

16th December 2020

Ready

“I think the necessity of being *ready* increases. Look to it!”

Abraham Lincoln

The entirety of a letter to Governor Andrew Curtin of Pennsylvania

Years ago, I conducted a big society wedding. The bride and her more-than-capable mother had been planning it for months. I asked the groom what part he played in the arrangements. “I just do what I’m told,” he said.

I once worked on a project with a friend who was meticulously organised. Clipboards, spread-sheets, rotas. “Mr Logistics”, we called him. Maybe we could have hired him out as a wedding-planner too.

There are some – like a bride’s mother and Mr Logistics – who’re good at organising. There are others who are disorganised, *laisse faire*, last-minute, forgetful – but have to be involved and just do what they’re told. Christmas will be different this year, but there will still be lots to organise. But, in the midst of the planning, will you get *yourself* prepared? Christmas isn’t just about logistics and to-do lists. It’s about you, and your attitude to the meaning of it all. Are you ready to make sense of that too?

Ready to go when the day has arrived;

Ready to join the event;

Ready to share in the frolics and fun;

Ready to state my intent.

Ready to come to the party at last;

Ready to join with the throng;

Ready to share when the crowds are in place;

Ready to feel I belong.

Ready to know that the time has come round;

Ready to join with praise;

Ready to share with the band striking up;

Ready in wonder to gaze.

Ready to find out the worth of it all;

Ready to join with the rest;

Ready to share in the laughter and song;

Ready, prepared for the best!

Adapted from *A Blessing to Follow* by Tom Gordon

A prayer for today

Lord, ready my heart to be prepared for your love in my world. Amen

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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