

## **This month's letter is from Associate Minister Delia Geary**

Well it's March already! Goodness me, the months don't half fly by. I do so love the feeling that Spring is on its way; Snowdrops are creating a billowing cloud of white under leafless canopies and aconites are transforming the ground into a yellow carpet. Even when I'm writing this in February, daffodils and tulips are pushing up green shoots, almost looking as if they're testing the temperature before committing themselves to any more growth. Beautiful scenes and with a promise of the year to come.

I'm really fortunate to have been blessed with an optimistic nature and to me every day is a fresh start, an opportunity to have another go at getting 'it' right, whatever 'it' is. But sometimes it's difficult to see the positive in another day, even for optimists like me. Sometimes the day starts grey and stays that way, resonating with memories of things that should be long forgotten or forgiven, our thoughts dwelling too long on the evil atrocities that surround us.

Lent, which we are now in, reminds us of Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan prior to starting His ministry. Too often it is reduced to a period of simply giving up a luxury item, social media, alcohol, chocolate and the like, but Lent should also be about reflecting on the meaning of Christ's ministry, in preparation for Easter when our focus turns to Christ's death on the cross, and considering what this means for us. With Christ in our lives and with him having paid that ultimate sacrifice, those grey days become much easier to bear. We can again see the beauty of nature and the wonderful cycle of life through the sacrifice of His life, given for us.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**Delia Geary**