

This month's letter is from Revd Andrew Smith

My dear friends,

Thus writes Alfred Lord Tennyson from his poem In Memoriam in which, using wonderful imagery, he conjures up the sense of renewed life and hope a new year represents:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go

The turning of a year will mean something different to each of us. Some will make resolutions (always, I fear, a failure on my part!) whilst others seek new hope and dreams. For many it will be a case of looking both backwards and forwards - rather like Janus, the Roman god of gates and keys.

As many will already know, this year will greet us with great changes in how our ministry is shaped, from Minster community restructuring to inclusive progress through the 'Living in Love and Faith' initiatives. Aspects of such enormous change may be unsettling to some and exciting to others. What is important is that we remain committed to each other and expectant of the breaking in of Christ's Kingdom.

As to 2025, my prayer for everyone (and I will always hold you in prayer) is an awareness of the knowledge that God's love surrounds you in whatever circumstance you find yourselves. Whenever you hear the bells of our church buildings, may they bring you joy and the sense of God's peace within your lives.

With love and best wishes for 2025,

Revd Andrew