



Would you credit it?

With the constant news of failed businesses, financial scandals, and encouragement to 'borrow our way out', I have included this article, considering the complex nature of credit, by Steve Pierce, who is Head of Stewardship Money at the Christian financial services charity Stewardship. If you would like to read more their website is www.stewardship.org.uk Editor

THE "Darwin Awards" - the 'enterprising demises' of those who 'improve the human gene pool by removing themselves from it'. Most awards are posthumous but honourable mentions are awarded to those who survive their brush with death.

One man who caught the spirit of the Darwin Awards cleared a wasps nest using his vacuum cleaner. With a dust bag full of angry wasps he sprayed an aerosol poison into the bag. But the heat of the motor ignited the gas, singed his face and hair and, you guessed it, released thousands of angry, hot wasps to wreak their revenge.

James, our unfortunate hero is a bright scientist who in his own words was guilty of "an unfortunate lapse in the calculation of consequences."

The same might perhaps be said of the recent problems in the financial markets. A decade or more of easy credit and the shuttling of high risk loans around the money markets needs just a little heat from risky debts and the consequences become obvious and release millions of hot and angry customers and consumers.

Is credit all good or all bad? That one is up to the experts but it seems to me that there are two reasons we should at least

be cautious and careful around credit. **Proverbs 22:7** says the borrower is the servant of the lender. Credit binds us to the future; tomorrow must be as good as today. But the future is not guaranteed and if we are bound to repaying debt it is harder to live in the freedom of trust and gratitude to which we are called.

Secondly most credit is costly and it is especially costly to the poorest in society. In the so called sub prime market the poorest people have to pay for the most expensive credit. The most popular form of credit is catalogues; home loans are convenient and often the received way of accessing credit down the generations. Other options are weekly repayment stores and buyback stores. The common theme is the size and affordability of the weekly payment rather than the APR. Cash strapped borrowers can be charged interest

(Continued on page 4)

JUNE 2009

50P

*What does
faithful
discipleship
mean for us
and for the poor
around money
and especially
the complex
area of credit?*

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**There will be a sale of
artwork by the late
Gloria Overton**

at St Thomas' Church,
Tamworth Road,

**on Saturday 4th July 2009,
11.00 am to 4.00 pm**

All items on display will be sold in aid of the Children's Society

No reasonable offer refused

Enquiries to M. Bosworth: 76337932



ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

June

Sunday 7th

9am Holy Communion and hymns.
 10.30am Family Service, led by a group who attended Spring Harvest. Followed by Parish Barbecue at the Vicarage.

Sunday 14th

9am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Communion

Tuesday 16th

8-8.45pm Prayers for St Thomas'. Galilee Room

Sunday 21st

9am Holy Communion and hymns
 10.30am Family Worship

Sunday 28th

9am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Communion

July

Saturday 4th

11am-4pm Exhibition and Sale of Art by Gloria Overton

Sunday 5th

9am Holy Communion and hymns
 10.30am Family Service

Alpha Course continues on Fridays, 7.30pm, in the Galilee Room.

Refreshment for all

Tuesday afternoons, 1.30-2.30pm in the Galilee Room

Fortnightly



If you need transport or would like to request prayers, please contact Margaret Bosworth on 7633 7932 leaving a message if necessary with your name and telephone number and she will ring you back.

Daily Prayer: 8.30am, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at St Thomas' Church, Tuesday at Keresley Village Community Church.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday Morning Activities at St. Thomas'

10.30am (during term time)
 1st Sunday Family Service in Church
 2nd Sunday 3-11s, Sunday School in Galilee Room, 11+, Pathfinders in the Church Hall. All join the service around 11.25am
 3rd Sunday All ages start in Church
 4th & 5th 3-11s, Sunday School in Galilee Room, 11+, Pathfinders in the Church Hall. All join the service around 11.25am
 This pattern may change occasionally for special services.

Youth Essence

Monday evenings, 7.30pm, Galilee Room
 (School Year 9 and above. Contact Steve Medley for more details)

Thursday at St T's

For 5-11 years
 Meets in the Galilee
 On Thursdays
 From 6pm to 7pm



Uniformed Groups

Meet in the Church Hall:
 13th Brownies, Mondays, 6.00 - 7.30pm
 9th Brownies, Wednesdays, 6.00 - 7.30pm
 9th Guides, Thursdays, 6.30 - 8.30pm
 Meet in the Scout Hut:
 41st Cubs, Mondays, 6.45 - 8.30pm
 41st Scouts, Tuesdays, 7.00 - 9.00pm
 41st Beavers, Fridays, 6.00 - 7.30pm
 (for 6-8 year olds)

First Steps . . . with Jesus

For babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers
 Meets in the Galilee Room, weekly in term time
 Mondays 1.30-2.30pm

Parish Natters

from the PCC

At its last meeting the PCC decided it would be helpful to the congregation if we feedback the decisions made at meetings and kept you informed on what was happening at church if you were absent for a few weeks.

