

## Pastors Comment *(continued)*

... Another dear friend, who frequented our Fellowship Lunches, was Herbert Nonjung who died on November 1st. Herbert had an amazing testimony of being a German SS officer in WWII as a Panzer tank driver on the Russian front. He was wounded and taken prisoner at the end of the war only to end up in Malborough marrying a lady called Hazel and playing football for Malborough village! Denis and I managed to catch his testimony on DVD last May; this became a wonderful gift for his family and friends in Germany.

Marjorie is on our hearts and in our prayers at the moment—having enjoyed a wonderful birthday she is currently in hospital and appearing quite frail. Please pray for her quick recovery and relief from pain.

We warmly welcome Malborough Pre-school who will be acting out their nativity play at the Chapel. If you can spare a few moments on December 19th at 2pm then it would be a great encouragement. Meanwhile, have a great Christmas and blessed New Year!! *Pastor Tim.*

### Services

#### December

1st	Rev Tim Skillman
8th	Rev Tim Skillman
15th	Mr Chris Bishop
22nd	Mr Denis King & Candle-light Service at 6.30pm
25th	10am, Rev Tim Skillman
29th	Collective Worship

#### January

5th Rev Tim Skillman

### Isaiah 9:6

*“For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

### Flowers

#### December

1st	Ms Brown
8th	Mrs Sterry
15th	Mrs Hallworth
22nd	Christmas
29th	Christmas

#### January

5th Special Request

### Hoovering (week ending...)

#### December

7th	Mr Jones
14th	Mrs Tucker
21st	Ms King
28th	Mrs Sterry

#### January

4th Mrs Jones



MALBOROUGH  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

MINISTER  
REV TIM SKILLMAN



# Fellowship News

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Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

## Light in the darkness

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)*

A few days ago all the lights went out from West Alvington to Salcombe—there was a frenzied rush to Morrison’s and Tesco’s to buy the last of the hot food and packets of candles. Takeaway phones were ringing off the hook as Esther and I waited for a pizza at PizzaPlanet. And people from the surrounding villages were talking about the power outage and tried to guess how long they would be without light.

Without light there is fear and uncertainty; indeed, we groped around looking for matches and candles being careful not to bump into things or fall over them (well at least that what it’s like in our household!) It reminded me how much we need the light and how much we take it for granted.

When we struck that match and watched it light the candle, little faces glowed and smiles appeared. Warmth filled the room and shadows flickered (of course, one of ours—you can guess— started chanting ‘Happy Birthday’ and we had to hold her back from blowing it out!) Even in the darkest room, the smallest light brings hope and warmth.

... Isaiah wrote *“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness a light will shine.”* (Isaiah 9:2, NLT)

Jesus of course is the light and we bathe in His brightness, enjoying His truth, hope, blessing, peace and so much more. But He doesn't expect us to keep it for ourselves: In Luke 8:16 and Luke 11:33 Jesus says *“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.”*

In the same way, as people groped in the darkness looking for matches and candles a few days ago, the same people around us continue to grope in the darkness for hope and truth. Jesus calls us to put His light on a stand; it's not meant to be hidden in a cookie jar (so we can help ourselves now and again) or kept under our bed (presumably to keep ourselves warm) ... but we are to share His light so that all who see it can come in (to the kingdom).

Let us remember His light this Christmas and continue to share it in the coming New Year. Bless you!

*Pastor Tim*

## **The night before ...**

***Tom was so excited as he lay in bed with his duvet tucked up to his nose in the darkness. His mind raced as he thought “What’s the greatest gift I could get this Christmas?” ... “An Xbox One? a Samsung Galaxy? May be a bike or a drum kit?” Tom’s thoughts wandered through the glow of Christmas as he thought of meeting his cousins and friends .. the fun of pulling crackers and reading awful jokes. Scrumptious turkey, cranberry sauce, roasties and stuffing ... playing in front of the Christmas tree with all its glistening lights and shiny baubles.***

***Without thinking Tom said “Father, what’s the greatest gift I could get tomorrow?” ... and, in the darkness, he heard a baby cry. TS***

## **What’s on this December ...**

6th – Second Constitution meeting at 2pm

12th—Fellowship Lunch at 12.30pm

19th – Pre-school nativity play at 2pm

22nd – Candlelight service at 6.30pm

25th – Christmas Service at 10am



## **Pastors Comment**

Although expected, it was sad to hear that Kirby is no longer with us. Rev Daniel French paid a wonderful tribute to Kirby's memory and captured his character in a nutshell; Kirby, so full of life, enthusiasm and encouragement had no time for boring meetings and was impatient to cut through red tape. He was a man who put his hand to the plough and didn't look back.

I too found Kirby's life an inspiration in the way he got involved with us as a Baptist Church—he often attended an evening praise, a lent course, a carol service and always planned ahead for us to work together in one way or another. I found his enthusiasm refreshing and wonderfully challenging.

“Well done, good and faithful servant”—are words that could sum up Kirby's life as I'm sure the Lord has already expressed to him. As mentioned in the Malborough Messenger, a shortened video of Kirby's last service at All Saints Parish Church, November 2012, can be viewed on YouTube. Type the following in your browser to watch it;

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-lx2PySh4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-lx2PySh4A)