

Dear Friends,

After the busy-ness of Christmas, there seems less to write about this month but I cannot forget our excellent Burn's Night Supper.

Being very biased, I must say that I thought my husband, Iain, addressed the haggis adequately, which was piped in exceptionally

by Cameron and presented by Ross. The food was amazing (really could have fed the 5000) and entertainment superb. Thank you to Margaret Holmes for organising such a wonderful event.



It has been very noticeable these last few weeks that Spring is approaching. The days of walking my dogs in the darkness of morning are fast disappearing and we are enjoying, crisp, cold blue skies as the sun rises in the east. As I walk, I notice the green shoots pushing through the earth as the first signs of Spring appear. Snowdrops abound, so frail, yet so strong. Yes, the season is changing, as is the church season.

In the coming week, churches around the world will undergo a transformation of sorts, as the liturgical calendar moves from the season after Epiphany to the season of Lent. Our praise-filled shouts of "Alleluia!" will give way to Lent's solemn petition, "Lord have mercy." Many churches will retire their finest brass and festive hangings in favour of simpler and more contemplative fixtures. And the lectionary will lead us down from the mountaintop, through the valley of the

shadow of death, and ultimately to Jerusalem where the cross and tomb await.

I am sure we all have our own way of journeying through Lent but if you want to join others on that path, you can join 'Pilgrim' looking at The Lord's Prayer, R&R who are 'Walking together with Jesus' using an on-line Lent retreat, or you can 'Count your blessings' with Christian Aid. All details can be found later in the magazine.

On Wednesday 6th March, we will remember that 'dust we are and to dust we shall return', with a Said Eucharist at 10.30am and Sung Eucharist at 6pm.

I hope you are able to join us as we journey to the cross.

Blessings *Nicki*