



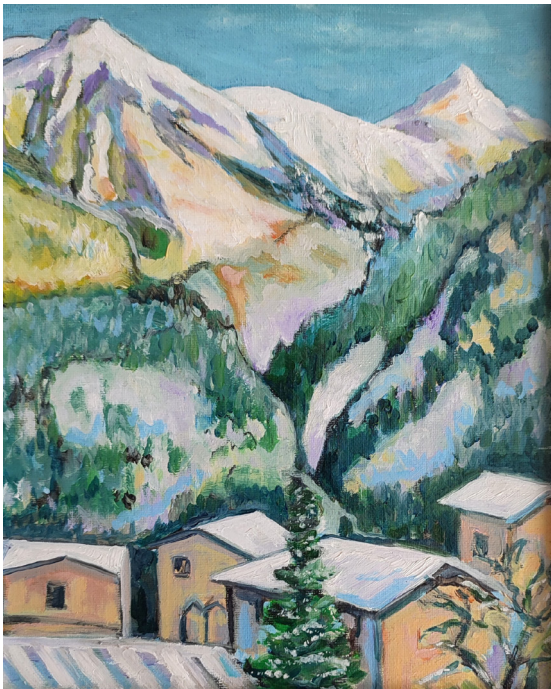
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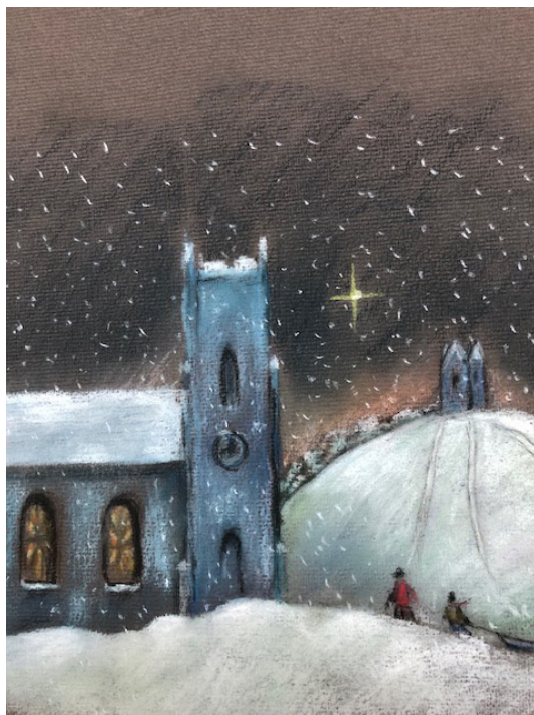
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### Snowdrops

*At first unseen, 'til cold soil parts.  
It's then that transformation starts.*

*Protected petals snugly wrapped  
emerging from their lair;  
Point skyward, brave, emboldened,  
undeterred by icy air.*

*With grace they stretch and curve their necks  
to dangle, bow and flex.  
Unfurling blooms, three swathes of white,  
form hanging hoods, a precious sight.  
Chilly breezes cause vibration, oscillating stems.  
Quivering their lantern tops; January's gems.*

*Then swollen pods on arching rods  
head back toward the ground.  
Casings rot.  
Seeds drop.  
Fertility abounds.*



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