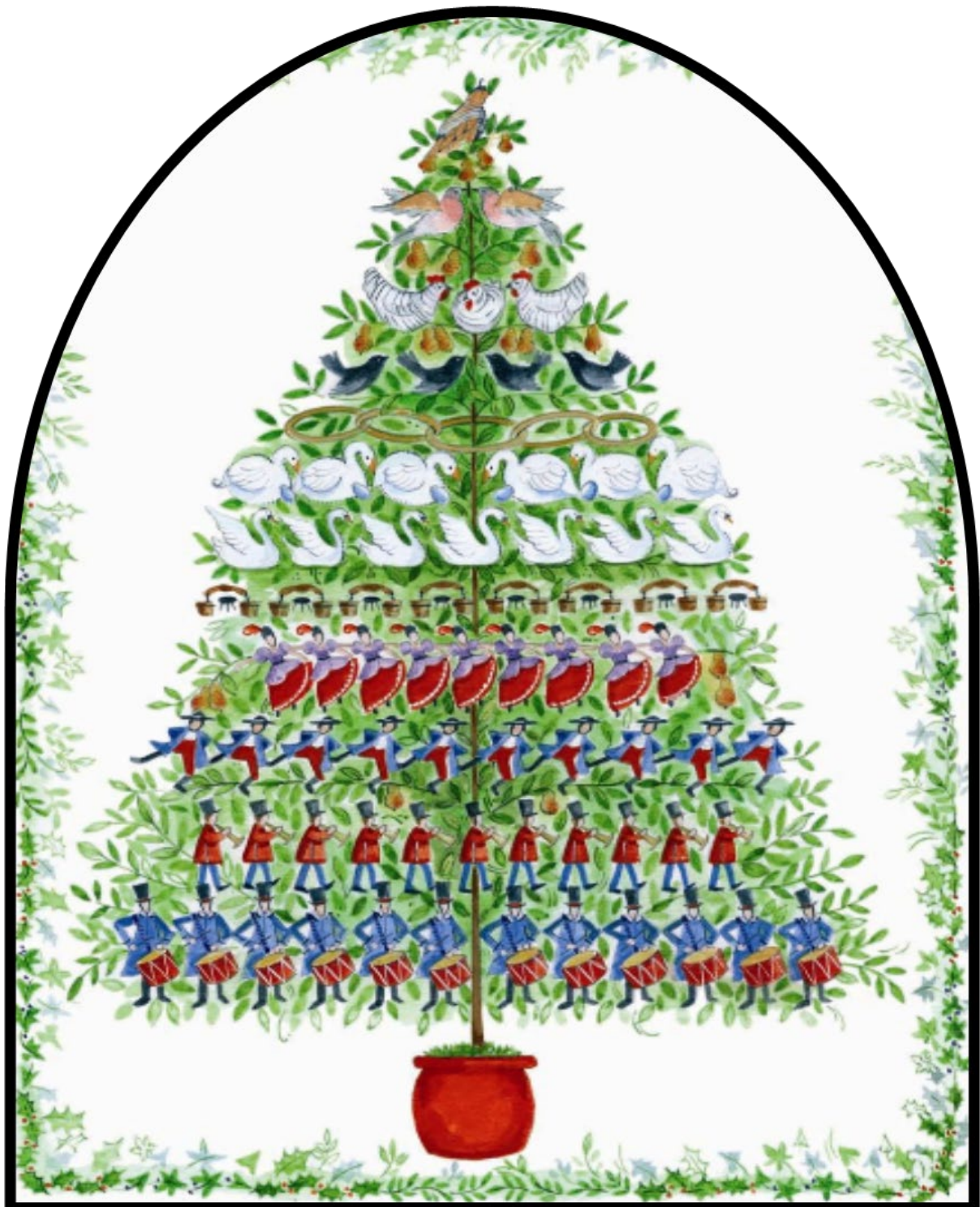


# WINDOW ON THE MOOR



CHRISTMAS 2020



## Christmas 2020

Back at the very beginning of lockdown,  
I received a photocopy off Eddie  
Hickman. His Granddaughter had given  
him a copy of the 12 days of Christmas  
and its history.

It was used to assist people to  
remember aspects of the bible before  
they could read it for themselves. I  
know there was something before the  
internet and books !!!

