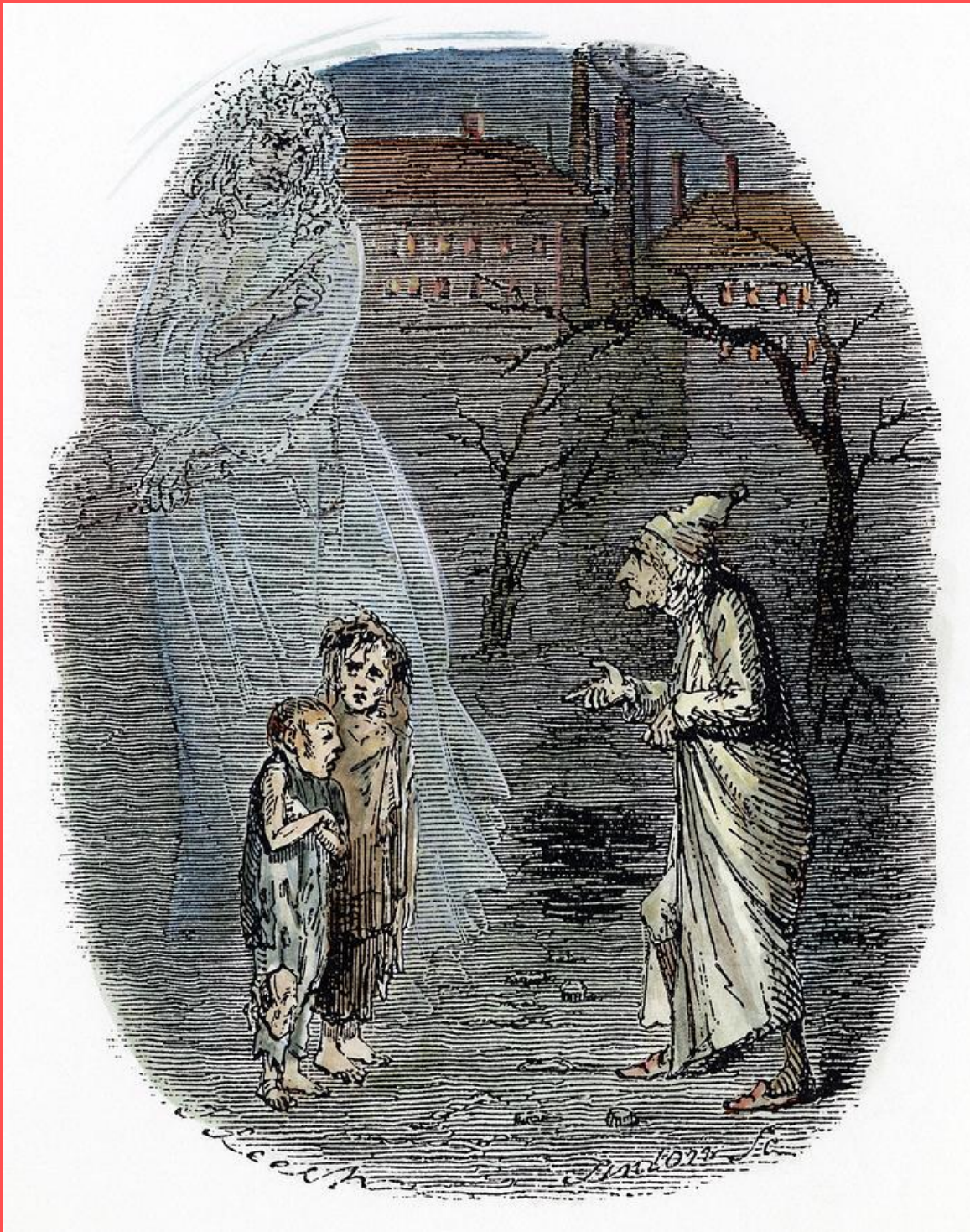


Merry Christmas Caveat and Happy New Year



[12th December, 2019]

Merry Christmas Caveat and Happy New Year

© Mike Ferguson, 2019 [Year of That Election]

Gazebo Gravy Press

Devon, UK

Lloyds Bank Turd

This solidified species
Of 8th century faeces
Measures the digestion
Of York's early Christians.

