

Great Malvern Priory December 2009/January 2010

From the Vicarage

Peace for Christmas and the New Year?

Dear Friends,

Peace is a word to be found in a wide range of greeting cards at this time of year. Peace seems to bridge the range of seasonal sentiments, whether religious or secular. But what do we really mean, when we wish one another peace at Christmas, and peace throughout the New Year?

For some, peace is about enjoying a time of rest and refreshment. A clergyman I once worked with, when asked the question, ‘What would you most like at Christmas?’ used to reply, ‘A little p and q.’ For him, peace was about having an undisturbed oasis of calm, a welcome opportunity to put his feet up after all the seasonal activity.

For others, peace is about a truce, a seasonal cessation of hostilities. Like the British and German troops on the Western Front who came out of their trenches on Christmas Day 1914 to greet one another and to play football together, so some seek to make a special effort at this time of year to try to get on with those who they would normally choose to avoid, or who they consider to be a foe rather than a friend.

Such peace – whether a seasonal rest or a truce – is at best only a short-term fleeting experience. The un-peaceful reality of life soon intrudes, because the world in which you and I find ourselves living is anything but peaceful. Just as it was on that first Christmas, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Yet the message at the heart of Christmas is a message of peace. When the shepherds were told by an angel of the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem, St. Luke continues “suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’” (Luke 2: 13, 14). The message of Christmas is one of peace – peace from God, and peace with God.

Jesus Christ was born so that we can be reconciled to God through Him. When we accept that Christmas gift by faith, then Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace promises to come into our lives, and to dwell with us always. And it is in Jesus Christ alone, that we discover what true peace really is – the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Peace which is about the healing of broken relationships – with God, with one another, with ourselves, and with this world. And we can experience this peace even in the midst of life’s storms. For it is Jesus who says to us “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14: 27).

Wishing you peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year – the peace of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace,

John Barr, Vicar

Priory People

“Some memories of Gordon Appleby from his pre-Priory days, as a lecturer in Singapore”

MEMORIES OF GORDON APPLEBY
from some of his BBA (Hons) students 1973-1976 news having eventually filtered through

BENNY LEE (73/76) now President of the Business School Alumni writing on behalf of all the Bizad students whom Gordon taught:

Your late husband is fondly remembered by all of us first, for his love for his charges - yes, at 57 and having three kids myself, when I was a mere 21 at first year, what with two years of National Service for us boys, we were but truly "charges" and nothing more! He was particularly kind to me because during my second year, I won the first Japan Airlines Scholarship to Sophia University and I suppose my full-height photo in the Straits Times of the day must have given him quite a bit of "boasting rights" amongst all the Deans. In the seventies, going abroad for us poor Singaporeans (a 3rd world country still at that time!) was a big deal both for the University and for the student population. In the final year, he then sent me for interviews with all three companies that came to our campus to recruit graduating students and I got selected for two out of the three, much to the chagrin of the cohort - I think! The two employers were Gillette Asia Pacific and International Bank of Singapore....Alloysius Ang was selected by IBM. Sad to say, Alloysius has also passed on about two years ago..

The second thing I recall about Prof Appleby was his smile...he had a sweet smile, come what may and he was such a contrast to our local lecturers most of whom put on a very stern face!

PETER Yew Beng TAY who in true Chinese-style refers to Gordon by his first name:

It is with the deepest regrets to learn of David's passing away last year. We in Singapore missed him a lot. I was from the class of 71-74 (74-75 Hons) and we had so much laughter (typical British humour) from David. He was a live-wire and I remembered his joke during the exam period at the end of Dec 73. When he was passing out the exam papers, he quipped that he was passing out the Christmas Carols song sheets, much to the laughter of the class. His

light-heartedness really put many of us at ease during such tense examination sessions.

I also clearly remembered taking a photo with him and my late mother at my BBA (Hons) graduation at the Singapore Conference Hall in 1975. It is still so vivid in my mind and I must look out for that photo. I also remembered his encouragements and of course his broad British smile!

