

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, December 18, 2013

# Free Press

freepressseries.co.uk

Dear Friends,

This comes with Margaret's and my best wishes to all the Readers of the *Free Press* for a merry Christmas and a peaceful and blessed New Year. Above all the message comes with prayers and hope for a more peaceful world where nations will continue to sit round one table despite their differences and talk things through, even if there will be times when they must agree to disagree. Jaw Jaw is always to be preferred to War War, as that greatest of statesmen Winston Churchill rightly reminded us.

Yes, we often wish for Peace, and rightly so. But not the Easy Peace. What we should strive for and pray about is the Peace that will not be achieved without a large amount of prayerful negotiation and loads of patience too. Above all, the Peace we should seek is the Peace that comes from God, and Him alone, the Peace in our hearts that only He can give, if only we let Him.

"Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me." The first line of a popular chorus often sung in churches. And it is not selfish to sing that, rather it is a sign of personal commitment and readiness to receive that Heart of Peace from above. And the feeling you can have inside is beyond words.

As far as I am concerned, the year ends with a lot of promise and a lot of hope, with much to look forward to. The Mighty Bean, which perhaps some of us thought was going nowhere for a while, is very much alive and preparing to open up to and work with and for people with any kinds of personal needs, under the "wings" of Church Together in co-operation with the town council. And Street Pastors (and Street Warmers when they reopen soon) continue to make our town a safer place. Who can honestly say that Caldicot is not a vibrant and forward-looking community?

May God's Peace find a Heart of Hope and Love in everyone this year. God bless you.

Preben Andersen

Thought for  
the weak



with the Rev Preben  
Andersen