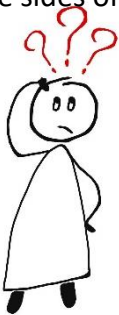




Weeds, weeds, weeds and more weeds. How they love our English weather! You start to weed at one end of the garden and by the time you have reached the other end two or three weeks later, the first patch is ready to be weeded again. What is a weed? The dictionary definition is, 'A plant growing where undesired.' What about wild flowers; are they weeds? Lovely wild flowers such as bluebells and primroses are now cultivated and sold in Garden Centres. On the roadsides in the country, the verges at the sides of the roads are covered in miles of white cow parsley (kedlet) and look really nice.



Why do we have weeds????????? Naturally this question takes me back to Adam. You may be thinking, 'What ever has Adam got to do with weeds' or 'Have those long time ago events have any relevance for us today?' We hear jokes about him in the Garden of Eden, but why has that been recorded right at the beginning of the Bible?

Adam was made with a perfect nature and did not do anything wrong. He had an ideal spiritual relationship with God with the potential of no death. When he ate the fruit that he had been told not to eat, a number of things happened. He was



no longer perfect because he had disobeyed God, he lost the chance of being able to live for ever with no death and he was put out of the Garden of Eden. God told him that in future, instead of living an easy life in the Garden of Eden, he would have to work hard to look after the ground to produce food and that he would

also have the addition of thorns and thistles to deal with. I do not know exactly what God regards as weeds, but obviously thorns and thistles were high on His list!



Does Adam's disobedience affect us today? Yes it does. From that instance every person born has had an imperfect nature. Not only do we have weeds in our gardens but also in our lives. Each one of us has thoughts, habits and actions that are not pleasing to God so we are all separated to some extent from a holy God. The possibility of us living for ever with no death is no longer available to us.



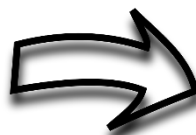
As we are unable to alter the above situation ourselves, God Himself chose to do something about it. No matter how hard we try we can never be perfect people. There is no way that our efforts at perfection will ever satisfy a holy God. He created us with the intention of us being at one with Himself spiritually so because of His immense love for us He made a way to bring about a restoration of the original desires He had when He created Adam.

He sent His Son, Jesus, to the earth as a human being with the sole purpose of providing a path of reconciliation.

When Jesus was put to death on the cross He took the punishment that we each deserve. Instead of God punishing us for our wrongdoings, Jesus became our substitute. This means that when we accept Him as our Saviour, we are forgiven and made fit to be in God's presence in Heaven.



ME



JESUS

Jesus made it possible for EVERY living person to be forgiven. No-one is excluded from this invitation, yet not everyone chooses to take advantage of this free forgiveness. No matter how we have lived our lives or what we have done, a genuine turn around will restore the relationship that has been broken by our behaviour. Adam spoilt God's intentions with a single action, but with a single action Jesus restored that situation.

Accepting Jesus into our lives does not mean that we are forgiven for everything once and that is the end of the matter. Forgiveness is ongoing and constant throughout our lives as we continually build up our relationship with God.

As you weed your gardens think about the way in which Adam's one action had repercussions throughout the ages, but then remember how the one sacrificial action of Jesus has a far, far greater impact on the lives of each one of us.

Bible Reading: The disobedience of Adam is known as 'The Fall'. You can read about this in Genesis Chapters 2 and 3.

A Prayer: We know Jesus that You died on that cross to make a way for everybody to receive forgiveness, but I thank You especially because You went through that for ME. I want to accept You into my life to be my Saviour and I ask that You will help me to live my life in a way that pleases You. Amen

