

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.

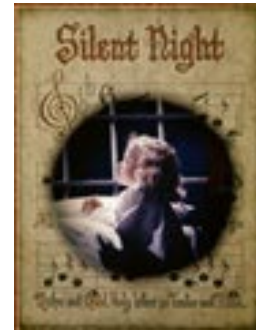
And whether I have known you
for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part
of shaping things I do.
So every year when Christmas comes
I realise anew,
The biggest gift that God can give
is knowing folks like you!

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 5th 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 12th century and Oliver Cromwell banned them in England in the 17th 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)