

Reflection

by Archbishop Justin Welby

A light amidst the difficulties of this year has been the way people have cared for each other with generosity and courage. Cynicism about community has often been overwhelmed by love for neighbour.

It has been stressful and anxious, but we have not shut ourselves off from each other. There have been countless wonderful acts of kindness and care, often sacrificial ones.

We've seen these acts of goodness in health and in care, we've seen them in the community and in our neighbourhoods. Most often they have come not from power or position but from love and vulnerability.

That's exactly the sort of love that we celebrate at Christmas. Love that gets its hands dirty. Love that is open and generous. Love that, without great ceremony, makes a difference.

May we find that love, God's love in Jesus Christ, this Christmas. May we share that love, God's love in us, this Christmas. And as we receive, and as we give, may we know the comfort and the joy that is God's gift to us.

Give

Is there a gift, not one bought from a shop or prettily wrapped, that you might need to give another person today?

How might such a gift bring comfort and joy to someone this Christmas?

Pray

God of comfort and joy, may we know your presence with us today and bring your gentle, joyful love to others, this Christmas and always. Amen.

Boxing Day

Joy to the world!

Day
2



Carol Joy to the world

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
Your sweetest songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.*

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)