

From Bishop Christopher... Easter and the economy

Jesus was betrayed by his friend Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Afterwards Judas changed his mind. He flung the coins down in the temple and hanged himself. Money was central to the story of Jesus' life and death, and also for Judas. Money is central for all of us, for better or worse.

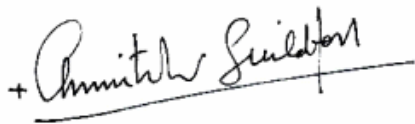
The recession – now described as a depression – affects all of us. Those who have lost their jobs in finance, manufacturing, property or service industries, and whose mortgages are now unsupportable with consequential repossession, have our utmost sympathy, as also those on pensions dependent on personal investment. In one or two extreme cases, there have been suicides.

Easter tells us that there can be new life even after death. But we need to set our hearts on what really matters. In the end, real human life is not about an ever increasing income and the unnecessary consumer goods we can thereby possess. Indeed, in the end, they possess us.

The economy will eventually stabilise and turn round. It would be good if we can remember this time when it does. Regeneration, if it is only economic, will simply be another stage in a continuous cycle. True human regeneration (literally rebirth) depends on all of us changing our minds about what is really important in life.

Christ's new Easter Life offers us such an opportunity for regeneration both as individuals and as communities. Before there was death and sadness, afterwards wonder, amazement and joy.

My Easter message is therefore – 'Think about your rebirth as an individual, in your family, in your communities and look to what really matters in human life. Easter will help you to look at your priorities and get them right.'

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading '+ Christopher Guildford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Bishop of Guildford