

CROYDON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Dear Friends: And so we have reached the end of 2020, a year no-one who lived through it will ever forget. We have reached out to each other from the self-isolation of our homes, meeting out of doors when we can, mastering Zoom, phoning, messaging, masking, but unable to shake hands, hold or hug. We move into 2021, however, knowing that the long-awaited vaccine is being distributed and at some date, possibly at Easter, the danger is over and our lives can return to some kind of normality.

Apologies for the lateness of this month's newsletter. But there's news about a January edition right at the end of this one. **Gillian Turner and David Parlett**

So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." *Luke 2 1 – 6*

Lockdown and self-isolation have emphasised the importance of home. *Advices & Queries 26* points this out to us:

Do you recognise the needs and gifts of each member of your family and household, not forgetting your own? Try to make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment, where all who live and visit may find the peace and refreshment of God's presence.

Christmas greetings



Laura, Andy, and (see photo) **tree decorators Albie and Jacob** send everyone love and best wishes at Christmas.

As another busy year comes to a close, we would like to wish everyone a relaxing Christmas and "be still in thy own mind". With love, **Rachel, Josh & Livi Edgson**

Rhiannon Rees sends loving greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all Friends, far and near.

"The Light shines on in the dark, and the darkness has never mastered it."

Love and best wishes to you all in Croydon Meeting for a happy Christmas and New Year from **Mary Clarke**

May the peace, love, light and life of the Christ's presence be with you and your loved ones. Plenty love to everyone at Croydon Meeting, from **Joyce Trotman**

Seasonal wishes and greetings to everyone at Croydon Meeting - with love and best wishes from **Margaret Skelton**

Seasons greetings to all my friends at Croydon LM. We have two bubbles/pods here, so we have two Quaker Meetings (in different places) on Sundays, one at 9.45; the other at 10.45. Wishing you all a better 2021 **From Wilfrid Hayler**

Christmas Greetings to all in Croydon Meeting from **Anita Bennett**, Jeff Grant, and Joe & Ben Plommer. It's so good to be able to attend Meeting again: Zoom is a real blessing.

Peter Tayler sends Christmas Greetings to all at Croydon Meeting. He has now reached pension age and is keeping well. He remembers with affection the friends who served with him on Premises Committee, especially Dave Perry, Kay Papadopolous and Rhiannon Rees.



Wedding Bells!

Emily Collins and Gareth Iley were married on 16 October 2020 in Whitby on a gloriously sunny day full of joy and laughter. Friends and family were able to attend the wedding and a celebration meal, making it a truly memorable day.

Christmas in Envelopes

*Monks are at it again, quaffing, carousing;
And stage-coaches, cantering straight out of Merrie England,
In a flurry of whips and fetlocks, sacks and Santas.*

*Raphael has been roped in, and Botticelli;
Experts predict a vintage year for Virgins.*

*From the theologically challenged, Richmond Bridge,
Giverny, a lugger by moonlight, doves. Ours*

*Costs less than these in money, more in time;
Like them, is hopelessly irrelevant
But brings, like them, the essential message*

love.

U A Fanthorpe (via Margie Ashley)

Seasons

Ministry in meeting for worship today (29 November) included a reference to a weariness of spirit which I could relate to. In fact before the meeting I had thought about not attending but I'm so glad I did. The following Advice was read which seemed to speak to me.

Advices & Queries: 10

'Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.'

During the afterthoughts a reference was made to *Quaker Faith & Practice* 21:12

'Trouble of soul can teach us things that raptures never could - not only patience and perseverance, but humility and sympathy with others.' **Edward Grubb, 1933**

For me the above brought up thoughts about the seasons, in our lives and those we experience during a calendar year: winter, spring, autumn and summer. I have always loved the different seasons but sometimes winter can be very difficult even though it is necessary for rebirth. Our lowest times can have such depths that allow us to experience awakenings and realise our

strengths. There are numerous sayings about seasons which I often find helpful as inspiration for life, a few of which I share below.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted...'

Albert Camus:

'In the depth of winter I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer...

