



THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

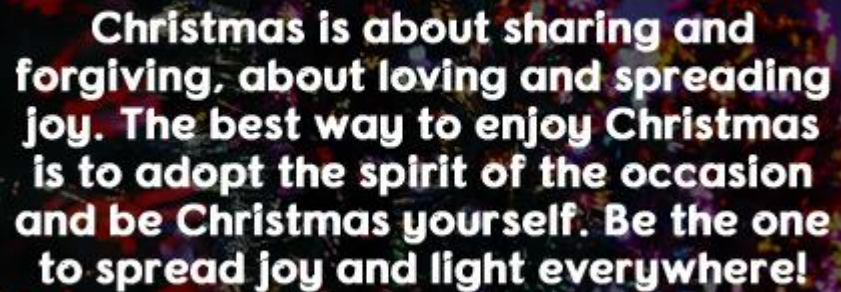
Proverbs 17:22

“A merry heart does good like medicine.”

JOY PEACE HOPE LOVE



Christmas
is coming...



Christmas is about sharing and
forgiving, about loving and spreading
joy. The best way to enjoy Christmas
is to adopt the spirit of the occasion
and be Christmas yourself. Be the one
to spread joy and light everywhere!

WishAFriend.com



THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS – JOSEPH OGBONNA

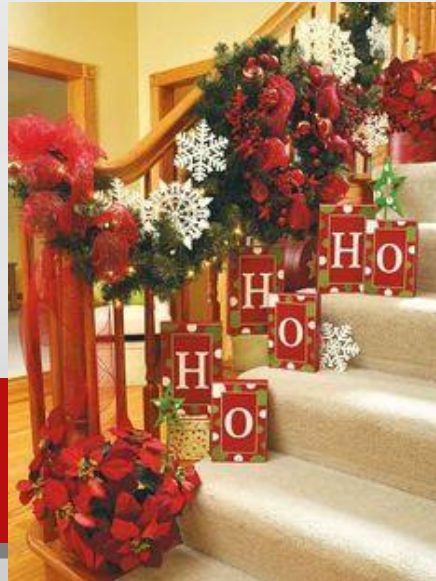
Oh what a pleasant day to behold!
a glorious evening in December,
a day we are sure to remember
the nostalgic happy days of old.



Oh what beautiful moments unfold!
the gladdened carol voices raised,
santa's delights, candle lights of gold,
and relived moments hardly erased.

Oh what momentous delights abound!
the merriment from hearts well laden with joy,
children getting amused with each new toy,
thus restoring bliss once lost but found.

What are your favourite things about Christmas?



BUT IS IT ALL JOY?

THE OLD CHRISTMAS SONG SAYS, "IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR." YET FOR MANY, CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON TO SURVIVE. DEPRESSION, GRIEF AND LONELINESS ARE OFTEN EXACERBATED BY SHATTERED FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INCREASED DEBT LOADS

1. Why do people become homeless?
2. Why is being homeless particularly hard at Christmas?
3. What is done in this country to help homeless people at Christmas?
4. Why is depression likely to be more common at Christmas time?



CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS BORROWED £5.5 BILLION IN LOANS AND ON CREDIT CARDS IN DECEMBER 2022

- WHY IS THERE SO MUCH PRESSURE TO SPEND MONEY AT CHRISTMAS
- WHAT PROBLEMS CAN THIS SORT OF DEBT CREATE FOR PEOPLE?
- WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM – ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS WITHOUT SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY?



PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

- The message of Christmas is “peace on earth,” so we should try to welcome that great Christmas gift of peace. We should join to renounce violence, join the global peace movement and spend our lives making peace with everyone.
- Christmas invites us to reclaim our common imagination for peace, to herald a new future of peace, and so to resist the old paradigm of global war-making.
- ROUGHLY 100,000 BRITISH AND GERMAN TROOPS WERE INVOLVED IN THE INFORMAL CESSATIONS OF HOSTILITY ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT IN WW1. THE GERMANS PLACED CANDLES ON THEIR TRENCHES AND ON CHRISTMAS TREES, THEN CONTINUED THE CELEBRATION BY SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS. THE BRITISH RESPONDED BY SINGING CAROLS OF THEIR OWN.
- THE TWO SIDES CONTINUED BY SHOUTING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EACH OTHER. SOON THEREAFTER, THERE WERE EXCURSIONS ACROSS NO MAN'S LAND, WHERE SMALL GIFTS WERE EXCHANGED, SUCH AS FOOD, TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND SOUVENIRS SUCH AS BUTTONS AND HATS. THE ARTILARY IN THE REGION FELL SILENT. THE TRUCE ALSO ALLOWED A BREATHING SPELL WHERE RECENTLY KILLED SOLDIERS COULD BE BROUGHT BACK BEHIND THEIR LINES BY BURIAL PARTIES. JOINT SERVICES WERE HELD. IN MANY SECTORS, THE TRUCE LASTED THROUGH CHRISTMAS NIGHT, CONTINUING UNTIL NEW YEAR'S DAY

Prayer of Christmas Past, Present, and Future



*Gracious God,
We turn to you in wonder and praise as
we celebrate Christmas.*

*Remind us during this sacred season of our
collective story. May our roots extend deep
into the soil of faith and spread outwards to
share the Good News of Christ's coming.*

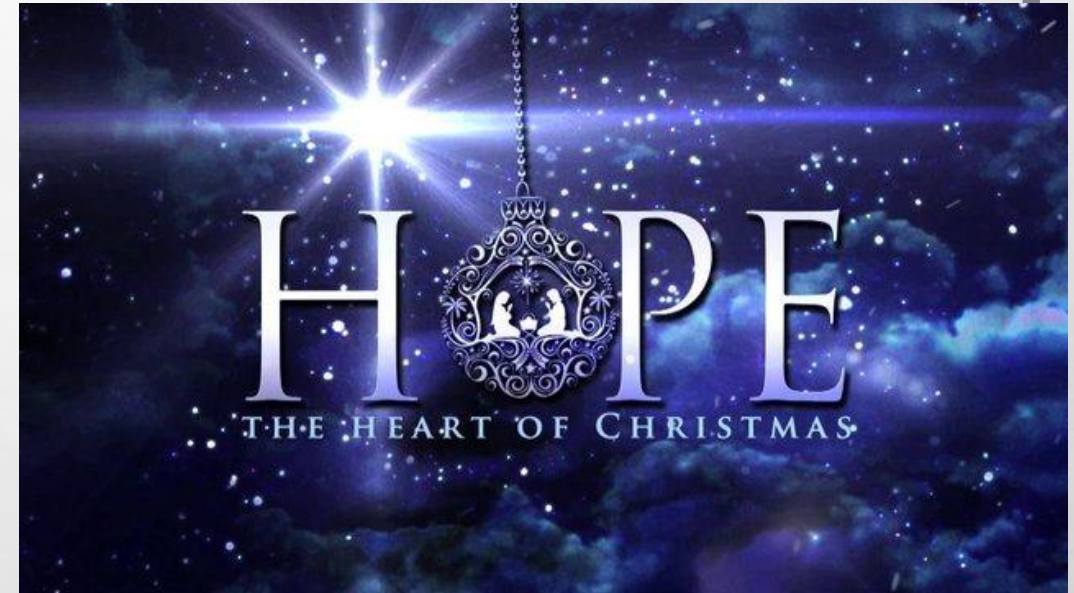
*Focus our attention so that we remain
attuned to the sights, sounds, and sensations
of the season. May the presence of Christ be
at the forefront of our thoughts and actions
as we enact each holiday ritual.*

*Fill us with hope in the continuous birthing of
Christ in our world. May we never lose sight
of the promise of the Kingdom of peace and
compassion that is both present and yet to be.*

*With gratitude in our hearts, we pray.
Amen.*

HOPE AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for hope and joy to triumph over adversity. "Across the world people are fleeing persecution in record numbers, in Syria and Iraq, in the South Sudan and across Europe where more than three quarters of a million people are seeking refuge as winter sets in."



LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

FAMILIES MATTER

My grandmother died a week and a half away from her favourite holiday (Christmas) and we thought that things were at their worst. We were eating in complete silence and all of a sudden my grandfather said the simplest thing: that he was grateful for us being there. That week was the hardest week of my life and I still remember it vividly, but that Christmas when my Grandpa said those words I thought that things could go back to normal.