His passing away is indeed a great surprise to all of us. The School would be celebrating its 45th Anniversary this year and we were thinking of bringing David back. Perhaps you could represent him when you visit Singapore. We will keep you informed of the events and dates.

I represent the cohorts of 1973/74 BBA and 1974/75 BBA (Hons) in extending our deepest sympathies and condolences to yourself and family on the passing on of our beloved Prof David Gordon Appleby. Though our earthly sentiments long for him, we know that he is in a better place with our Lord, Jesus Christ. I am sure he missed us all too but surely he is smiling now knowing that we truly appreciate his friendship and love for us on earth, and as the Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 (New International Version): "I (DGA) have fought the good fight, I (DGA) have finished the race, I (DGA) have kept the faith"

May the Lord's healing hands and solace abide with all of you during this period of bereavement.

SIMON PHUA wrote:

My wife Jenne and I are from the BBA (Hons) 1975/76 cohort and are saddened to learn of the passing of Prof Appleby. We were fortunate to be tutored by him during our Third and Honours years and remember him for his friendliness, warmth and sincere concern for the development of all of us.

We would have appeared in the Yearbook as Phua Kheng Jin, Simon & Lim Sock Hwa. We now have three grown up children. Our eldest daughter, Audrey 28, graduated from Kings' College London and now works legal counsel for a Dutch Financial Group. Son, Allan 25, graduated from Univ of Chicago & Yale in Economics and works for the Singapore Government and our youngest daughter, Daryl 24 will hopefully graduate from NUS as a medical doctor next April.

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Pathfinders at Fort Rocky

On the 25th September, we set off from the Priory at about 6pm on an adventure weekend at the Pioneer Centre at Cleobury Mortimer. None of us knew what to expect. We had been promised a weekend of fun, games and meeting with God. For all of us, adults and young people, it was a very special time with stronger relationships between the group and several young people making a commitment to follow Christ.



Pathfinders camp leaders
workshops were great!" **Danni**

"At Fort Rocky, we did lots of activities. We went to different parts of the world every day. The food was good apart from Ollie's chicken burger which wasn't cooked properly (and Sarah's gluten free beef burger!) During the fun times and the serious bits, it brings you closer to God. One of the lessons we girls learnt was that if you see a fit (good looking) boy, then think of him as your brother for we are all brothers and sisters in Christ." **Whitney**

"The swimming pool and the

"Fort Rocky was an adventure holiday. It was fun. We went swimming, rock climbing and abseiling. We dressed up in Hawaiian costume for the Saturday evening roadshow. We had a whole day of 5-a-side football! Thank you for the minibus." **Ollie**

"Every day, we went to a different destination because this year the camp was based on "Around the world". At these destinations, we would play games to do with the different countries and also learn more about the Christian Faith. We heard Bible stories told by the leaders in different and funny ways. We heard each leader tell us "Why God rocks their world". We were also told how we should tell our friends about our faith. These talks were interesting and funny at times. We also did lots of activities such as; rock climbing, abseiling, obstacle course, zip wire, high ropes and swimming (at about 7 in the morning in an outside pool!!!). It was the first Christian camp I've ever been on and probably the best I will ever go on! It was absolutely amazing!!" **Catherine**

We would like to thank all the members of the congregation who supported us with prayer and by fundraising. Our cake and biscuit sales proved very popular and raised in total £187.31, which was used to reduce the cost of the young people's weekend. The Eden house group raised money during Lent which allowed us to have a minibus for the weekend which was much appreciated by everyone. We are hoping to go again next year so watch out for more cakes and biscuits and other fundraising events!

Sarah Bevan

RSCM Worcestershire Area Choirs' Festival 2009

From around 2:00pm-6:30pm on 7th November, anyone who walked into the Priory would probably have done a double take as the building was nearly filled to the brim with choristers. There was a spectrum of different coloured cassocks and an age range from about 6 to 80+yrs! It was all because the annual R S C M Diocesan Festival was happening in Malvern Priory in the presence of the Bishop and Dean of Worcester.

Massed choirs in the nave

As you would expect, there was a lot of singing going on, and a highlight for me was the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D by George Dyson; with around 300 choristers (and, of course, the organ) the last few chords were pretty spectacular!

As part of the service, Deans and Bishops medals were presented to choristers (young and old) from different choirs; 4 of which were members of the Priory choir (Freddie Wolff, Gemima Hull, Katherine Stokes and Sophie Ellis) so congratulations to them.

Sophie Ellis, Gemima Hull, Katherine Stokes and Freddie Wolff

Joanna Barr

"While Shepherds Watched"

An evening of reflection, in anticipation of the Nativity



Music, readings and worship with
John Gerighty, Guitarist & Composer
Malvern Priory
Sunday 6th December at 6.30pm

Behind the Scenes at the Priory



Three years ago Rosemary and I came to Malvern and joined the Priory 'Family'. As a retired clergyman and wife our first thought was, "Keep your head down and enjoy being congregation!" It soon became clear that this was not the best way to serve the Lord or the Christian community into which we were welcomed. This has led us to realise that we are all called to use our skills and experience in His service and in building up the Christian community, so we began to get to know people and to get involved. Striking the balance between church, family, friends and the wider local community means sometimes saying, "No!", but here are a few of the Priory, "Yeses!":

Rosemary is on the Witness Group, an occasional sides-person and is a member of the Mothers' Union.

We are both part of the Prayer ministry Team and sometimes 'steward' for concerts and have helped at a fete and other events. We both value being part of a House Group.

I assist with services, sometimes leading or preaching, other times serving. It has been a joy to celebrate a couple of weddings and, of course, there are funerals in which God's love and care needs to be shown. The Door to Door visiting preparations for next year have been given to me, too. My other ministry is to the wider community, (on behalf of the Priory). This means that I have become chaplain to the Fire and Rescue Services in Malvern and am trying to develop a chaplaincy to the shops and offices in the town. A special interest has been to work with the Morgan Car Co. for several of their centenary year events and services.

Why are we telling you all this? Simply because, as ordinary members of a large congregation, we believe that the more we get to know each other and of each other's contribution to the family, the better we will be able to love one another!

Tony and Rosemary Whalley

War Memorials

The Malvern Town War Memorial is the large, winged bronze figure in front of the Public Library. It represents the Spirit of Youth holding aloft the light he has saved from extinction and is by Richard Goulden, dating from 1923. The long list of 360 names from the 1914-18 war is in the entrance hall of the library.

The Priory War Memorial by W. D. Caroe has the 42 names of those who worshipped at the Priory or whose families were associated with the Priory. Its cost of £600 was met by public subscription and the list of subscribers still exists down to donations of 2 shillings (10p). The original plan was to turn the Jesus chapel, (North Transept), into a memorial chapel but this was shelved in 1919 as impracticable. The first drawings for the present memorial were considered in 1921 and the completed memorial was unveiled on Armistice Day in 1923. Subsequently the parishioners gave two carved oak benches, cost £20 each, to be placed at right angles to the memorial so that those who had lost relatives could sit there and remember them. These benches are now behind the monks' stalls in the Chancel.

The memorial is of Beer stone with fluted Ionic columns and has the royal coat of arms, from a 16th C model, the diocesan coat of arms with its 10 torteaux and the Worcestershire arms with its pear tree. On either side of the central panel are St. Mary and St. Michael the patron saints of the Priory. Writing in the parish magazine the Vicar, the Revd. Linzee Giles said "the figure of St. Mary symbolizes the role of women, she also represents the Mother giving her Son to save the world from a threatened disaster. St. Michael shows the warrior angel triumphing over evil in the form of a dragon". He then waxed lyrical and wrote "Mary is on a slightly larger scale than St. Michael expressing in a subtle way that there is something greater than might, even exercised in the best cause, and that love is the greatest thing in the world".

Michael Martin

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Stop Press:

Faith at Work in Worcestershire

At the 10.30am service on 7th February 2010 we will welcome as our preacher the Revd Dick Johnson, Industrial Missioner at Faith at Work in Worcestershire. He will be preaching at the end of Poverty and Homelessness Action Week and will be addressing issues such as the local impact that the recession causes through the experience of redundancy and unemployment.

Watch the weekly news sheets in January as more details become available.

The Priory Bell-Ringers

We are still up there!

Despite our set-back earlier this year, when the Diocesan Chancellor finally gave his decision over the bell-frame, we are pleased to report that negotiations with English Heritage are on-going.

At the end of May, the Central Council of Bell-Ringers visited Worcester for their Annual Conference. Our area was host to tower visits by their members after our Sunday services. Several of their members, with Canadian connections, joined with us at the Priory Tower for Sunday service ringing.

The Priory band has rung for six weddings this year on either 6 or 8 bells depending on availability of ringers. We were pleased to ring and attend the Memorial Service for Mary Dixey.

Each year we enjoy two social events, the Picnic and the Outing. Unbelievably, after 36 hours of incessant rain, 17 ringers including family enjoyed a picnic sitting on deck chairs at Kinver Edge. Alison Hodge brought her hand-bells to be played, adding intrigue to passers-by. Earlier, we rang at low-beamed black/white Wolverley Church, then Kinver Church where Chris Pickford made us very welcome.

Again, the weather was superb for our main Outing of the year, when we visited 6 towers in the Stroud area starting at Haresfield at 10.00 am. Cynthia and Tony Palmer had gone to considerable trouble to plan a day without a hitch, providing us with detailed maps to guide us across country and through Stroud to Chalford, Horsley, Quedgeley and Maisemore, taking in a huge Farmer's Market and village fete en route.

At Chalford, the bells were made of steel, giving an unusual sound not exactly appreciated by some, although the Ringing Room décor was exceptional. For the remaining 12 stalwarts at the end of the day, an excellent pub meal had also been organised at Staunton. It was a grand day out in every sense and much appreciated for the care taken.



Malvern Priory Bell-Ringers Annual Outing 2009 with the Band outside Stroud Parish Church

Visitor numbers have been down for our last two Ringing Room Open Days. There is just one more occasion this year to visit: on December 19th from 1pm until 4pm. A warm welcome will greet those who brave the 101 steps.

A welcome also extends to practice nights when it is usual to include 19 regular ringers, some from other Towers within the District. This, together with holiday visitors on Sunday mornings, has given every opportunity for the 8 bells to be rung; occasionally even 9!

Ann Silk, Priory Bell-Ringers

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Craig and Claudia Smith's Bakiga Community Project

Christmas Water Tank



We are seeking to build a very large water tank for the people of Bukoora. It will hold around 20,000 litres saving many in the village from walks of up to an hour to carry back Jerry cans of water. Villagers can choose to buy water, but it is expensive. We will sell the water at less than half the price they currently pay, assisting the village and also providing an income for the project.

The tank will cost around £500 to build so please consider contributing to a lasting Christmas gift that will really make a difference.

*A smaller tank we built for the project,
holding 6000 litres*

csmith@crosslinks.org

For details of how to support the Water Tank, please email Craig & Claudia Smith at

For more information and details about the Bakiga Community Project:

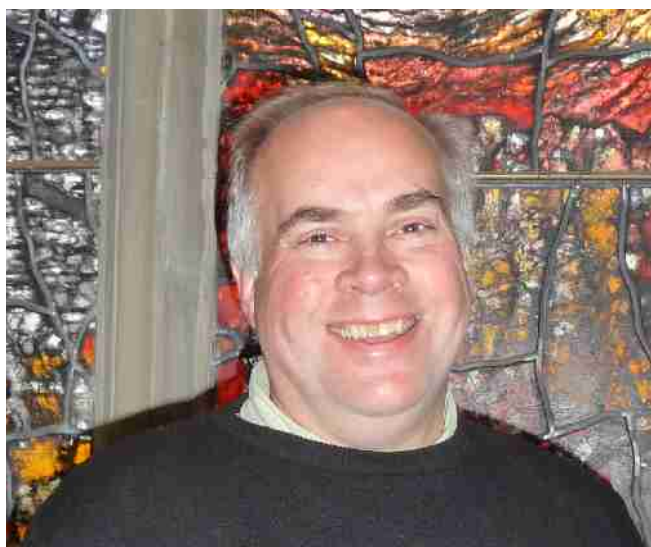
<http://smithsinafricaprojects.110mb.com>

He who is generous to the poor lends to the LORD.

Proverbs 19:17

Who's who in the Priory

Meet Derek Valentine



When and why did you come to Malvern?

In 1992 when my job relocated from London to Birmingham. My wife, Mary, comes from the West Country so we naturally gravitated to the southwest of Birmingham. We actually live just outside Upton-upon-Severn.

Why did you come to the Priory?

My children were quite young then and the Girls' Choir was just being established. We were looking for a church choir for our three girls to sing in and David Cooper was very welcoming.

How would you describe your relationship with God?

I was brought up in an active church-going family and attended John Keble Church, Mill Hill in northwest London, one of the few Anglican churches dedicated to an Anglican saint. It was a lively parish with many activities going on for children. Although I sang as a boy in the church choir my main involvement with the church was in the sanctuary undertaking a variety of roles supporting the worship. It was there that my interest in liturgy and worship grew and I remain very interested in that aspect of church life. I am now a member of Praxis, a group whose mission is 'enriching worship today'.

What are your roles in the Priory?

I am a member of the church choir and a strong advocate in the value of good music (of all styles) in raising the quality of worship. I am also a member of the PCC.

What is your favourite Scripture?

I try to use the summary of the law as my guide to life; Matt 22:37-40 ...” *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.* This is the greatest and first commandment and a second is like it: *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.* On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

What is your favourite piece of church music?

The anthem *Blessed be the God and Father* by S S Wesley, based largely on text from 1 Peter.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
Which according to his abundant mercy
Hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for
you
Who are kept by the power of God
Through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
But as He who has called you is holy so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.
Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.
Love one another with a pure heart fervently.
Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God.
For all flesh is a grass and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth
and the flower thereof fadeth away.
But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen*

Not only does it have great words but Wesley's music lifts it to another place, making it, for me, one of the most complete pieces of church music ever written (CD *O Praise the Lord* by the choir of Great Malvern Priory, track 16. Available in the Priory bookstall).

What are you passionate about?

I suppose it would have to be music! My large CD collection reflects my broad passion for all forms of music. My children are amazed at the eclectic nature of my taste and hopefully my first grandchild, Sophie, who was born in August, will grow to appreciate some aspects which missed a generation!

Do you have any desires?

Although, regrettably, I don't expect to see it, my desire for the church is to see 'one holy catholic and apostolic church'. United we could achieve so much more but we continue to spend far too much time on relative irrelevancies. (Stir up, we beseech thee O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people).

Sylviane Outram

Faith, Fun And Foolishness At Christmas

Come and see Roly the Clown
Saturday 19th December 2.00pm

Roly Bain is a full time, freelance, professional clown and an Anglican priest. His clowning is rooted in the Gospel and his thought provoking and entertaining presentation of Gospel themes never fails to provoke a profound response.

Children And Parents All Welcome

No Charge – Donations To Great Malvern Priory



The Great YOMP Challenge

The Red Rockets (Dion, Morgan, Rebecca and Peter) were the victorious team in the Great YOMP (Youth of Malvern Priory) Challenge on 17th October. This battle of skill, knowledge, dexterity and even a little cunning involved identifying tunes from only a few notes, telling truth from bluff, moving Smarties with a straw, building a tower able to support an egg using only spaghetti and play-dough, answering questions with numerical answers and identifying pictures of people and places. Would you recognise the National Anthem from the first 3 notes? Can you tell your Barak Obama, from your Lewis Hamilton and your Tiger Woods? Or even more problematic your Prince William from your Prince Harry! A great evening was had by all in the Guesten Room with a bring-and-share meal, and eager competitors from school years 4-9+.

As usual we had a great time and Claire and I would like to thank our helpers on the night, Sue and Nick Maxfield Phillips, David and Jonathan.

Sarah Guy

A Happy Christmas To All Our Readers.....

.....from the Magazine team, and all the best wishes for the New Year.

We would like to express our thanks to three groups of people:

Firstly, all those who have provided us with articles, reports, notices and all the other items that go to make each issue of this magazine.

Secondly, to all our advertisers for their support – and of course especially their financial contribution which allows us to produce a magazine at all.

Thirdly, and by no means least, to each one of you, who has purchased and read the magazine each month – we hope you have been enjoying the various items, and if you have any suggestions, comments, criticisms.... then please get in touch with any one of us.

If you do not know, the magazine team are....

*David Webster, Editor
Roger Sutton, Finance, advertising and collation / delivery
Colin Hagger, Cutter, paster and assembler of items*

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Mothers' Union News

Four members from Malvern attended MU Diocesan Council. Volunteers are needed to help at Women's Centre in Worcester, to knit for families in need and to make cards (5,600 last year). Passionate about Parenting is the new title of the Parenting course. The MU has a stand at Wedding Fairs including at Three Counties (next one March 28th). Summer 2010 we look forward to visit of our MU sisters from Uganda. Hospitality and help in preparing for their visit will be appreciated. Prayer is the backbone of our MU work so whether or not we can take part activities we can pray. If we are not sure of activities we have excellent new magazines *familiesfirst* and *familiesworldwide*. *Worcester Waves* fills in local information. Our theme for Speakers next year is 'Relationships not Rules'. The General meeting is on June 24th at Preston. Would anyone like to join me for the daytrip? There is also an MU holiday that week based in Preston and led by Jean Swift (MU Worc).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the coffee morning enabling the repair of the banner. It will be dedicated at the morning service on December 6th. This will be an opportunity to pray for the work of the Mothers' Union here and throughout the world. Five years after the renewal of Mothers' Union at the Priory our twenty four members witness to Christian Care for Families in many different ways. Age range between our youngest and oldest member is over sixty years! We are at very different stages from looking after children to being looked after by our children! New members are always welcome.

Dorothy Knights

Malvern Priory Lunchbox

'Excuse me, Sir' is often the opening gambit from an American tourist seeking information among the seven thousand that visit Westminster Abbey every day. One of the key tasks of the Chaplain on Duty is to meet visitors, answer their questions and, with simple hourly prayers, reinforce the ambience of the Christian significance of the building. Quite often visitors have no idea of what the building is for and it is explained to them that it is not only the most important Church in the country – being one of three Royal Peculiars - but that services are held at least three times every day.

Canon John Atkinson, now retired in Ledbury, is one of sixty Parish priests who share the job of Duty Chaplain in the Abbey for one week every year during which time they live in the Abbey precincts.

In addition to ministering to visitors in the Abbey and St. Margaret's next door, there is responsibility for the pastoral care of the two hundred employees of the Abbey and the taking of Communion three times a week.

It was particularly appropriate that Canon Atkinson was talking in the Priory with its strong historical links with Westminster Abbey at the time of its foundation in 1085 and also, latterly, with the gift of the north windows by Henry VII.

The next Lunchbox Meeting is on Thursday 3rd December when there will be a Christmas Concert by Malvern Parish School. The concert starts at one o'clock, bring your own lunch from 1230, refreshments available.

Roger Sutton

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**This photograph was taken by
Peter and Maureen Buckland's son
Mark
on 25th December 2008 while he was
staying in Sydney .
What a witness by this skilful sky
writer
and on Christmas Day!**



Come and sing carols
accompanied by the
Malvern Chase Brass Band
Sunday 13th December at 3pm
at Christ Church
Avenue Road
Free entry Refreshments
Collection in aid of St. Richard's and St. Michael's Hospices

Breakout!

On October 15th several members from the Priory together with others from churches in Malvern attended a meeting at St. Andrew's church. We heard David and Jenny Rosser tell the story of how St. Andrew's Chorley Wood revolutionised their church through breaking out into the community! They formed "mission shaped communities" within the local community, meeting in coffee bars, community centres, a home for the deaf, and also in a centre in the deprived area of the town. They met people where they were, having a "café style" church" The "mission shaped" groups consist of around 50 people. The vicar sent initially 72 members of his congregation out to set up these communities. Now there are over 1,000 Christians meeting in the community.

It was an inspiring talk, and those of us there were challenged to see how we might do this in a different context in Malvern.

"Breakout", the book written by Mark Stibbe and Andrew Williams, is the story of this church's amazing growth through "mission shaped communities". It is the story of one church's move from a "come to us" to a "go to them" approach. Plenty of food for thought!

Rosemary Webster

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Lyttelton Well Christmas Book Fair and Art Exhibition

Thursday 10th December 2009
In the Lyttelton Well Guesten Room
From 12 noon to 6pm Admission Free

We have arranged for a wide range of stock of New Books for this special opportunity for everyone to get their Christmas presents or to just browse one of the largest ranges of new Christian books ever seen in one place in Great Malvern. There will be books for all ages and for all denominations.

There will also be an exhibition of paintings by one of our regular customers, which will also be on sale. Come along and enjoy some good company, pictures and books – brighten up a dull winter day.

Local artist Gil Tandy will be available throughout the exhibition to discuss his pictures on display all of which are for sale. This is an opportunity to purchase an original painting as a special Christmas gift.

Safer Media Campaign for the sake of our children and our society

People in Britain today are deeply concerned about the moral 'meltdown' in the media and the effect this is having on children and young people. They are now exposed to virtually unregulated growth in the portrayal and glamorisation of graphic violence, sex, drugs, bad language and anti-social behaviour on TV, in films, DVDs, magazines, music and the internet. The watershed has become outdated with 'what you want, when you want it TV', television in children's bedrooms, and easy access to the most appalling material on the internet via computers, mobile phones etc.

We are a small Christian organisation, run by volunteers, dedicated to raising media awareness and giving the silenced majority a voice. We have been campaigning since 1999, with nine peaceful marches; a 121,000 signature petition to No.10 Downing Street; 2 postcard campaigns; letter-writing campaigns to the BBC; collaboration on a 'Children and the Media' Parliamentary Conference and booklet in 2007.

At our 2008 Conference on 'The Harmful Effects of Violent Films and Computer Games on Young People's Behaviour, and Effective Preventive Action', Prof Kevin Browne of Nottingham University underlined the proven link between violent media content and violent behaviour among vulnerable young men and said it was a public health issue. Based on our Conference findings, the Home Affairs Committee on Knife Crime interviewed Prof Browne and said: "We were disturbed to learn that young offenders who are convicted for violent offences are allowed to watch violent DVDs and video games in secure units and young offending institutions, given that they may increase the risk of violent behaviour in those already predisposed to violence. We recommend that the Ministry of Justice institute a ban on this kind of material."

The lack of positive role models in fatherless families and the greater numbers of working mothers are not enough on their own to cause such extreme behaviour among our young people. Other outside influences are exerting a strong hold over them. Left to their own devices, they are subject to a barrage of 'cool' anti-social media messages from Big Brother to ultra-violent films. On-screen violence desensitises children and young people, and encourages this dreadful rise in mindless aggression and murder.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR POSTCARD CAMPAIGN TO HELP REDUCE VIOLENT YOUTH CRIME by banning films, DVDs and games classified '15' and '18' in Young Offending Institutions etc . Numbers are vital - please get in touch. Local contact: Tel: for more information, postcards and literature. [mediamarch website: www.mediama](http://mediamarch.org.uk)rch.org.uk or tel: 020 8467 6452

Mediamarch, PO Box 7121, Dorchester, DT1 9EJ
www.mediamarch.org.uk

Forgotten?

Gifts to buy and cards to send,
Shopping lists that never end,
Time's so short, so much to do,
There's no room for such as You.
Laden down with gifts galore
As we rush from store to store;
Who's the next one on the list?
Is there anyone we've missed?
In the corner, half forgotten,
Lies the Son of Man begotten.
Born into this world's dark night,
He offers us his gift of light.
If there's no room, will we reject him?
With hands so full, can we accept him?

Author unknown

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Pre-Raphaelite stained glass for this year's Christmas stamps

The iridescent beauty of stained glass has told the nativity story for more than a thousand years, and it is now the inspiration for this year's Royal Mail Christmas stamps.

The seven stamps, issued in early November, feature characters from the nativity depicted in pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows selected from churches around the UK. Artists include William Morris, Henry Holiday and Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Stamp designer Andrew Ross researched hundreds of photographs of stained glass windows before finally making his selection.

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A Christmas Prayer

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

Anon

Gentlemen's Christmas

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
You may be sure the ladies
Have sorted Christmas Day!
They've shopped and chopped and scrubbed and wrapped,
They've bought and dressed the tree
So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!

Now come, ye merry gentlemen,
And follow my advice
You'd better not upset her,
Or you will pay the price!
So get you to the nearest town
And buy her something nice -
Then you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
Then you will have a joyful Christmas Day!

So then, ye merry gentlemen
Who've tied those marriage knots,
Once Christmas lunch is over
Tell her you love her lots.
Then prove it, merry gentlemen
By washing up the pots.
And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!

Then, just as you are thinking
What a good chap you've been;
Perhaps you'll watch the movie –
It's one you haven't seen.
Forget it, merry gentlemen,
She'll want to watch the Queen!
But she's earned a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
She's really earned a joyful Christmas Day!

by Nigel Beeton

Just for fun

Here Is Your Holiday Homework

Bible Study

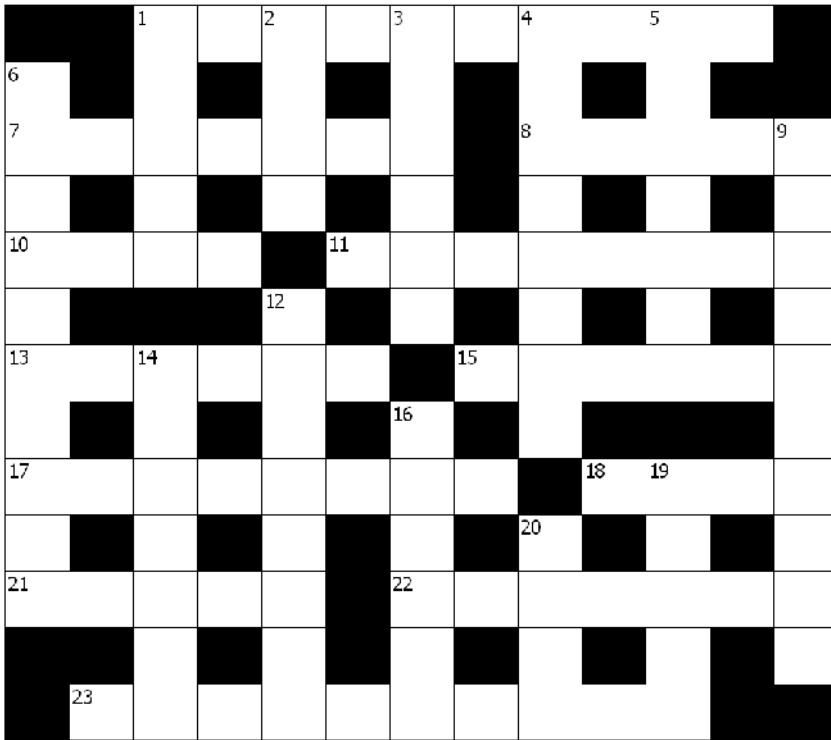
Can you find sixteen books of the Bible? I once made a remark about hidden books of the Bible (merely by fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and to others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One minister found fifteen books in twenty minutes but then took three weeks to find the sixteenth one.

– o0o –



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Crossword December 2009



November Solution

	H	O	P	E	F	U	L	N	E	S	S	
T		F		X		R		O		O		W
H	I	T	T	I	N	G		D	U	P	R	E
E		E		T		E	R	E		R		S
O	Z	N	I		R		E		W	A	I	T
L			C	L	I	M	B	S		N		M
O	B	E	Y		T		U		J	O	N	I
G		P		C	U	C	K	O	O			N
I	N	I	T		A		E		Y	A	W	S
C		T		E	L	M		G		C		T
A	L	A	R	M		E	P	I	S	T	L	E
L		P		I		N		F		E		R
	W	H	I	T	S	U	N	T	I	D	E	

Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 ' — and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living — , holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)