Thich Thien-An:

"Each season has its own beauty. To practice meditation is to open the mind so that all of them may be enjoyed. When each season comes we should enjoy it, and when it goes we should let it go and open our mind to the next season.

Nichiren Daishonin:

Winter always turns to spring. Never from ancient times on has anyone heard or seen of winter turning back to autumn.

Whatever the season we are experiencing, perhaps it is good to remember advice given by Mother Teresa:

'Love is a fruit in season at all times and within the reach of every hand. Anyone may gather it and no limit is set.'

Pam Sellman

The Queen's Gambit – and Quakers

I'll hold my hands up. I'm no chess player. I was shown the basics a long – a very long - time ago but I never really got beyond the simple piece-taking part of it all. (However, I can remember a trip to the British Museum to see the Lewis chessmen set). Shrewd strategies, clever responses were beyond me... sophisticated thinking, complex gambit-knowledge, serious looking blokes lost in intense concentration were not really my cup of tea.

So, a million or so years later, it came as no surprise that I didn't jump at the chance to watch *The Queen's Gambit* (on Netflix). Set in the 1960s, it's a fictional story about Beth Harmon, an American child prodigy who became a chess master at a very young age (comparatively speaking) in a very male (and, seemingly, mostly Russian-speaking) dominated world. The CNN website has covered the programme's success as this season's television hit, both in terms of viewers and how it has encouraged internet searches for the words 'chess sets' that, apparently, are now occurring every six seconds.

But Natalie, my daughter-in-law, recommended it strongly... 'Believe it or not, you'll enjoy it' and, of course, lockdown again (don't get me started) gave me time to fill and so I gave it a go. Well, I decided to give it my usual three-episode trial. Well, another four episodes later, I'd finished it! Why was it so gripping? Why was it so enjoyable? Why did it feel that I hadn't wasted my time?

In the real world, a Hungarian woman, Judit Polgar, who was a grandmaster at the age of 15 years and four months, sees chess as an important educational tool that teaches kids skills that are also useful outside the chess situation. On the CNN website, she lists them as: '... Logical thinking, decision making, responsibility, resilience...Taking the consequences and taking their decisions in a way that they know how to step from one to another to handle a loss, a win, a victory and to be strong'. Wow! So, in this way, the programme gave what seemed to be an emotionally honest picture of Beth's journey in which she overcame emotional insecurity (expressed in a drug and drink addiction) to succeed in the intensely competitive world of chess. But the series had another story too... as Beth made her way, she also made friends, who though part of the chess world too, did more than just compete with her. These friends were collaborators rather than competitors... and in short, they understood what she was going through, was faced with both on a personal and chess basis – and they helped her. They knew her strengths and her weaknesses. They offered her unconditional support. Now, of course, it's no surprise that somebody, with a Quaker-influenced perspective - watching *The Queen's Gambit* - would respond positively to that!

Helen Johnson

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

There is controversy as to the precise origin of the famous African-American spiritual *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* but what is known for sure is that the first line comes from a hymn entitled *Walking with God* written in 1769 by William Cowper. In America, before the Civil War, it is believed that the song was never written down formally but passed down from generation to generation until 1940 where the story goes that a songwriter and composer called Kenneth Morris heard a railway porter singing the refrain. He was so mesmerised by the sound that he felt compelled to return to the station days later to find the porter and ask his permission to write down the words. Morris arranged the tune and devised additional lyrics and was able to publish it and since then there have been hundreds of recordings including contributions from such performers as the great Mahalia Jackson (whose performance at the Newport Jazz festival is legendary and, luckily for us, easily found on YouTube), Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Crystal Gayle and Van Morrison. In the movie masterpiece *Cool Hand Luke*, starring Paul Newman, Harry Dean Stanton sings it in a poignant and memorable moment as Luke is allowed out of the Correctional Facility for a few minutes to see his mother for the last time.

