

Touchbutton

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Christmas cheer

It was the night before Christmas.

Father Christmas sighed. Things had really not gone according to plan in 2016, and as a result there were far too many presents on the sleigh. People across the world had risen up and supposedly misbehaved with their votes, causing all sorts of political upset and upheaval. Some observers even felt that Christmas should be cancelled for these people, as a form of punishment, and to make sure that they step back into line in 2017 and behave themselves.

Father Christmas felt this was going too far. He knew that lots of these voters possibly actually deserved their presents even more than most, because 2016 had been yet another tough year for them, following on from many previous ones. Any more of this making ends meet or just about managing, and they may even stop believing in him altogether, and then Father Christmas would be in real trouble. He was well past employable age, whatever the regulations say, and without freedom of movement for the elves, they would be out of work too. To make things even worse, he had read something about the possible removal of passporting into Europe, which sounded like bad news for his deliveries.

As a diversion while he pondered this dilemma, Father Christmas carried out his once a year review of his investment portfolio. Rather to his surprise, it had been another good year, despite the headwinds the investment people talk about. They seem not to have bothered his portfolio too much, although tonight of course they could cause him all sorts of problems.

In deep thought, Father Christmas decided that everyone deserved a happy Christmas because, with some grace given on both sides, it might just make the world a better place, which, rightly or wrongly, he always felt was part of his job. Ever the optimist, he popped a knob of cheese in his mouth, donned his shiny new boots, just delivered by drone - a new threat to worry about - and climbed aboard his sleigh for the long journey ahead.



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