### Song !

Whilst we can't gather together to sing  
the song on the 12 days after Jesus's  
birth and the arrival of the magi.

We can read about how different people  
from our church family and beyond  
view the text from the song and what  
it makes them think of.

Enjoy



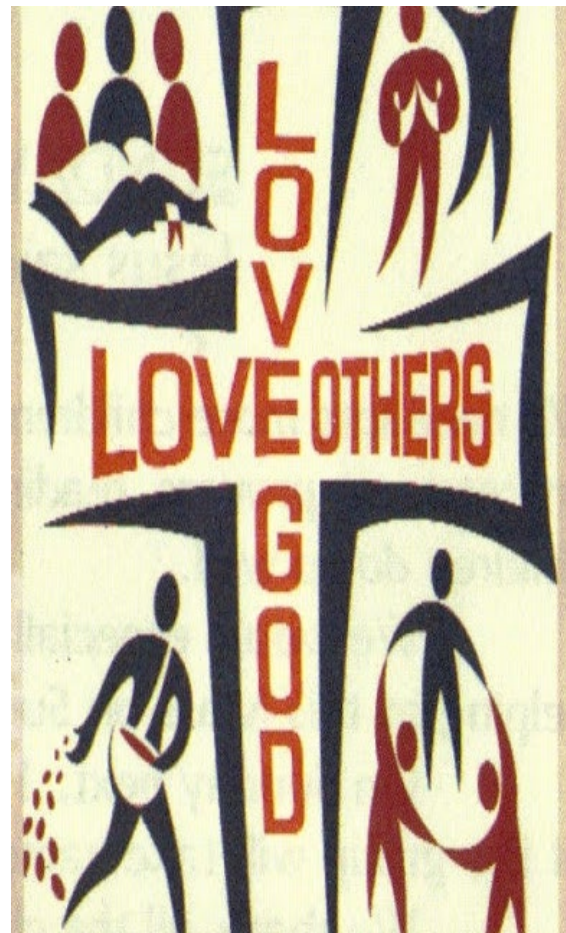
# ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME .....

*The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian.*

The two pillars of loving God and loving the neighbour, serves as the heart of Christian discipleship. There are five important directives for our discipleship in understanding these two pillars. Firstly, without any of these two pillars, the entire Law and the prophet's messages will simply fall and cannot withstand. For me both these pillars are in perfect equilibrium, by which I want to say that neither of these pillars are taller than the other, for both the pillar of loving God and the pillar of loving neighbour are of equal height, equal width, equal length and equal in every measurement. Secondly, both these pillars, co-exist, for neither of them can exist on its own. Loving God is directly proportional to loving neighbour, and loving neighbour is a reflection of loving God. Neither the Law nor the prophets can hang on just one pillar. Thirdly, it is important to recognise that it is love that is the common material on both these pillars, love for God and love for neighbour, for the message of law and the prophets have all been entwined on this core foundation of love. Fourthly, with both these pillars of loving God and loving

neighbour, it is love which becomes the hermeneutic in interpreting the law and the prophets. Fifthly, with love being the core and common for both these two pillars, love becomes the commandment of life, of Cross and of the Kingdom of God.

Rev. Dr. Raj Bharat Patta  
Dec 2020





*The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.*

I'm not sure I've ever seen a partridge, and if I have, I've definitely never seen one in a pear tree. But it's an image that must have resonated with people at a certain time in history. As Christians we have always relied on imagery, poetry and song to express some of the deepest mysteries of our faith. How can the meaning and significance behind the life, death and resurrection of our saviour Jesus be encapsulated by anything?

And yet in the song, the partridge in a pear tree, taken as an image



for Jesus and his death on a tree, is the lynchpin that ties the rest of the song together. Every revelation of God represented by the other gifts in the song all led to Jesus, the fullest and truest revelation of our all-loving, merciful and gracious God. So, this Christmas, let's celebrate the name Emmanuel, in Jesus, God is with us.

Jonnie

*The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments -  
another gift from God.*

The turtle dove is noted for it's soft cooing and devotion to it's mate.



I have very fond memories of the hours I have spent cooing(singing lullabies) to my children, and later grandchildren when getting them to sleep.

Singing has always been very special to me, and I miss not singing in church during these very strange times. I also miss the singing which brought so much joy to our Dementia Friends on Friday afternoons. (Thanks to our wonderful pianists)

One song brings back a thousand memories.