Frequently played at traditional New Orleans funerals and clubs, in many churches too, it is a trad jazz/ gospel/ blues classic included in many hymnals. The lyrics tend to vary slightly, which is common in spirituals and songs of oral tradition, and there are various additional verses, but the words below are used often:

*I am weak, but Thou art strong, Jesus keep me from all wrong,
I'll be satisfied as I walk, let me
Walk close to Thee,
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it Jesus is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more,
Guide me gently, safely o'er to Thy Kingdom shore, to Thy shore,
Just a closer walk with Thee...*

Recently, I was most privileged to attend the funeral of a dear Edinburgh Friend, albeit on Zoom, and owing to his love of both performing and listening to jazz, he himself had chosen, unsurprisingly, arguably the greatest version of this song to be played at the start of the proceedings. The recording was by the revered George Lewis and the New Orleans Stompers (who during their career set down about forty tracks of *Just a Closer Walk*,) and it filled the ether with such raw, gentle soul and passion that days later it is hard to let go of the unique phrasing and beauty of the melody. The funeral was in the manner of Friends and this piece provided a beautifully moving and personal beginning to the occasion.

George Lewis was born in New Orleans in 1900 and his great-great grandmother Alice was an enslaved woman from Senegal. The family were able to keep some of the Senegalese language and culture from Alice's generation. George became a jazz clarinettist whilst at times, still having to work on the Mississippi River unloading cargo from ships. This dangerous occupation led to an accident involving a container falling onto his chest. During convalescence, his friends brought along their instruments and played at his bed-side. In later life he led the band to great prominence which brought them international success and world-wide travel, including many tours of the UK, playing with musicians such as Mr Acker Bilk and Ken Collyer's Jazzmen.

In 1950, a young man named Stanley Kubrick had started to get regular assignments as a staff photographer for *Look* magazine, which sold millions of copies bi-weekly. One project undertaken by Kubrick was to profile George Lewis and the superb results were partly responsible for the band's receiving renewed attention and becoming leaders of the New Orleans revival.

During the photo-shoot, Kubrick was offered the opportunity to play drums with them, a chance that he certainly didn't refuse. He, of course, went on to find enormous fame as one of the most influential film directors of the twentieth century, if not of all time. **Barbara Earl**

https://youtu.be/-LsuHXaB2_0 George Lewis, Just a Closer Walk

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky

For several years during my childhood, my parents and their closest friends jointly hosted a series of New Year's Eve parties. Those parties are some of my happiest memories of growing up: carefree celebrations with the honoured guests of both hosting families; two worlds coming together with a complete generosity of spirit towards one another; friends and strangers from every stage of life; fancy-dress, open fires, and dancing in the kitchen. One year, probably in an effort to draw some spiritual significance from our night of revelry, somebody printed out the words of Alfred Tennyson's *Ring out, wild bells (In Memoriam)* and Blu-tacked them to the door of the downstairs loo. They have been there ever since. (See poem on page 9.)

The poem still reminds me of the happiness an open house can bring, as the loudest manifestation of the 'loving friendship and enjoyment' we are encouraged to foster in Advice 26.

Of course, it is a bittersweet reminder this year.

However, the poem itself does not indulge in nostalgia. Rather, it draws us forward to what will be – or more specifically, what will be *better* – and the fulfilment of hope in a new creation. It is an exhortation to reject the 'grief', 'disease', 'strife', 'sin', and 'coldness' which mark our current age, and a call for 'the true', the 'sweeter manners, purer laws', the 'fuller minstrel', the 'thousand years of peace', and the 'Christ that is to be'.

Tennyson wrote these verses as part of a much longer poem following the death of his close friend aged just 22. He was therefore engaged in a very real struggle to reconcile the cruelty of the world around him with the promise of a loving God. It is thought that the 'bells' refer to literal Abbey bells that he heard being rung at New Year, but by invoking the thousand years of Christ's reign described in *Revelation* 20.1-6, it is really an apocalyptic poem: Tennyson yearns for the vindication of his faith, a different future, and a better world free of grief and strife.

