

What I want for Christmas

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Neoliberalism is dead. The wreckage it has created is all around us. So, this Christmas, I want a new political vision. I don't think that's too much to ask for, is it?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7UgC1Gb7uw?si=E_D2psh2tszDI1aJ

This is the audio version.

https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=nk5es-17809a5-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=f6f6f6&font-color=&logo_link=episode_page&btn-skin=c73a3a

And this is the transcript:

It's Christmas Eve, and I want a vision for Christmas.

No, I'm not talking about a new stable or angels appearing in the heavenly heights and singing Alleluia. I'm talking about a new political vision because, let's be honest, at the end of 2024, what we know is that politics is completely broken. It's not just broken in the UK; it's broken around the Western world.

Neoliberalism is broken. It has run us into a cul-de-sac from which there is at present no escape. Unless, that is, we have a new political vision.

And at the moment, there is very little sign that vision is going to appear from our

politicians. They are dedicated to that neoliberal view that if only we let markets do whatever they wish, then profit motivation will result and, as a consequence, resources will be allocated optimally in society.

Neoliberalism has no explanation for poverty as a consequence.

Neoliberalism has no explanation for fear.

Neoliberalism has no explanation for those left behind in a world that doesn't care.

And I do care. That's what this channel, that's what my politics is all about.

I want a vision that puts care for people at the heart of our politics this Christmas.

I'm not interested any longer in discussing a political vision which is all about balancing the books and talking about finance and pretending that money is the be-all and end-all of everything when caring is.

When we have children in poverty, when we have pensioners who will die of cold this winter, when we have people who are homeless or who are living in homes so substandard that there is water running down the walls, when we do not recognise our neighbour as ourselves, then there is something fundamentally wrong with our society.

And that's it. There is something fundamentally wrong with our politics that does not shout out about these things.

And so, this Christmas, what I want is that new vision.

I'm not pretending we've got it just yet. We haven't got all the answers right now. I will be exploring some of these themes over the next few days.

This is after all, Christmas, and politics - at least the active form of politics that we find in Westminster - is kind of quiet right now. So, instead, I'll be thinking about these bigger issues. But. That's not long enough to create that vision. In 2025, this channel is going to be about how we create that vision.