

I welcome you to St Mary's for the funeral of Tim Tomlins. The most frequent contact I had with him was when each morning my wife Ann and self went to the Coop to collect our newspaper. Tim was usually there and we would exchange a few pithy remarks about the stupidity of growing old. If we had been earlier than Tim then I would look out for the dark coloured Volvo estate with the registration beginning P 273 when a set of hand waves would be exchanged. We all have our own memories.

Today we have gathered together each bringing our unique set of hopes, fears, doubts and uncertainties but this is a Christian Church and I am a Christian priest, so among my bundle of beliefs I have faith in God and that gives me the gift of hope which in turn means that I look forward as well as back. The present is where we stand today, but it is only a moment, the future is where we shall live. I believe in the dawn even in the blackest night. Let us commend our friend to God's mighty care knowing that in Christ nothing is lost.

*Rev. David Battersby*