

## **Friends, a few thoughts to keep you going.**

Just when I thought Spring was around the corner, its starts to snow again! I am sure that there will be those of you who would like to see the back of it. I am like that, tobogganing (we called it sledging in Yorkshire) no longer appeals to me, I have sold my skis and not renewed my pass to the Cairngorms or any other mountain range. Yes right!

I am joking about the skiing which I have only done once and that was in the summer on top of the Jungfrau in Switzerland, and it was in a t-shirt. No I have not got the t shirt. Like my wife, I enjoy just looking at mountains usually from the bottom complete with a carpet of snow on the top.

But there is beauty in the snow as it initially clings to the tree branches and also when it drifts into patterns on the roads and pathways. Soon it loses its appeal when it absorbs the dirt from around it and becomes slushy. Sadly it causes problems which for some reason leave us completely helpless and unable to cope despite the best endeavours of our trusty 4x4's.

One centimetre of the white stuff and cars are incapable of being driven in a straight line. I guess we are out of practice because when I was a lad we were always snowed in with drifts across the doors and the lane outside impassable unless you found a couple of old tennis rackets to help you on your way. (Used as snow shoes, tied to your feet with the handle... oh never mind) But the milk always got through with his trusty horse and cart.

But soon, it will be gone and the only trace will be up in the higher reaches of the Yorkshire Dales, at the side of the road, a small mound reminding us of what has now gone and is lost forever.

However you see life, there is something similar in our own lives, things are there, and they disappear leaving only a small reminder.

Our Christian Calendar is there for a purpose, to remind us of what went on in the life of Jesus, a short life here on earth but an existence beyond time itself stretching from when the word was with God until now and on. That is why we need to take every opportunity to study His life which was so short.

Lent is probably the more focused of any of the Christian times because there is requirement to take part, to try and take hold of the suffering of Our Lord and to understand it a little more each time.

And then, when all seems lost, we have a time of great joy, a time of resurrection something at last to celebrate, the triumph of life over death.

When you think about it, what could be better at that time of year, when all the snow and cold weather is gone (hopefully) and we have the warmth of summer to look forward to with all the pleasure that brings.

Greetings

**Steve Watts**