

Christ's Happy New Year

But did anyone ever wish Jesus A
HAPPY NEW YEAR?
Surely for Him each new year
Was a year of fear ...!

The Bible opened out before His eyes:
His future sufferings came as no surprise
For He had the prophet Isaiah to scan:
'He will be a worm and no man.'
'He will be a leper whom no one will greet.'
'They will pierce His hands and pierce His feet'.

Well before He suffered under Gethsemane's tree
In His Nazareth groves He
Surely sweated blood – flood of blood.

After in His father's workshop He'd fashioned crosses of wood
Did He dream on His childhood pillow how He would
Have to carry a cross, and be nailed to the beam?
Did He awake from the nightmare with a soul-searching scream
Every cup was a chalice, filled with sin to the brim.
Did Mary and Joseph fearfully hear Him
Cry: 'My Father, take this chalice away:
But not a I, but as You Yourself say'?

Yes, He'd lived through those fears
Through thirty three 'New Years':
But a vision of love shone bright through His tears
When He saw many a Simon giving loving help with the Cross:
When He saw many Veronicas wipe His blood with their towel:
When He heard many a Good Thief's repentant avowel:
'Don't sneer and jeer; we ourselves are evil: He is good;
Let Him die in peace on His bed of wood.'

May we,
As we see year by year flee,
Christ's caring Simons and Veronicas be.

Brother Dennis Robert (1911-2006)