'Enlightenment (The Devoran Old Quay Scrolls)' is a long poem from a book manuscript, *Reframing the Something of God*, which is a collection of poems written individually by myself and H.L. Hix exploring what we called 'Recuperative Theology', a fictional theology based in philosophical and poetic doubt, incomprehension and scepticism. 'Enlightenment' is an erasure poem, taken from a recent novel (also called *Enlightenment*) and keeping the selected words and phrases in their original place and relationship to others on the page. The poem draws on *The Dead Sea Scrolls* (published by Penguin Books in its English translation) for its form and presentation – including bracketed conjectures of missing words, with the title referencing the village where I live in Cornwall and our local pub, The Old Quay. It tries to be both comical and maintain a sense of mystery as it juxtaposes pub banter and asides with the 'absolutely improbable' idea of God and notions of 'ordinary grace' and 'wonder' which is the final word of the poem. As Archbishop Makeshift says in his 'Introduction', 'There are different answers to most questions and here are some of them'. The closing stanza from another of my poems in the book, 'Testimony', might also shed some light: 'I keep returning to the idea that God / is in our village pub with a pint of beer.'

Rupert M Loydell, September 2024