

**BBC RADIO ULSTER
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
27th February 2009**

Have you done a blog yet this morning?

Have you sent a tweet?

Of course if you had sent a tweet I would know you'd done a blog because a tweet is a micro blog on twitter. But you may prefer to be facebooked rather than tweet on twitter or just post your photos on flickr.

Anyone still listening?

Can you translate? Anyone know the language of nerd?

Sure, if you're really interested just google it...oops there we go again.

It's hard to keep up these days. The internet rules.

But if you want to know what people are interested in, the web is a good place to look.

Now I used to think a u tube was something you got a plumber to fix. But then I discovered that Youtube is a hugely popular website where people from all over the world share video clips.

This week one of the most viewed videos on Youtube showed leaked photographs of a 21 year old woman who was allegedly assaulted by her 19 year old boyfriend.

But this was no ordinary woman this was Rihanna, one of the worlds biggest pop stars, most famous for singing about her umberella.

And her boyfriend is the singer Chris Brown, another superstar. The incident has certainly put domestic violence in the spotlight.

Earlier this week my teenage daughters were talking about it.

'I hope Chris Brown doesnt go to jail' says one, 'his music is so cool'.

'She must have really annoyed Chris Brown for him to lose his temper that much', says the other.

I was shocked. Where had they got these ideas from? Please God not from me!

They got a bit of a lecture about the fact that violence is always wrong and the perpetrator is responsible, not their victim. And I gave some pretty clear advice on what to do if any man ever lifts a hand to one of them.

Research carried out here last year by Amnesty International found that one in 10 local students considers violence acceptable against a girlfriend who nags, flirts with other men or refuses to have sex. The figures are higher than those found in similar surveys carried out elsewhere in the UK.

There's something wrong here.

What sort of attitudes are going unchallenged in our homes, our classrooms, our pubs and our churches?

And what is the final outcome when people of faith appear to have more to say about what women shouldn't do than what shouldn't be done to women?

Tony Macaulay