

## Snowdrop Strength

Winter's book is closing and from it's leaves, snowdrops emerge...harbingers of Spring! In the U.K. the white blanket of snow has been replaced with a speckled carpet of snowdrops: they are not solitary for long! The silent strength of this delicate plant displays itself in groupings of likeminded friends; it encourages others to gather around! My city of Manchester is labelled 'Snowdrop City' this year as 100,000 bulbs were planted last autumn by volunteer members of the public. Clustered together like units of a small army, schoolchildren, university students, business people and grannies buried the tiny bulbs; a 100 year marker since WW1 began. They are now nodding their pretty heads, from 'pocket parks' to the Cathedral lawns and into the 'sand bag bunker' containers at the City's art gallery, a defiant show of strength! Why snowdrops? They reminded soldiers of home and were a symbol of hope and peace, strength to the soul in the winter of war.

*'Don't panic...there's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you' (Isaiah 41:10 The Message)*

The arrival of this seasonal change shows strength is latent within us all; creator God didn't leave humankind wanting. Up on their feet ready for action, the snowdrop stands to attention. At precisely 10C (50F) their trio of petals fling open to receive winter weary visitors needing sustenance! Snow white delicacy beckons the starving bee; no panic... **'Never yet was a springtime, when the buds forgot to bloom.'** (Margaret Elizabeth Sangster) Cluster together with like minds, a show of hope, joy, peace & relief...winter is leaving...this is a Spring Wake Up! If God is your god, strength's iron grip is awaiting...don't panic.



*Affectionately, Judith*