**"THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC"**

During this difficult year I have spent hours on my telephone talking with family and friends - " I get by with a little help from my friends"

My special mate is the one I speak to before getting out of my bed, and the last one I speak to before sleep. He is always there for me, and is a fantastic listener!

**"WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"**

Love, joy and PEACE to you all !

Beryl Whitehead

The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Corinthians 13).



'Faith Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is love' is quoted by St Paul in '1 Corinthians 13'.

St Paul tells us that if we have *faith and Hope* **without Love**, then **we are nothing.**

To a French Historian the 'Three French Hens' of the 12 days of Christmas recalls the story of King Henry 4th and 'The Chicken Pot'. King Henry, the head of the Bourbon dynasty, brought back peace to the French kingdom following the Religious wars in the 16th century. He wished that the peasants would now be able to have a cooked chicken every Sunday.

It appears the French Historian equates the peasant's chicken to the 'French Hen' in the 12 days of Christmas. Perhaps Henry 4th's wish for his peasants to be able to cook a chicken every Sunday was due to his **Love** for the people which could be genuinely added to his religious **Faith** and **Hope**.

Regards Garry



*The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.*

Four calling birds – representing the four evangelists proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. I have recently been following a modular online course on Art History run by the National Gallery.



The first module covered 1250-1400 AD. The purpose of church painting during that period was to educate rather than to decorate. Since no one knew what the evangelists looked like, they were often painted with or represented by symbols. Matthew, whose Gospel was aimed primarily at the Jewish reader, is represented by a winged man; Jesus, Son of David. Mark, whose Gospel was aimed primarily at the people of the Roman Empire, is represented by a winged lion (a symbol of royal power and leadership);

Jesus, Son of Man. Luke, whose Gospel is written for a more intellectual audience, is represented by a winged ox (a symbol of sacrifice and strength); Jesus, Son of Adam. John, whose Gospel emphasises that Jesus is God become man, is represented by a rising eagle (gift of the spirit); Jesus, Son of God. These four symbols come from visions described in the books of Ezekiel and Revelation.

Deborah

The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses".



‘Torah’, roughly meaning ‘the way’, but also known as the Law.

This ‘way’ includes many big stories: people are entrusted with responsibility to care for creation; God hears the cry of enslaved people and brings liberation; and the people of God are called to cancel debts every few years – and they are reminded that, just as they were once a wandering people, so they should welcome others who are forced to wander as refugees.

But there are also stories of devastating floods, tribal violence, starvation and genocide. And in this honest mix of stories – of life and hope, death and despair – we find vital resources for reflecting on and living in our own world.

As we wrestle with them, like Jacob/Israel wrestled with God, we rediscover again and again what it means to be God’s people, covenanting with one another, and risking the quest for a better world.

Graham



*The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.*

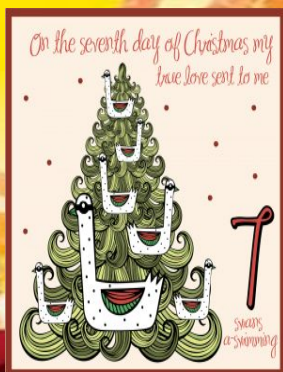


A goose egg is richer, fattier, heavier, larger and more deeply coloured than a chickens egg . Think of the size of omelette you could make with 6 of them! When the analogy of the 6 geese a laying was chosen to describe the 6 days of the creation you can see why. God create something richer, larger and more deeply coloured than what was there before. I am not sure about the fattier and heavier, that may just be the way you would feel after eating a 6 goose egg omelette!

Sharon

The "seven swans a swimming" were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit".

(I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12, Ephesians 4; I Peter 4:10-11).



### PRAYER FOR THE 7 GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ, before ascending into heaven you promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish your work in the souls of your Apostles and Disciples. Grant that I may be open to the work of that same Spirit within me.

Grant me the **SPIRIT OF WISDOM**  
that I may not be attached to the perishable things of this world but seek the things that are eternal.

Grant me the **SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING**  
to enlighten my mind with the light of you divine truth.

Grant me the **SPIRIT OF RIGHT JUDGMENT**  
that I may choose the surest way of pleasing God.

Grant me the **SPIRIT OF COURAGE**  
that I may bear my cross with you and that I may overcome all the obstacles that oppose my salvation.

