

Care to Share?

(An opportunity for you to share information related to problems, struggles, or feelings during this covid crisis!)

I have been struggling to decide whether it is appropriate to wish friends and relatives a 'Happy New Year'. It just doesn't seem right, when so many people are struggling with physical and mental health problems, unemployment, loneliness, money issues, abuse, and worries about infection risks whilst out and about shopping, caring, and working.

My conclusion?

I should like to wish you a 'Happier New Year' x

Some historians believe that the song the **12 Days of Christmas** started out a "memory-and-forfeit" game in 1800s England. Another theory is that each gift symbolizes a different aspect of faith which the children could remember:

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.-
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

However this strange song became a Christmas Carol...MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

News headline " Christmas cancelled for millions as Boris Johnson imposes new Tier 4 restrictions"

No, not even Boris can cancel Christmas. Christ's birth will be celebrated in a variety of ways but not in the ways we've been used to.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.

I really enjoyed seeing all the Christmas decorations when delivering my 'Bridge' magazines. Whether it was a simple wreath on the door, or a full blown effort in the garden, it all really brought a smile to my face and joy to my heart!