

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

4 August 2010: Monica Ditmas, St Mary's, Buriton

So much meaning in the language we are using

You may have heard of the confused little girl who said: "How can I know what I think till I hear what I say?"

Language is far more than a convenient way of communicating, isn't it? And the way it changes both reflects and causes big cultural changes in our society.

Sometimes words simply change their meaning like **gay** and **cool**.

But others virtually vanish and are replaced by something similar of a similar but lesser meaning.

For instance nowadays we almost never use the word **reverence** - we've replaced it with **respect**.

They're not the same are they? And it is not just the word that is vanishing - when did you last hear the word **sin**?

Now it's just a **mistake** or **inappropriate** behaviour.

Maybe Christians should make a point of using these words as part of their ordinary day-to-day speech, so that the concepts behind them don't vanish altogether.

What a terrible impoverishment that would be.