Some items will appear on the weekly Notice Sheet and if you feel you can help in any way with the work of the church please speak to Rev. Peter Walker or any member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The 2009-10 PCC is Andy Quinn (Treasurer), Margaret Bosworth, (Secretary), Claire McArthur (Deanery Synod Rep.), Jo Medley (Deanery Synod Rep.), Gary Owens (Health & Safety Rep.), Steve Medley (Children's Worker), Janet Ashley, Jan Talbot, Jan Wilkins, Margaret Potter, Jean Peabody and Roz Hosiene. The two Church Wardens, Nikki Weeks and Jo Goodwin have regretfully handed in their notice and no-one has yet come forward to fulfil this important role. There are two vacancies. Please pray for the Church Council and in particular for God to speak to someone about becoming a Church Warden.

Work is progressing on the Church wall and we hope a suitable piece of stone for the capping will soon be in place. The valleys in the Galilee Room roof will be repaired very shortly in tern-coated steel as specified by the insurers. The internal plaster can then be repaired and the room redecorated. Coventry City Council has promised to do 8 cuts of the grass in the churchyard this year; they are also meeting with PCC representatives to discuss the repair of the pathways, surveying trees which are causing some of the damage, and looking at monument safety.

Inside the church, signage will shortly be in place directing visitors and congregation to emergency exits in compliance with Health and Safety rules. The Accident Book and First Aid Box are located in the Galilee Room on top of the grey cupboard next to the refreshment bar. Please record any accident and all use of equipment from the First Aid Box. The PCC agreed to pay the Architect's fee in order get revised drawings for the Faculty to re-order the inside of the church.

The Church Hall has recently been the target of vandals again. The PCC have agreed to pay additional costs to the insurance reimbursement to replace the wooden boards under the kitchen window in brick and the plastic ventilation block in brick. Hopefully that will deter further problems. It is hoped that regular contact with church hall users will improve communications.

Work with children over Easter was exciting and productive. The children of Keresley Grange School produced the posters around the walls of the church. 25 children attended the Good Friday activities at St. Thomas' and about 20 attended the activities at Keresley Village Community Church. First Steps families are beginning to come to church regularly and they are very welcome.

The PCC were asked by the Vicar, "What do you want to do over the coming year?" It would be lovely to see the church refurbishments completed and we are working towards that. Refurbishment of the church hall kitchen was suggested; setting and sticking to a budget and improved communications (hence this natter!), however, if there is anything you feel you would like the PCC to address/achieve please talk to one of them and let them know.

Kind regards, Margaret Bosworth, PCC Secretary.

Parish Barbecue

~~Trinity Sunday 6th June~~

at the Vicarage after the
10.30am service

As usual please bring:
Something to sit on, cutlery, meat for the barbecue, and something to share (sweet or savoury).

We will provide:
fire!, drinks, bread, sauces, plates, cups and the garden.

STOP PRESS STEP PRESS STOP PRESS

**The barbecue has been
postponed to Sunday 21st June.**

Spring Harvest 2010

We are intending to go to Spring Harvest again next year between the 6th and 11th April at Skegness. If you are interested in joining us and experiencing Spring Harvest for yourself, then please sign the list in the Galilee Room and ask for a booking form if you do not already have one.

We need to make a party booking on Wednesday 17th June, so booking forms should be handed in, preferably by Sunday 14th. *Steve Medley*



LIVING DISTINCTIVELY IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

Refugee Week (15th-22nd June)

Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK. Our overall aim is to create a better understanding between communities by promoting positive representations of refugees. As part of Refugee Week this year we have recently launched our next ongoing campaign, **Simple Acts**.

The **Simple Acts** campaign is about inspiring people to use small, everyday actions to change perceptions of refugees. We believe that if everyone does at least one of these simple actions, such as read a book about exile, watch a movie about refugees, or cook a dish from another country, we can make a big change to the way refugees and British born people see each other.

It sounds simple and it is! www.simpleacts.org.uk
Here are some examples of suggested Simple Acts:



18. Define the word "Refugee"

After New Orleans was hit by hurricane Katrina, there was lots of talk about whether people who lost their homes should be called "refugees".

