

THE CHRISTMAS LIST

By Rod

This poem illustrates how easily Jesus gets omitted from our thoughts at Christmas.

I've just looked at the calendar
And I've had a nasty blow;
It's already mid-September-
Only one hundred days to go!

Soon the lights will be a-hanging
Up above the busy streets;
Frenzied shoppers rushing madly
Searching for their Christmas treats.

In the stores we'll hear Bing crooning
Of his pure 'White Christmas' dream,
Drowning out the ring of cash tills
And a trampled toddler's scream.

I must start my preparations.
I know what – I'll make a list.
If I can get well organised,
Then nothing will be missed.

We'd better start with Christmas cards:
Say a hundred – that should do;
Or maybe only ninety-nine,
Omitting Jim in Timbuktu.

We'll need tape and coloured paper,
Scissors, ribbons, string and glue,
All for wrapping up those presents
That I'll give - to, let's think, "Who?"

There's Mum and Dad, and John and Sue,
Great Aunt Nell and Uncle Fred,
Chris and Trish with all their kids,
Dave, Elsie, Jo, Pat and Ed.

But what on earth to give them all?
Last year everyone got socks.
I can't repeat that master ploy,
I could try a box of chocs.

We must have some decorations,
And fairy lights for the tree;
I rather fancy those flashing ones –
My wife thinks they're rather twee.

We'll need a sprig of mistletoe
Under which to snog Christine.
That reminds me; "Urgently required –
Fresh supply of Listerine".

And then we come to food and drink,
But just where do I begin.
I'll start with my priorities:
Number one comes Gordon's gin.

Then turkey with all the trimmings,
Brandy butter with Christmas pud,
Satsumas, nuts, dates and crackers.
It's all sounding very good.

I must find our Christmas stockings
To put out for Father C,
But I sense there's something missing.
Dear oh dear, what can it be?

I'm sure I've listed ev'rything
That will make this Christmas great.
We'll be loaded down with presents
And I'll have the fullest plate.

Yes, of course, at last I've got it!
How could I have been so dim?
You see, Christmas isn't Christmas,
If we don't remember Him.

For God gave us each a present,
The very best He could afford.
To truly fill our Christmas plates
We must take Jesus as our Lord.