While this poem is traditionally associated with New Year, this also makes it appropriate for Christmas. After all, Christmas is a time to reflect on the significance of Christ's birth, and so, the start of a life which Christianity teaches brought the possibility of new creation for everyone. 'Therefore', Saint Paul declares in 2 *Corinthians* 5.17, 'If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.'

For Christians, then, Christmas is not just looking back to the past. More than this, the events of Jesus's life and resurrection are a vindication of hope in its widest sense. They are a reassurance that good is worth fighting for, and that things will get better – or more accurately, that they are already better than they seem, because this hopeful story is being retold within each of us, every morning anew. At Christmas, we remember the Light shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

As Quakers who affirm that of God in everyone, we are advised to bring the whole of our lives under 'the ordering of the spirit of Christ'. This means we are not only called to search for 'the seeds of war' in our own lives, but to seek out (and water!) the seeds of that truer, sweeter, purer, more peaceful vision that Tennyson describes, and which Christians see reflected in the Nativity. After all, the new order heralded in the poem is not unrecognisable; it is not entirely different from the present, but is the raising up of all the good we already know. Perhaps, it is not so far away from the loving spirit which I so vividly remember from parties at New Year. Which brings us back to where we started. This year (and what a year it has been) is now coming to an end: how can we 'Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be' in the year to follow?

Maddy Pennington

Quaker Volunteers Sought

Friends, I am searching for Quaker volunteers in the UK, who self-identify as Black, Asian, mixed heritage or from any other minority ethnic background to be interviewed by me. Transcripts of these interviews will be included in an upcoming book, which will record the views, experiences and insights of Friends from these backgrounds.

Quakers have a well-earned reputation for keeping meticulous records. Many books throughout history have been written by, and about, Friends. To my knowledge there is no book of this kind in the UK or the world.

The interviews will be relaxed and as close to a natural conversation as I can make them. They will be recorded. Broad topics will be covered, but they will all relate to Quakerism. You should expect to talk about some personal history, your spiritual experiences and individual opinions on a variety of topics. The interviews will be relaxed and conducted with the upmost respect and discretion.

Applications are welcome from Friends who are members or attenders from anywhere in the UK. This is entirely voluntary. No payment now, or in the future, will be offered to Friends who volunteer, regardless of whether or not the book is published.

Due to Covid-19, the conversations will not be conducted in person, but via the internet using the Zoom app. Zoom is free to download and use. In the case of Friends who do not have easy access to the internet, a phone call can be considered, however face to face contact via a monitor is preferred.

If you would like to take part, or have any questions you would like cleared up before volunteering, please email me at Chrisw170200@yahoo.co.uk. *In Friendship, Chris Willis*

Our Courtyard Garden



All our plants and bulbs are in, although they look rather scarce in the photograph. You must imagine the bare-rooted roses and other bushes, along with the bulbs all out of sight, and look forward to seeing them all with their leaves and blossoms, in the Spring, when hopefully we will all be able to sit together after meeting for worship with our coffee and cake.

GT

Amazing People of the World

Unable to deliver our normal weekly Amazing People of the World (APOW) sessions in Croydon, we spent most of the year delivering sessions

online. Who knew that fitness, creative writing, photojournalism, animation and even cooking workshops could all take place online!

Whilst we took plenty of Zoom selfies we wanted to share with you the times we were able to get out there and stretch our legs. When Lockdown One lifted we celebrated being able to see one another again with a few socially distanced day trips, first to Go Ape where we literally were able to yell from the tree tops, and then to the Quadrangle in Kent, where we would normally run our Residentials - just what we and our young people needed after what seemed like an age being glued to our screens.

We were also delighted to have the opportunity to run 12 workshops for 40 newly-arrived asylum seekers attending Croydon's Virtual School Summer Mix programme. As part of this programme it was great to have the opportunity to employ two young people from APOW, Ibrahim and Fiyameta, as facilitators to support our lead youth worker Federico.

Beyond that we collaborated with some fantastic groups and facilitators including Digital Doris, where we delivered a special workshop as part of their online festival and Stand Up To Racism, where one of our Trustees Micah Woldu gave a powerful speech for the South London 'Refugees Welcome' rally.