Some thought that the word was "bad" and that it should be reserved for foreigners from war-torn countries. Some quoted legal definitions. Others

argued that by describing hurricane victims as refugees we become more understanding of people going through hardship.

What we have decided to do is to go to the very heart of this debate, by finding out what it is that we talk about when we talk about refuge.

Our very simple idea is this: to get loads of people to say what the word "refugee" means to them. The more definitions we find, the closer we all get to understanding what people we call "refugees" are about.

(Continued from page 1) Would you credit it?

rates of over 2,000% (yes, you read it correctly, two thousand per cent) on so called "payday loans". The interest free period which is a convenient way of sorting cash flow for me is substantially paid for by someone else further down the food chain who is paying interest and penalty charges.

I guess that most of us are tightening our belts and waiting, hoping for things to get back to "normal". Maybe they will although it looks as though lending will change considerably and consumer behaviour will follow suit. But we still need to seek the mind of Christ around credit, to avoid our own bondage and that of the poor. Scripture commands loans to the poor without interest so that poverty is not made

5. Say a little prayer for me

When a butterfly flaps its wings, it makes a tiny change in the atmosphere, which in turn can change the path of a tornado or a big wave. This is the so-called Chaos Theory, which describes how small events can influence big events.

Now, if we apply this theory to human beings it works like this:

You say a prayer for refugees. In prayer you use your imagination to put yourself in their place. This experience creates a tiny change in you, which in turn creates changes in those close to you, which in turn sets off a wave of change coming from within your community and affecting the way others perceive refugees



10. Visit a Refugee Week event

Take a look at this simple formula:
You + your friend + a Refugee Week event = A new perspective on refugees!

Every year during Refugee Week hundreds of events take place all across the UK. Large or small, there are events happening near you which celebrate the music, art, literature, food, fashion, dance and ideas that refugees bring to the UK..



We Share the Same Sky

Monday 15th June, 7pm, Barrs Hill School

The Banner Theatre's new show 'We Share the Same Sky' entwines the stories of three visitors to Britain.

Banner Theatre's new show looks at the world of work in the context of the gathering global recession. Using video interviews, digital media and original new music and song, *We Share the Same Sky* entwines the stories of three visitors to Britain: Ali from Afghanistan, Natalya from Poland and Edenis from Venezuela.

worse (Leviticus 25:35-38). What this means in a modern economy is not easy to interpret. Surely at the least it suggests the foolishness of creditors continuing to rack up interest and charges when people are attempting to pay their dues on a debt repayment plan. We may not have all the answers but the real issue is not having answers but asking the questions.

Are we even asking questions about credit, our attitudes to borrowing and spending or are we simply going the way of the world? I think Scripture requires that we should be asking at least one question in this area: *What does faithful discipleship mean for us and for the poor around money and especially the complex area of credit?*

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

What were the local events and cares of the parish many decades ago?

Parish Natters, June 1919 style!

In his report of the year's work Mr Kerr referred to himself as being a most incompetent person for the duty, as he had been away from the parish for three years eight months. It was a marvellous thing, and one to be greatly thankful for, that the workers in the parish had heroically overcome all the many difficulties placed in their way during the war, and had practically kept up the previous organisation. He referred to the help give by Mr Collins, Mr Gillingham (St Mark's Coventry), and Canon Fortescue. Mr Kerr spoke of the great loss to the parish by the death of Mr Waters, who for ten years served the parish as a churchwarden. Church work at Lower Green would soon again be got in hand. They

had the site of a new church, and money in the bank.

The Vicar proposed, and Miss Rotherham seconded, that a tablet be put in the church by the wardens to the memory of Mr Waters, and this was agreed to. It was decided that the wardens write to Mr Gillingham, Canon Fortescue, and the lay readers who had helped to carry on the services of the church, a letter of heartfelt thanks.



Prayer: a beginner's guide

The good thing about prayer is that there's only one way to go wrong, and that's *not* to do it. The best way to do it is to just get on and do it. If prayer at its simplest level is listening to God and talking to him, you don't need long books to tell you how to do it, you just need a conviction that prayer is a good thing to do, that you're someone God wants to hear from and that he's worth talking to.

Is prayer a good thing to do?

Never mind for the moment about whether prayer 'works' or not: Jesus prayed and he encouraged his disciples to pray too, so if we're following him, we need to be praying. Full stop.

Are you someone God wants to hear from?

The message of the Bible is that however unworthy, sinful and useless we may feel as human beings, God can't wait to hear from us and is sitting on the edge of his seat like a lovestruck teenager, hand poised ready to pick up the phone the second it rings.