Grant me the **SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE**  
that I may know God and know myself.

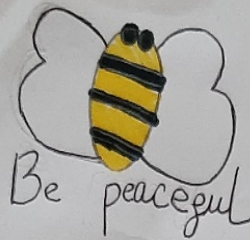
Grant me the **SPIRIT OF REVERENCE**  
that I may find the service of God sweet and attractive.

Grant me the **SPIRIT OF WONDER AND AWE**  
that I may be filled with loving reverence towards God and may avoid anything that would displease him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of your true disciples and animate me in all things with your Spirit. Amen.



The "eight maids a milking" were the eight beatitudes.



By  
Bethan

Sheryl and Bethan



*The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.  
(Galatians 5:22 & 23)*



Nine ladies dancing represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit:  
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.

Dancing is very good for us, both physically and mentally. I know a number of friends from church who dance when they go to answer the 'phone, who talk about dancing on a weekly basis with friends and wonderful holidays a key element.

Paul, writing to the church in Galatia, used the word FRUIT to understand the product or characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Collectively, they sound very daunting, but we know of people, both within the church family and outside who have these characteristics as part of their everyday lives. For fruit to ripen it is important for the conditions to be right for good growth, weather, soil, nutrients, weed-free and so on.

What can we do to ripen the fruits of the spirit?

"Father, fill us with your spirit so that we will show the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives. In Jesus name we pray. Amen"

Jean James

*The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.*

The Lords symbolise judges in charge of the law – the 10 commandments. The 10 Commandments are a blueprint for how we should live which we interpret them based on other parts of the bible, especially the words of Jesus. At their heart they are an instruction and challenge to love God and other people.

While they appear as a list of ‘Don’ts’ we can flip them into a list of things we should do if we are living to God’s law. We can then see the symbolism of the lords leaping in to gift such a great message.

- Love the Lord your God
- Work for the good of all
- Be honest in all that you do and speak
- It is better to give than to receive

Louise Lee



## The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples

Eleven Pipers Piping – JoAnne Roy Community Worker

When I think of eleven pipers piping I automatically think of the bagpipes. This may seem strange considering that bagpipes are synonymous with Scotland, but did you know they were invented in ancient Rome and appeared in parts of the Middle East, such as Persia. Just the like the bagpipes the eleven faithful disciples left their home countries and travelled to share the good news of Jesus.

The bagpipes are a difficult instrument to play due to the complex components that make up the piping I imagine that when Jesus first called the disciple to be *fishers of men* they found it difficult too. However by breaking down the different techniques needed to play and constant practice a student can learn to play the bagpipes if we look through Jesus teaching we can see this is what he did with the disciples.



The sound of the bagpipes can be described as blaring and grating but if you have ever heard a piper play *Going Home* at a funeral then you will know that they have the capacity to emotionally overwhelm you like few other musical instruments can. Just like some people don't want to listen to the sound of the bagpipes there were some who did not want the disciples sharing the good news, however, it was in the early infancy of the Church

that Christianity spread like wildfire so their message was clearly resonating with people like nothing before.

Due to their inspirational influence, the bagpipes were banned in Scotland following the uprising of 1746. They were classified as an instrument of war by the loyalist government and anyone caught carrying pipes was punished. The apostles were crucified, stoned, stabbed, dragged, skinned and burned for their beliefs. Yet each and everyone proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus until their dying breath, refusing to recant under pressure from their authorities.

Finally, for the Great Highland Bagpipe, the chant is never silent so there can be no rest between notes and its volume cannot be changed. The voice of the Holy Spirit is never silent, we just have to listen. The words of the Holy Spirit will never change, God Loves Us, we just have to listen.



*The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.*



"Yeah, I know you're a Christian... but what do you actually BELIEVE?"

We can talk about how God loves us, about how God sent His only Son to save us, about how that Son died for our sins so that we could start anew – or we could recite the Apostle's Creed.

As a Roman Catholic we recite this creed every Sunday at mass – a communal statement of faith from the gathered believers. The language has changed, of course, over the years – we no longer say it in Latin! – but the basics are there:

We believe in God, who made everything

We believe in Jesus, who died for us and rose from the dead – and will come again

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church and the communion of saints.

Of course, just saying we believe it isn't enough. We have to live it."

Leo Roberts

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