

# THE CHRISTMAS LIFE

"If you don't have a real tree, you don't bring the Christmas life into the house."  
Josephine Mackinnon, aged 8

Bring in a tree, a young Norwegian spruce,  
Bring hyacinths that rooted in the cold,  
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold:  
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Bring red and green and gold, bring things that shine,  
Bring candlesticks and music, food and wine.  
Bring in your memories of Christmas past,  
Bring in your tears for all that you have lost.

Bring in the shepherd boys, the ox and ass,  
Bring in the stillness of an icy night,  
Bring in a birth, of hope and love and light:  
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

*Wendy Cope*



Wendy Cope was catapulted to fame in 1986 when her first collection was published:

*Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis* ("I knew it wouldn't be much of a poem / But I love the title"). Before that she had worked as a primary school teacher for 15 years, but now she is established as one of our funniest and most eloquent poets. She is married to another poet, Lachlan Mackinnon.

