So raise a glass and have no remorse,
It’s the Eastern Region Ministry Course!

From Cambridge to Milan and all the churches in between, my heart is pumping,
To find a reason why we’re all in one region.
With luck we’ll be coming to a centre near you, though that’s for the few,
The reality is Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, avoid speaker view...

So raise a glass and have no remorse,
It’s the Eastern Region Ministry Course!

Every once in a while, too often for some,
We all come together, it’s supposed to be fun
There’s learning in classes, exams in the bar
From the number of glasses, this group will go far!
Were the privations of Belsey all part of the test?
Does rose-tint or Stockholm’s make the memories the best?
It’s about to get bumpy, so hold on tight,
Instead of buyers’ remorse, we have leavers’ delight!

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Our principled Principal’s teutonic tutoring
Is at turns entertaining and profoundly improving
His vice has no vices, or that’s how it seems,
But does Dallas hide JR-like takeover schemes?
You could ask Revd. Read, if you have a spare hour
He’ll have seen it before in Durham’s ivory tower
Real power is wielded in subtler ways,
And lays firmly with Rachel and her withering gaze...
I could mention them all with their talents unique,
But I still have assignments being marked next week.

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To be fair to the staff, not natural I know,
This body of students puts on quite a show
From the lows of reliving our mis-spent youth,
To the highs of bright sparks ‘seeking for truth’
We’re unteachable, lazy and quite often dim,
But we got through selection, so tough luck, we’re in!
We’re all at different ages, and stages and pages,
The retired, the surviving and those earning wages, There’s
the quiet, the loud, the shy and the proud,
In other TEIs it’s just not allowed.
But despite all our differences, we’re in this together,
Whatever comes next, this bit’s forever!

So raise a glass and have no remorse,
It’s the Eastern Region Ministry Course!

Another year ends and a cohort departs,
From strangers to friends and off to new starts,
So get an extension if you want to prolong,
(Though RPC long just goes on, and on, and on, and on...) 
There’s a last time of worship where you don’t have a role,
Then it’s pebbles and tea lights till the Lord takes your soul!
With a stole out for blessing, and no doubt a tear,
We’ll leave you poor suckers in this vale of fear!
So keep the fire burning in Ridley and High Leigh
Then pass on the baton, and do it quickly,
See the ERMC go from strength to strength,
As long as they can keep the lights on and pay the rent!

So, for one last time, raise a glass and have no remorse,
It's the Eastern Region Ministry Course!