

Hate, or peace?

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The [Guardian reported](#) this morning that:

The Church of England is to launch a poster campaign aimed at challenging the anti-migrant message of Tommy Robinson, whose “Unite the Kingdom” movement has urged its supporters to join a carols event next weekend to “put the Christ back into Christmas”.

Yaxley-Lennon (Robinson's real name) is apparently planning to promote “God, faith, family, homeland” through Christmas carol services.

I am most definitely not here to preach, and won't, but this is deeply depressing. If Jesus is Christ, then nothing about the story he told is about hate, and yet everything Yaxley-Lennon does is all about just that.

Jaqueline and I discussed this during a walk this morning, and talked about Christmas music, agreeing that as we are in Advent right now, this piece by John Rutter is the most sublime Advent carol:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXAAGDWpglg?si=SrqhiWlv4mTdT6QH>

We then began discussing Rutter, and his massively distinctive writing, and ended singing this to no one but ourselves by the River Ouse:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLkcakqqOEY?si=JpppV-vZfVSFH39h>

The lyrics are:

*Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the howling air to you
Deep peace of the quivering earth to you
Deep peace of the gentle stars to you
Moon and stars and the gentle night on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you*

The style does reflect Gaelic Christianity, its thinking and its liturgy.

It is as far removed from the politics of hate as you can get.