

October

From the Vicar.

I was driving down Hale Road the other day and a car in front was slowing down to turn into Hamish's Garage so I applied the brake and slowed down. Sadly the white transit van behind me did not do the same and the ensuing crash was so loud that it made a person on the petrol station forecourt jump. It wouldn't have been quite so infuriating had my wife not been hit by a white van two weeks previously. Now both our cars are at the body shop.

The thing about my accident was that I could see the van in my mirror and I just knew that he wasn't going to stop. Closer and closer, and bigger and bigger he got as I looked from the bumper of the car in front back to my mirror and the headlamps of the van behind. Then BANG! I mean a real big BANG! Fortunately the car in front had thought better of it and moved off otherwise I would have been shunted right into him.

We got out and as he picked up bits of his bumper and as the water poured from his fractured radiator I looked at the rear of my car and in truth saw minimal damage. Some dented and pleated panels and a crack in the bumper. "Wow you did OK! Strong cars those!" said the white van man.

That's the beauty of a Volvo I told him.

As my head whacked the head restraint I was glad I was in a car with the greatest of safety records.

Twice in two weeks we've been hit; Now I'm almost afraid to drive the two courtesy cars that have been left with us while ours are being mended. I wait at junctions longer than ever, I break earlier and I think twice about whether I really need to take the journey. The law of averages surely means that we have had our dose of RTAs (Road Traffic Accidents) for the next 5 years but then there is that other law – you know the one..... Yes that's the one Murphy's Law – well I don't know what you were thinking! The trouble is that I seem to be more at the mercy of Murphy than averages. I counted up today and out of the 10 cars I have owned only three have got away unscathed. Rarely my fault. If I could get my hands on that Murphy!

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, giving new strength to the soul. The Law He has made known is sure, making the child-like wise. The Laws of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The Word of the Lord is pure, giving light to the eyes". Psalm 19 vs. 7 and 8.

Thankfully there is a law that overrides Murphy or anybody. God's Law. A Law that is neither mean nor arbitrary in nature. A law that is not unfair or vindictive. A law that opens up the difficulties and confusions of life to a deeper understanding and a greater readiness to face what is to come.

As I watched the van steaming towards me I knew that sitting in an enormous Volvo was a pretty good place to be if you had to be in that spot at that time. In my life I find that sitting in Gods law is the best place to be. I can see things steaming towards me and being in the arms of the all powerful, all knowing and all loving God is the safest place to be. Imagine if I was trusting in my own theories and philosophies when the transit van of redundancy or financial collapse came charging up my tail. When the road ahead becomes suddenly blocked by my foolish mistakes, what good would it do to seek comfort from one where there is not scope for forgiveness through repentance, only greater condemnation. I want a God

like a Volvo!

I want a God who protects me because that is his nature – heavens if I've got a stiff neck now what would I be like if I was in a (well you know what I'm getting at.) I want a God that will not buckle when the crash happens even if I've caused it. I want a God like a Volvo.

Murphy's Law or Satan's Law may dictate that there will be lots of other white van incidents in my life some in the shape of illness or sadness or foolishness or failure. But God's law trounces any other law and in it I am shielded. Bumps will come some small, some big. Shouldn't you want a God who is as strong as a Volvo?

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Rob Hinton. Vicar of All Saints.