We hope to have Federico, Selma and their team back in the meeting house and ASH for their weekly meetings in January 2021 - Eds

Saffron Walden Update

Croydon Friends will know that Saffron Walden Friends School, which closed down in 2017, had been attended by many members of our meeting, past and present, and until 1879 had formerly been Friends School Croydon. We therefore need no excuse to reprint this update published in *Nooks and Corners*, the architectural column of *Private Eye*, 4-17 December 2020.

Residents of Saffron Walden wonder what the future holds for the former Walden. School buildings, as developers who bought the school site seek to build on the much-loved playing fields.

Originally known as the Friends' School, it was built in 1879 to a design by Quaker architect Edward Burgess of Leicester. According to Historic England, the initial design was for a grand Gothic Revival building, but the school ended up making sparing use of Gothic details "to achieve an image of tradition and dignity at modest cost". The report praised "the well composed centrepiece formed by the entrance tower and dining hall; its bold massing combines with the gables and chimneystacks throughout the rest of the building to produce a picturesque skyline". It is locally listed and lies within the town's conservation area.

As an independent school, Walden struggled financially, in part because it was surrounded by excellent state schools, and eventually closed in 2017. Locals hoped it would become an academy, tackling a looming shortage of school places and protecting access to sports facilities for the many groups that used them outside school hours. Administrator Grant Thornton told local press at the time that although there was interest from education providers, none made an offer that would "have allowed for the creditors to be paid in full". So it was sold to developer Chase Homes instead.

Chase has submitted plans to Uttlesford council - but only for a development on the former school's playing fields. This would involve demolishing a sports hall, doing up an old swimming pool and building 30 homes (with outline permission for 70 more). A small sports pitch and playground would be kept in one corner of the site. Both Sport England and Saffron Walden residents' groups have strongly objected, pointing out that the area already has a dire shortage of sports pitches and outdoor green space.

On the plan, the school itself is simply marked as "other land under the control of the applicant" although Chase's marketing suggests the new build will somehow "enhance the setting of the original main school building" (surely school playing fields are the most appropriate setting). No scheme has been submitted/or conversion of the school buildings and long-time readers of *Nooks and Corners* know the risks to historic buildings left empty and neglected. Local *Eye* readers report that security is limited and travellers have already set up camp on site at times this year.

DP

November Area Meeting

There were 21 Friends at the Zoomed Area Meeting on 22 November, hosted by Purley Meeting and clerked by Eleri Pengelly and Janet Veitch.

We heard a reading from Quaker Faith & Practice 29.01 (by Gordon Matthews, 1987) during the beginning period of silent worship.

On membership matters, the death of Bob Rogers, our Meeting for Sufferings representative, was recorded. Three terminations of membership were agreed and it was noted that our membership had fallen from 167 in December 2019 to 158 now.

The appointment of Elders and Overseers for the next triennium came next. Croydon's new Elders will be Michelle Dumont, Helen Johnson, Maddy Pennington and Pam Sellman and our new Overseers will be Julia Abley, Margie Ashley, Therle Cryer, Blair Hunwick and Brian Skeet.

Phil Laurence was appointed as Area Meeting Committee representative for Sutton Meeting, Area Meeting Trustee and also interim Clerk to the Trustees until summer 2021, when Paul Keenleyside will take over for the remainder of the triennium. Barbara Cairns agreed to check the membership registers.

Helen Drewery and Frances Touch spoke about the Trustees Annual Report and 2019 collated accounts. These were accepted, subject to any changes required by the examiners, with Friends being offered the chance to ask further questions in writing if they wished.

I gave an update on the range of grants offered by Area Meeting Legacies Committee, including a new grant to allow Friends to express their faith in action (More details are given in the article entitled 'Grants from Area Meeting Legacies Committee'). The committee's updated Terms of Reference were accepted.

Next, David Parlett was appointed as our editor/administrator for the online Quaker Meeting Network (quakermeeting.org), on which our site will be listed.

