MALVERN QUILTERS Christmas tree 2025

This project for Malvern quilters began in July 2025 as a summer challenge to make stars. In September the group divided into small teams to design and produce the different branches of the tree, demonstrating the variety and level of skills and techniques in patchwork and quilting within our group. It was team work that made this outcome possible.

From the top down (look out for the elf!)

- **Top row**

The start of "Oh Christmas tree" reproduced in gold and silver thread by four rows of free machine embroidery. A "Bethlehem star" rotary cut and machine pieced, in silver, gold and lace fabric tops the tree.

- **Second row**

The top branch of the tree was created using foundation paper piecing where the pattern is printed on to paper and then fabric stitched by machine using the lines on the paper. It allows for accurate sewing and is particularly suited for small pieces with sharp angles.

- **Third row**

This branch of the tree is constructed in a modern style and machine sewn. A Modern quilt has some of these design elements: asymmetry, improvisational style, minimalism or negative space. It does not usually have one repeated pattern.

- **Fourth row**

This branch is made from hexagons using the traditional method of English Paper Piecing. Fabric is wrapped around paper and either glued or tacked in place, then hand sewn together either randomly or to make larger designs and the papers then removed.

- **Fifth row**

This branch is made from 'Pinwheels', triangles that are rotary cut are machine sewn together. This technique was chosen as a block that would provide skills in cutting and accurate piecing, especially ideal for the beginners in our group.

- **Sixth row**

The final branch of the Christmas tree was created using scraps of fabric, then covered with a layer of organza creating a more translucent effect. This was then 'free motion' machine stitched in place. Small pinwheel and windmill blocks have then been appliquéd on top.

- **Seventh row**

This row depicts the trunk of the tree, made from two log cabin blocks and also 'needle turned' appliqué Elf legs (the elf is hiding behind the tree).

- **Background**

Predominantly 'Evening Star' (or Sawtooth) blocks in white, cream, silver and gold on a dark night sky background.

The Tree comprises three layers which have been sympathetically machine quilted and the edges bound and stitched down by hand. The backing reflects the tree on the front.

For information on Malvern quilters go to www.malvernquilters.co.uk
Or contact chairmpq@gmail.com and secretarympq@gmail.com