

PURE LAND NOTES

Journal of the Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK

A SACKFUL OF GRATITUDE

SUPPLEMENTING MY EDITORIAL IN PLN31

I have not celebrated Xmas for twenty years now. As a diabetic, teetotaling, vegetarian Buddhist with no family to speak of aside from my grown-up son who now house-shares with friends of his own age in London; I found it easy to turn away from the ‘treats’ that this holiday period is supposed to bring us!

Perhaps one day that son of mine will gift me with a grandchild so that then, there in my dotage I may once again believe in Farther Xmas *et al*; but until then I can do no more than be content with the lot that I have got.

Fortunately, I do have all I need. I have, considering my age, reasonable health, I have a roof above my head and I have a larder full of food that I can bake, boil, grill or microwave and consume anytime I wish. Sure, I do spend a lot of time in this house alone but I have learnt to live with this, and the few friends that I do have are very special people because, despite our different lifestyles, we are on the Buddha Way together. We are a true ‘Fellowship’ in as much as that we lead our own separate lives in our own way ... but we have commonality in Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.

I cannot deny that I am pleased that Xmas is over because this means I will see my friends again soon. In preparation for this I have used the holiday period to clean Chomon House from top to bottom so that it is ready to welcome the first 2017 gathering and the recommencement of our endless but sometimes loosely structured Jodo Shinshu Dharma study and practice.

This 318-word piece written by PLN editor Rev Daichi Gary Eobinson appeared in PLN issue #31, published spring 2017.