Is he worth talking to?

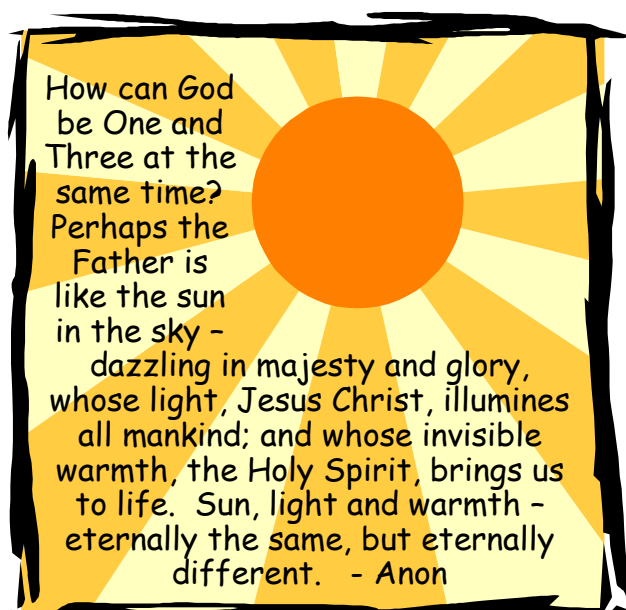
He's the one person who knows us inside out, the one person with infinite power at his fingertips, the one who has the true perspective on an entire world's story. Not a slot machine to pay into in the hope of one day getting 'an answer to prayer', but a person. Who likes us.

How might you begin to pray?

What sort of a person are you? Do you like a good gossip? Then gossip to God. Are you the strong silent type? Then be silent in his presence. Say hello... say the Lord's Prayer ... say 'Oh God' and

mean it... deliberately be silent and still for one minute ... read a story from a Gospel and imagine what you would say to Jesus if you were there... tell him about what is worrying you or thrilling you ... copy the great pray-ers of the Bible and of the Church... write a letter to him ... listen and look for a few moments in a place you consider holy... You can't go wrong. Prayer is good. God longs to hear from you. He's worth it.

Lucy Moore, Bible Reading Fellowship's Children's Ministry Representative for the South of England and part of BRF's Barnabas team.



KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

June

Sunday 7th

10.30am Family Service. Ruth Walker
Lunchtime Parish Barbecue at Keresley Vicarage. See p 2.

Sunday 14th

10.30am Holy Communion, Rev Ruth Walker

Sunday 21st

10.30am Morning Worship, Rev Ruth Walker, Miss Mary Coles

6.00pm Holy Communion, Rev Ruth Walker

Sunday 28th

10.30am Morning Worship, Mrs Anne Cartwright

July

Sunday 5th

10.30am Family Worship, Rev Stuart Jennings

Regular Meetings

"Children's Club" Mondays Trailblazers 5-6pm
Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30am *First Steps for babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers, during term time*

Wednesday 7.30-9pm – 'Drop-in' Centre for teenagers



Mondays and Thursdays 9.30-11.30am Coffee mornings. The Church is open for anyone to drop in for a drink and a chat

Your Life, Your Choice: How God speaks

In this series we are looking at what it means for us to spend each day with an awareness of the presence of Jesus. This month we are considering 3 important principles about how God can speak to us today.

We can learn to distinguish God's voice

As we saw last month we must learn to recognise God's voice in our lives. Normal healthy people do hear from God! As he speaks directly to our hearts and minds, it takes time and training to sift through all the messages we receive to discern his voice.

The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" (1 Samuel 3:8-9).

Like Samuel, we will need to learn to be attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives. A personal relationship with God lies at the heart of this. In any relationship we need to be hearing each other if communication is to take place. Otherwise we simply end up with a monologue!

God can speak to anyone

God does not restrict his voice to spiritual giants like Billy Graham or Mother Theresa. God can speak to anyone, but he will do so according to his way and timing, as we cannot demand it. Even Mother Theresa admitted that there were long periods of her life when God was not obviously speaking to her!

