

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE
UNDER
THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33°
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES
AND ITS DISTRICTS AND CHAPTERS OVERSEAS

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Brethren of the District of West Kent

BAH HUMBUG?

Returning from the golf club this morning, (having been made aware, yet again, that I should try a different sport) as I turned into my road, the shrieking and the smoke and flames made it pretty clear that the grandchildren had come to stay. Oh joy, I thought!

But then it struck me that this is what Christmas and even life itself is really all about, all packed in to that single word

***JOY TO THE WORLD, TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY, JOYEUX NOEL
OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL, JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT***

I can always buy earplugs or get the house rebuilt but experiencing the unspoilt, unaffected and unadulterated joy of children at play is not something that can be bought in a shop or ordered 'online'. We need to treasure and nurture anything and everything that brings joy to us, to our families and to our friends.

Yesterday, I went to the funeral of R W Brother Bill Bryen, a man who brought much joy into my masonic life, and a poem was read containing the words

***If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss***

I can assure you that I have no plans to go anywhere but I would like you all to fill your Christmas, and the coming year, with remembered joy, with friendships shared through our wonderful Rose Croix and as many laughs and kisses as you can fit in.

So, Brethren, **not BAH HUMBUG**, but

Good times, Good friends, Great joy, I wish you all the sunshine of tomorrow!

Graham