

The Christmas Lists

Debbie Pullinger

An
Advent
Calendar

January brings Twelfth Night at last;
All decorations stowed and Christmas passed.

In February, just because you should,
You buy some cut-price crackers and a pud.



Time's Marching now, but stripped and left for dead,
The naked tree's still propped beside the shed.



Five Kinds of
Christmas Card

The card made of light

Breaks forth from its envelope
And beams.

Recycled radiance from a morning star,
It resists darkness
And all understanding,

To wave at you,
particularly,
from the mantelpiece.

The card made of verse

Is also light, and made to order,
Coming at night and crossing the border.
A borrowed line, an image plucked from air,
A kind of tune which all things seem to hear ~
They seek a form to fit this seasoned time;
The great I am becomes a human rhyme.