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"Christmas is a time for community, but in this cursed pandemic our communities are far flung things. We are however blessed to be able to reach out to one another across vast distance..."

(Transcript in replies.)



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A hard year lies ahead beyond this week of muted celebrations. The country has, thankfully, just about steered clear of a no-deal Brexit, but that doesn't ease all of the concerns many of us have.

The long-dangling axe of austerity still hangs over many lives, with poverty rife despite the best efforts of famous footballers, and the pandemic remains a deeply unpredictable thing.

For the year ahead I think there are certain priorities. First, to strive to try to build greater trust in our communities.

Second, we need to carry that trust forward into building a movement - and movements - for change.

While I know traditionally people speak of building a movement, of building a singular monolithic greatness to sweep all before it and carry the day for all, I do mean both.

I am unsure whether it matters which movement - at this time - you join or support. What matters is that the movement you trust is a compassionate community first and foremost: for its members but also for outsiders.

For myself, this means Harmony. And I hope many of you will join me.

Regardless of whether you do or do not - Christmas is a time for community, but in this cursed pandemic our communities are far-flung things.

We are however blessed to be able to still reach out to one another across vast distance and say: I love you. I support you. I stand with you in solidarity.

And to you, one of my communities, I wish a very merry Christmas... and regardless of reality, hope for a more beautiful year in 2021 than any of us can see coming.