

A Reflection for Christmas

*And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?*

*And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,*

*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*



(Christmas: Sir John Betjeman)

*My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more
and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception
so that you can always recognise what is best.
This will help you become pure and blameless,
and prepare you for the Day of Christ when you will reach
the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of
God.*

(Philippians 1:3-6,8-11: Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent)