

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



There is a list of folks I know  
all written in a book,  
And every year at Christmas time,  
I go and take a look.  
And that is when I realise  
those names are all a part,  
not of the book they're written in,  
but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone  
who has touched my life some time  
And in that meeting they've become  
The "Rhythm of the Rhyme".  
I really feel I am composed  
of each remembered name,  
And though they may not be aware  
of feeling quite the same,  
My life is so much better  
than it was before they came.

For once you've known that 'someone',  
The years cannot erase  
the memory of a pleasant word  
or of a friendly face,  
So never think my Christmas cards  
are just a mere routine  
of names upon a list,  
forgotten in between.  
For when I send a Christmas card  
that is addressed to you,  
It is because you're on that list  
of folks I'm indebted to.

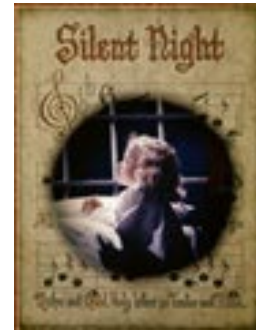
And whether I have known you  
for many years or few,  
In some way you have had a part  
of shaping things I do.  
So every year when Christmas comes  
I realise anew,  
The biggest gift that God can give  
is knowing folks like you!

*Contributed by Jean Clark*

Mankind is a great immense family .....  
This is proved by what we feel in our  
hearts at Christmas

*Pope John XXIII*

## History Group



A seasonal topic at the meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November was "The History of Christmas Carols". Mt Richard Stanners, a well-known musician, choirmaster and organist talked us through the centuries of their origins and adaptations. The word "carol" which to us means "a Christmas song" comes from the French verb "caroller" which originally meant to "dance round in a circle", but soon came to include singing as well. St Francis of Assisi was responsible for first introducing carols into church services in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and Oliver Cromwell banned them in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

It was the Christmas-mad Victorians who were responsible for reviving them and writing new joyful tunes that we still sing today. With Richard's knowledge and enthusiasm for his music, I'm sure all those who attended will sing Christmas carols this year with a lot more gusto and understanding of their origins.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful 2010.



*Margaret and Grace*

### **A Scottish Blessing**

If there is righteousness in the heart,  
There is beauty in the character.  
If there is beauty in the character,  
There will be harmony in the home.  
If there is harmony in the home,  
There will be order in the nation.  
If there is order in the nation,  
There will be peace in the world.  
So let it be.

**(Author unknown)**