HELP THE HOMELESS

All throughout my childhood there was a homeless man who slept in our local Laundrette. Every Christmas my mum would cook a big spread and we would take him a heaping plate and I insisted on hugging him. It is one of my favorite memories, and probably one of the reasons I ended up in school studying for social work.

The Orange

When I was 6 years old or so I received an orange from my great-grandmother. I didn't understand why someone had given me fruit for Christmas, until I learned many years later that this was my great-grandma's favourite gift when she was a kid in the 1910s... It was her tradition and her way to remind us that small things could make us happy.



The story of the Magi (The 3 Wisemen) can be found in the New Testament – The Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 2.

JOY PEACE HOPE LOVE

As a class discuss these 4 words:

JOY – what are the most exciting things about Christmas?

PEACE – is this about world peace or personal peace?

HOPE – What are you hoping for this Christmas?

LOVE – How will you show love over the Christmas holidays?

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

How do they celebrate Christmas in Bolivia?

Christmas in Bolivia. In Bolivia, Christmas is celebrated from Christmas Eve until Epiphany (6th January). Most of the population of Bolivia is Catholic and many people go to a Midnight Mass service on Christmas Eve called the 'Misa de Gallo' (Mass of the rooster). At Midnight people like to let off fire-crackers!

CHRISTMAS IN JAPAN

Although Christmas is not a formal, nationally recognized holiday in Japan, the Japanese culture has adopted the season's traditions and spirit over time. Cities celebrate Christmas through festivals and special events, and citizens celebrate the season with sentiment, presents and, of course, food

How Christmas is celebrated in Malawi.

Christmas trees are common in Malawi. Most Malawians do not have the financial resources for an UK-style Christmas, full of gifts and family and feasting. A typical Christmas meal for a Malawian family is not far from their everyday fare, they might have rice instead and chicken. While most Malawians have a family meal at home, the lake is a popular holiday destination for those with resources. Generally speaking, Christmas in Malawi doesn't seem to be as big a deal as in the UK. A student from a college in Malawi told me he wasn't even going home because he had a lot of studying to do. Not bothering with the 4-hour bus trip home? Skipping Christmas to STUDY?



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

- **CHILTERN HILLS ACADEMY WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY ON FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER**
- **PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WEAR A CHRISTMAS JUMPER FOR THE DAY**
- **NORMAL SHIRT AND TIE MUST ALSO BE WORN UNDER YOUR JUMPER. YOU DO NOT HAVE WEAR YOUR BLAZER ON THIS DAY IF YOU WEAR A CHRISTMAS JUMPER**
- **IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE PART THEN YOU WEAR YOUR NORMAL SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Here are your Christmas Quiz Questions:

1. If you were born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
2. What colour are mistletoe berries?
3. What animal carried Mary before she gave birth to Jesus?
4. What ocean is Christmas Island found in?
5. What town was Baby Jesus born in?
6. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as the God of Love?
7. How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in Spanish?
8. What is the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
9. December 26th marks which Saints day?
10. What gives did the 3 wise men give Jesus at his birth?
11. What is the name of the shortest day of the year?
12. What famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
13. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as a female fox?
14. What yellow food item do you find under the icing of a Christmas cake?
15. What drink is traditionally left out for Santa?
16. Who's voice is the train conductor in the film 'Polar Express'?
17. In Japan, which takeaway is traditionally eaten at Christmas?
18. There 110 varieties of which Christmas vegetable?

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- THE FIRST 3 FORMS TO EMAIL ME THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO THIS CHRISTMAS QUIZ WILL WIN PRIZES
- EMAIL - tdobbs@chacademy.co.uk

Here are your Christmas Quiz Questions continued.....

19. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
20. What must have item for the Christmas table did Tom Smith invent in 1847?
21. How many ghosts show up in 'A Christmas Carol'?
22. Which popular Christmas film features the McCallister family?
23. What did my true love give to me on the 9th day of Christmas?
24. Which country provides the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square?
- 25 Which character said 'Spirit! Remove me from this place'?

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I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

A CHRISTMAS POEM FOR REFLECTION

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY BY HENRY LONGFELLOW

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and a
happy new year**