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### Inspired by Covid

Perennial snowdrops flowered, the early spring equinox dawned  
Inviting lengthening days  
Churchillian-like the Leader asserted Covid lockdown  
A slightly wary public was commanded  
To Stay home. Protect our NHS. Save lives.  
Kitchener's 'Your Country Needs You' interpolation revisited.

The directive that insulted, it challenged our heroic forefathers' hard-fought freedoms.  
Panic-stricken shoppers demolished supermarket shelves  
A plague. Unknown. Incomprehensible. Indiscriminant.

The sick, the weak, the vulnerable and septuagenarians confined  
To homes, houses, flats and apartments  
Sorrier victims imprisoned by circumstance to a room, if lucky  
Unfortunates share minute meterage with bed, sink and loo

Stockpiled goods for some; hunger, poverty, devastation and destitution others  
Opportunities to exploit, cheat and steal render otherwise unassailable seniors to full-blown angst  
Fed by journalists' reports; relentless rolling news  
A Thesaurus of terms spew in torrents  
Abominable, heinous, monster virus, sombre, despairing, pessimistic, bleak  
A wretched time indeed  
And darkness befalls. Engulfs.

Art galleries, builders' merchants, cafes and depots closed  
Astounding silence where once machine and operator hummed in synchronised production  
Servants threatened by unyielding demands. Exhausted. Overwhelmed. Drained.

Then came the weekly CLAP  
Wondrous support to nourish spirit and soul. The caring Carers Loved, Applauded Publicly.  
Unity. Love. Affection.  
Unrivalled benevolent compassion.  
Heroes and critics allied.

And after darkness came the light. The Easter message typified?  
Hungry to help. Engaged in charity. Decency arisen midst desolation  
Acts of kindness, mammoth gestures. Annexed thoughts of troubled prospects  
Young and old joined by in-betweens  
Harmonise to thwart Covid victories.

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