God's voice can be recognised

People often ask, 'how can I know if it is God speaking and not my imagination?' God will always speak in a way that is consistent with the following characteristics:

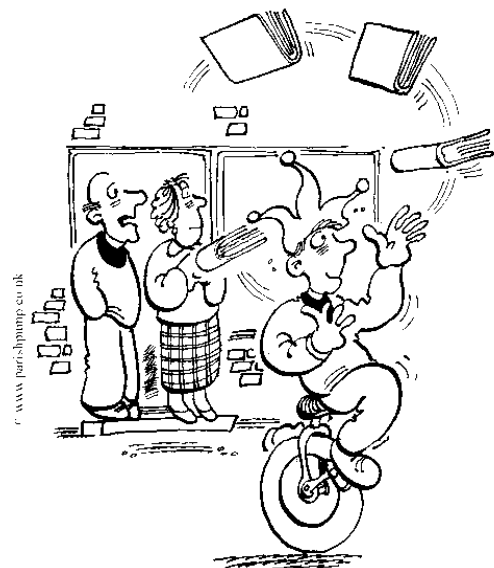
His character: is what he says in agreement with God's character? (eg. he will not promote fear or anxiety)

Scripture: is it in line with what the Bible says? (eg God would not encourage adultery)

Who God made me to be: is it consistent with my gifts and personality?

Love: does it encourage loving not selfish action?

In a noisy world, what challenges do you find in listening to God? Creating space and silence is important for all of us in this – but more about that next time!!



...I think I must have missed that module when I was at theological college!

Stella Bailey, who left us nearly two years ago to train as a minister, will be ordained deacon at the Petertide ordinations at the beginning of July. She will be working at St Mary's Walsgrave.

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

3rd May
Alfie Keith Kenneth Green

THANKSGIVING

10th May
Jack-Dean Carl Emery
17th May
Jake David Docherty
Millie Lorraine Docherty
Amiyah Jailee Walker

24th May
Lewis William David Wheatley
31st May
Gracie Jade Laidlaw

ASHES BURIAL

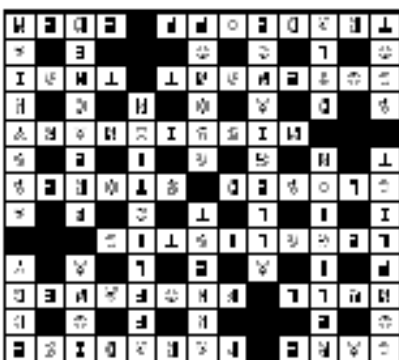
29th May
Margaret Overton of Keresley Close aged 73
29th May
Basil Geoffrey Taylor of Finnemore Close, Styvechale Grange aged 82

BURIALS

13th May Marjorie Stratton of The Paddocks, Bulkington aged 79
19th May
David Miller of Henry Boteler Road, Canley aged 54

CREMATIONS

19th May
Terence Venters of Tamworth Road aged 75
20th May
David Petch of Woods Piece aged 46
21st May
Mark Stanley Griffin of Howat Road aged 44
22nd May
Maurice Alfred Dodd of Edward Road aged 81
28th May
Margaret Overton of Keresley Close aged 73



Crossword solution

Why God wants to comfort you

Isaiah 40: 1-11

When we read Isaiah's words, 'Comfort, comfort my people', we are powerfully reminded of Handel's Messiah. This section is like the overture to a piece of music presenting the main themes of the second part of Isaiah. The words addressed those in Babylon, following the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BCE. However, they also speak to our experience of exile today - ie Christian homelessness in a secular culture. Such comfort is grounded in specific truths:

We are God's people (1,2)

God's covenant with his people still stands, for he is not indifferent to Jerusalem's plight. In spite of everything that has happened, he still has plans for his people.

In what ways do we have the experience of 'exile'?

We have been forgiven (1,2)

You have been forgiven! Your sin has been paid for in full! Your freedom has been secured! What greater comfort could there be for a shattered people.

What words of comfort does God bring us today?

God will act on our behalf (3-5)

God's purpose is to bring his people home, leading them like a shepherd caring for his flock. As the world looks on he wants them to see his glory and understand what kind of God he is.

What is God doing among us that might speak powerfully to those around?

God's Word can be trusted (6-8)

His word is reliable, as it doesn't decay or fade away as we do. Reliance on God's word is trusting in one who is committed to his people with all the resources necessary to care for them.

How have we proved the reliability of God's word in practical ways?

'Such comfort is good news indeed, so good that it cannot and must not be contained. It must be shouted confidently and fearlessly from the mountaintops' (Barry Webb).

Paul Hardingham

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- **Regular Activities in the Church** •
 - **Hall** •
 - NB the Church Hall is not usually •
 - available for late night Discos •
 - Pre-school Playgroup: •
 - Mondays to Fridays, 9am - 11.30am and •
 - 12.30pm - 3pm •
 - Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts meet on •
 - weekday evenings. See page 2 for details. •
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