We received a detailed written report on the progress and impact of the Happy Baby Community and were pleased to hear that their positive work was still continuing, although badly affected by Covid 19.

Purley's spiritual review followed, using a variety of voices from the Meeting. It charted the changes in the Meeting and their very mixed but ultimately positive feelings on coming through the difficult time they have had over the last few years.

Individual Meetings' experiences of lockdown were briefly shared, followed by priorities for Quakers in Britain in the future.

A discussion then followed on Janet Veitch's written report about her experiences and concerns on attending Meeting for Sufferings. It was agreed that there should be a threshing meeting to decide on the details of questions to be raised about the connection between local and central discernment, and the operation of our business method. This will then be reported back to Area Meeting.

Finally, dates were set for Area and Area Committee meetings in 2021, as follows: 17 January (AMC, Sutton), 21 February (AM, Sutton), 21 March (AMC, Streatham and Brixton), 16 May (AM, Streatham and Brixton), 18 July (AMC, Croydon), 19 September (AM, Croydon), 17 October (AMC, Purley) and 21 November (AM, Purley).
Margaret Skelton

Grants from Area Meeting Legacies Committee

Looking for a new challenge? Area Meeting Legacies Committee are keen to give financial support to Members and Attenders who wish to extend their spiritual development or express their faith in action. To do this, they now offer two types of grant:

A. Grants to individual Members and Attenders

These grants are to help with the cost of attending Quaker conferences, courses, retreats or workshops etc. which assist individual spiritual development. Normally the applicant is expected to meet at least a third of the cost themselves. Croydon Legacies Committee may be able to help with this, and Overseers have the application forms.

**This does not apply to the expenses of those appointed by Area Meeting to attend courses, which are met in full from the main Area Meeting funds.*

B. Grants to further Quaker concerns

These grants, of up to £3,000 in a 12 month period, are intended to support Members and Attenders in expressing their faith in action.

They are only made for initiatives or projects which are expressions of tested Quaker concern. So, any Member or Attender wishing to apply for this type of grant first needs to discuss their idea with Elders, then take it to business meeting to seek minuted support from the Meeting.

I have more details if you would like them.

Margaret Skelton

Events

Sunday 13 December, 2-3pm. Mystery play(s) reading led by Roger Haworth on the Croydon Zoom account. Which plays? That's a mystery!

Tuesday 15 December, 7pm. We are warmly invited to the **Christmas Concert** in aid of Marie Curie charity at the Unitarian Church next door.

Friday 25 December, 10.30. Blended meeting for worship from the meeting house.

Reading Group

Join us in our reading group! A few of us started a reading group during the second lockdown and will be starting a new book in January - *The Mara Crossing* by Ruth Padel.

'Home is where you start from, but where is a swallow's real home? And what does native mean if the English oak is an immigrant from Spain? In a mix of richly varied poems, prose, facts and reflections, Ruth Padel's book weaves science, myth, wild nature and human history to

conjure a world created and sustained by migration. Poignant, thought-provoking and compelling, here is a magnificent tapestry of life on the move.'

We would love to have more people join the group. Please contact Liz Collins or Gillian Turner for more details.

Liz Collins

Collecting in December

06 Refugee Youth (for 'Amazing People of the World') **13** South London Area Meeting,
20 Friends Family Group, **27** Freedom from Torture

Please contribute to the January newsletter!

We normally produce a combined December/December newsletter, but on this occasion we invite you, all our readers, to send us your nominations for your favourite articles or poems that have appeared throughout 2020. A single compendium of all the 2020 newsletters can be reached by clicking the link on our Croydon LQM home page, or directly from [http://croydonquakers.org.uk/pdf/NL2020\(all\).pdf](http://croydonquakers.org.uk/pdf/NL2020(all).pdf)*

**Please send your suggestions by Wednesday 30 December to
Gillian Turner *Te/07805087981 email gillianturner033@gmail.com***

Ring out, wild Bells

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;*

*Ring out, ring out my mournful
rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and
blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

Alfred Lord Tennyson