

## Pages Old and New

As one year turns into another, we feel the quiet hinge of time—old pages closing, new ones opening. Over the last twelve months, for me, many pages old and new pages have closed and opened. I finished my College training at Sarum College in Salisbury at the beginning of June and few weeks later was ordained a Deacon in the glorious Salisbury Cathedral. Since then, places that have always just been names on signposts like Ham, Shalbourne, Buttermere... have become real to me. My first seven months as Curate with the Savernake Team have flown by and I have been warmly welcomed into my new page by so many people. There have been big changes and the seasons teach us that change is not something to fear, but something woven into the wisdom of creation. Winter strips the branches bare, not to punish them, but to prepare them for new life. Spring does not hurry; it arrives when the time is right.

So too with us. The turning of the year invites reflection without regret and hope without haste. What has fallen away may have done its work. What lies ahead will come in its season. As Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 reminds us that there is “a time for every purpose under heaven,” and our task is not to control the seasons, but to be faithful within them. Sometimes God’s timing can seem a very long process but ultimately it is perfect.

As we step into a new year, may we trust the God who holds all seasons in His care. May we let go of what has ended, tend what has been entrusted to us now, and wait with patience for what is yet to bloom. For the same God who brings winter also promises spring—and in every season, walks with us still.

Revd Brenda Woodrow.