It's a less privileged and luxurious rule
Then today's post-election Christmas stool.

Once Upon a Time in Now*

In any year of
Christmas and ice,
paths of life are
not always lit where

snow is more the
intent of rain
and sleet and
pouring of its purpose

to nip
and pelt and
grind to a
bitterer crowding in the

counting-houses
counting the cold
and bleak palpable
brown air and

foggy withal of
mere phantoms
once upon and
in this time.

[*found in the opening chapter of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*]

The Christmas Trajectory

the Christmas

with bells on / when you were alone / with knowledge of snow / as
smorgasbord / transcending home / where angels fall / pretending to
have a chimney / inside bonhomie / long-distance call / in someone's
war / when hope lost the election / behind the mystery / becoming
childhood / through mulled eyes / with an open door / you
misunderstood / bloody Number One / that passes by / of frozen
breath / on cocktail sticks / from a store / when Pinocchio didn't tell
all the lies / beyond death / pouring killer roads / wanting more /
inside soap operas and reality TV / that's left over / you can download
/ at a year's end / for lovers / of a lost soul / when food banks ran out
of pies / card you never send / lived with the old / with kids before
they've grown / as an abstract noun /
our Christmas

Christmas Mashage, 2018*

I don't know of
peace on earth
or nothin' –

it's just dog's spewed
palaver, smashing the gaffe
to pieces.

Peace?
On earth?

Even the power of faith
is getting all mardy,
memorials to tribalism
and wars,

the British of them
being told the birth of a child
is why loved ones died.

Perhaps, goodwill to all is never to turn up
at the tribalism of memorials
marked Christmas Day?

It ain't known
if we did not love
in needs of the times in
the first such meetings

when in reality
baffling paradoxes
of a capacity for evil
and a huge propensity
for good

are comfort and reassurance:
a Christmas pretty full on.

I believe messages
are theoretical explanations
for the puzzles
of getting all mardy

and now billions
follow celebrations.

It makes me want to
whack the birthday of the Prince of ages ago.

[*found in last year's Christmas messages from the Queen and Danny
Dyer]

But have some free creative fun:

Christmas Haiku

Activity:

Select five words at random from each the following columns, working from left to right. From these you need to create a haiku, a Japanese lyrical poem consisting of three lines with respectively 5, 7 and 5 syllables. Use extra words to shape your haiku that must be grammatically correct even if it sounds like Christmas tosh.

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Noun
tenacious	Christmas	kisses	mature	carrot
resourceful	Christmas	filters	obliging	teardrop
progressive	Christmas	harmonises	tactful	hammock
assertive	Christmas	squeezes	precocious	sadness
withering	Christmas	sniffles	perspiring	teacher
outrageous	Christmas	undulates	timeless	soothsayer
audacious	Christmas	meanders	teachable	fertiliser
sun-ripened	Christmas	massages	curious	nurse
suggestive	Christmas	whirls	loyal	hamster
fucking	Christmas	catapults	lovelorn	seductress
heart-warming	Christmas	tackles	annual	poverty

Example:

Outrageous Christmas
Whirls the ornaments of the
Mature seductress

Extension Activity:

Add your own words to the columns above. Make up your own haikus based on this and send to your friends.

Festive Acrostic

Crisply cultivating curvaceous Christmas
Haughtily hurdles hallucinating hymnals
Riffling ravenous ribald routines
In insipid idiosyncratic instances
Saving salivating sarcastic saviours
Their tauntingly terrifying testimonials
(Mentioning multifarious marvellous mysteries)
And analysing amorphous anecdotes
Systematically sounding scantily sententious