



## Pastor's Page

### **"Cold Comfort?"**

"Isn't it awful?" said John as he turned down a slice of homemade fruit cake. I was just about to agree with him when I had a sudden attack of honesty (it happens sometimes!) "I like it" I replied rather timidly, looking around for some moral support - I found none! With gasps of incredulity filling the air I decided to ask John what he didn't like about it. He didn't hold back but listed all his reasons with passion and pain! As our host agreed with him I knew that it wasn't the time or place to enthuse too much about this controversial issue – which is of course.....snow!

I think you know that I love snow; why else would I shoot off to France each winter to speed down snow-covered mountains on two pieces of wood?! (There could be a number of answers to that question!) So I wasn't at all disappointment to read this weather report yesterday *"FROZEN Britain will be battered by bitterly cold winds and heavy snow this weekend as the coldest winter in 30 years tightens its icy grip, forecasters have warned. The warnings came after the country suffered its coldest night of the winter so far with temperatures plunging to almost minus 22C (-7F).An easterly wind was forecast to move from the south of England across the country, bringing with it a biting chill factor and heavy snow.*

Though I fully appreciate the dangers of snow and freezing temperatures for the elderly or less-able bodied in society let me tell you what it is I love it about it;

- It is Beautiful. We have seen some amazing sights this week and the sheer exhilaration of the idyllic winter wonderland that we have experienced has been awesome. Snow is beautiful and it reminds me of our creator God who brought this incredible world into being The bible even likens snow to the cleansing work of God in our lives. (Psalm 51:7)

- It is Disruptive. I hope that this isn't a perverse side of my nature but I love the disruption that snow causes! It reminds me of who is in charge (God) I love the fact that last week 'fluffy white flakes' knocked the 'world financial crisis and Gordon Brown's leadership' off the top spot of the news!

- It is Fun. This week children and adults have gone sledging, built snow men, had snow ball fights – and winter walks. I even saw a respectable member of our church throw a snow ball at his wife this week! Let's pray for them!! Let's also pray that we never lose the ability to experience sheer joy even if we have to become like little children to do so!

- It is Dangerous – but it's not all bad to have hazards in life. Heavy snow and the dangers of it often bring people together in acts of compassion and kindness. People this week have gritted roads and paths, helped others with shopping, offered hospitality, and shown love. Surely this is what God would have us do as his followers. I'm sure he doesn't want us to be fair-weather Christians.

So, I for one am certainly glad that more snow is on the way. I'll try and be understanding if you hate it but if you catch me saying how awful it is you'll know that my sudden attacks of honesty have suddenly cleared up!!

10<sup>th</sup> January 2010