

An 'up to date' Nursery Rhyme



- † Ten little churchmen went to church when fine,
But soon it started raining, and then there were nine;
- † Nine little churchmen stayed up very late,
One overslept himself, and then there were eight;
- † Eight little churchmen on the road to Heaven,
One joined the rambling club, and then there were seven;
- † Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday "flicks",
One thought he'd like to go, and then there were six;
- † Six little churchmen kept the place alive,
One bought a television set; and then there were five;
- † Five little churchmen seemed loyal to the core,
The vicar upset one of them, and then there were four;
- † Four little churchmen argued heatedly
Over ceremonial, then there were three;
- † Three little churchmen sang the service through,
Got a hymn they didn't know, then there were two;
- † Two little churchmen disputed who should run
The next church concert, and then there was one;
- *****
- † **One faithful churchman knowing what to do
Got a friend to come to church then there were two;**
- † **Two sincere churchmen each brought in one more,
So their number doubled then there were four;**
- † **Four sturdy churchmen simply couldn't wait
Till they found four others, then there were eight;**
- † **Eight eager churchmen searching round for souls
Working, praying, witnessing, drew others in by shoals;**
- † **Shoals and shoals at every service cramming every pew,
O God, supply this grace and zeal in my own parish too!**

Contributed by Keith Macdonald

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Take a letter

The boss is never known to vary:
He dictates to his secretary
While, lion-like, he's busy pacing
The office floor, and either facing
The wall, and in a muted tone
Confiding to the wood and stone,
Or resolutely standing by
The window, talking to the sky.
And meanwhile, hands in pocket, he's
Jangling clips and coins and keys
Or tearing paper into scraps
Or drumming out some pencil taps
Or cracking knuckles as he twitches
Or fiddling with the buzzer switches.
If asked, he'd tell you and not blink
It calms his nerves, it helps him think –
Though all of this would not appear
To help his secretary hear.

Submitted by Jean Brown

To perceive **Christmas** through its
wrappings becomes more difficult
with every year

E B White

Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts.

No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given,
when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children,
the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes.

Joan Winmill Brown