"What Saye Ye?"

English spoken in the Middle Ages was very different than it is today. Chances are if you were transported back in time to England in the Middle Ages, you would be unable to understand much of what was being said, as the spellings and pronunciations of many words were not the same as they are now. Some words that were common in the late Middle Ages were put into expressions below. Try to match the expressions on the right to their modern meanings on the left. A good dictionary will help you, if you need assistance.

1. She was pretty.
2. He didn’t keep up with his contributions to the church.
3. She had a very nice cloth (scarf) covering her head and chin.
4. An excellent meal was prepared.
5. She was witty.
6. Come and have fun with us.
7. He is quite wealthy.
8. His horse had difficulty walking in the mud.
9. Cheer us up.
10. She was on a small horse.
11. Listen to me, sweetheart.
12. The priest had a big church and many parishioners.

a. “Good victuals were served.”
b. “Come join our merry company.”
c. “A comely lass was she.”
d. “She was well-wimpied.”
e. “A ready tongue was hers.”
f. “His mare floundered in mire.”
g. “Jolly us now.”
h. “Wide was his parish.”
i. “His tithes were in arrears.”
j. “Pray hear me, true love.”
k. “He had goods enough.”
l. “She rode a palfrey brown.”