
15. Olivia Newton-John. 16. Lapland is located in Finland. 17. Little Drummer Boy.
18. A Snowball is made from Advocaat and Lemonade. 19. Nativity. 20. Marzipan. 21. Jesus.
22. Patch. 23. On the Feast of Stephen. 24. Feliz navidad. 25. Advocaat. 26. Aladdin.
27. Crib Pies. 28. Frankincense. 29. Three – Dancer, Dasher and Donner. 30. Alabama.

Hope you all enjoyed it. **Yvonne Melville**

(Thank you Yvonne for providing this Quiz to keep everyone busy!)

Sandy Ogilvie kindly shared this message from Richard Frankhuizen which was for Sandy and Kath and for Waddington Street United Reformed Church which Richard holds in his heart:





It was interesting to see and hear on “Songs of Praise” the top ten Carols in 2020 as voted for by the public. They were, in ascending order:

10. O Come, O Come Emmanuel. 9. Joy To The World. 8. Away in a Manger.
 7. Once In Royal David’s City. 6. O Little Town of Bethlehem. 5. O Come All Ye Faithful.
 4. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. 3. In The Bleak Midwinter. 2. Silent Night
 and voted number 1. O Holy Night which was sung in French by Andrea Bocelli.

"O Holy Night" (also known as "Cantique de Noël") is a well-known Christmas carol composed by [Adolphe Adam](#) in 1847 to the French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" (Midnight, Christians) by poet [Placide Cappeau](#) (1808–1877). The [carol](#) reflects on the [birth of Jesus](#) as humanity's redemption.

In [Roquemaure](#) at the end of 1843, the church organ had recently been renovated. To celebrate the event, the parish priest persuaded poet [Placide Cappeau](#), a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem. Soon afterwards that same year, [Adolphe Adam](#) composed the music. The song was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey.

Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight, editor of *Dwight's Journal of Music*, wrote the English version in 1855. This version became popular in the United States, especially in the North, where the third verse resonated with [abolitionists](#), including Dwight himself. {From Wikipedia}

Silent Night ...

The carol Silent Night was written and composed in 1818, by an Austrian priest Father Joseph Mohr and his friend Franz Xaver Gruber. Mohr was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang “Stille Nacht” for the first time, accompanied on a guitar.

During the first World War, German and British troops held a Christmas Day truce and each side, in the trenches, sang this carol in their own language. [From the internet]

[Okay, I know this carol came second in the voting list but it is **my** favourite! Editor]



WHERE ELSE COULD I GO, LORD, BUT TO THEE?

Battered by life and adrift on a raging sea,
Where else could I go, Lord, but to Thee?
Seeking comfort, love and peace – all three,
Where else could I go, Lord, but to Thee?

When life is hard and the way ahead unclear,
To Thee my God, I bow my head in prayer,
And bring before You those I hold most dear,
And ask You to keep them in Thy loving care.

When hardship rears its ugly head,
Or illness of our bodies takes its toll,
I needs must walk the path where I am led,
And try to play each day the Christian role.

For I know Lord that when this life is o'er,
And my weak body tires of the fight,
Your love will wrap me round and fill me to the core,
And my eyes will see Your Majesty and Might.

(Lucille Thomson)