Christmas Day Sermon

Good Morning….I hope Santa has been and we are all happy with our gifts….

Would anyone like to share with us what their favourite gift has been?

My favourite gift is Love……bleeeerrr…..I know sorry its too early for soppy talk…..but its true….puppy love…..Ralf is probably sleeping through yet another of my sermons….not sure what that says about my sermons….

My gift to you this morning is…some would say….the best gift a clergyman could offer his congregation….I gift to you a short sermon……

So, the sooner I start….the sooner I finish….

OOOOHHHH its Christmas……I keep having to remind myself…..sorry….I am a big kid at heart….

The big kid that I am hates shopping…..and I have been very lucky to find a wife who also hates shopping…..but when we do HAVE TO go shopping, York is the place for me…..

I love strolling round the streets….especially when the Christmas lights are lit….but even more so when the weather is warm and we can sit by the river with a pint and people watch…..I LOVE York..York has shops for almost every taste….and many for those with no taste at all…..On one such visit to York we stumbled upon ‘THE CHRISTMAS SHOP’……now I know that Christmas is coming earlier and earlier each year….but this was August!!!!

I gazed through the large window at an assortment of tat….. There were nativity sets from Italy, Germany, & Norway. There were fuzzy-faced elves & jolly old Santa Clauses, sleights & reindeer of every size & description, bells & trees, & music boxes….if they didn’t have the music box that you wanted….nobody would….. But it didn’t stop there, as there were nutcrackers & candles & electric lights, angels & wise men & little drummer boys, stars & snowmen & gingerbread cut outs…..Ginger bread cut outs!!!! Jeanette always likes to buy something for making cakes when we go to York….could that be the perfect Christmas gift for a baker…..No…..I knew exactly what I was going to buy Jeanette……

but then I was distracted…being a man and being unable to truly multitask (you should watch the YouTube of Wednesdays service to understand that better) I was distracted by music….loud Christmas music…..it could almost have been Christmas!!!!

This shop has everything you need for Christmas….It did exactly what it said on the tin…THE CHRISTMAS SHOP!....it had ALMOST everything you ned for Christmas….but not the perfect gift for Jeanette….

This got me thinking about the perfect gift for Christmas……and Google is my friend….so I spent ages looking….Some would say that I will do anything to delay the need to sit down and write my sermon…or at that time..an essay….but I persevered and I found a Mercedes which was covered in crystals….the crystaks that nobody really knows how to pronounce their name….a snip at a million pounds…..Jeanette isn’t a fan of Mercedes….so that wouldn’t work……How about a solid gold iPhone…..Just £100k…..nah…way too bling and nobody really understands how to use their iphone anyway……I know…..She has been telling me for ages that the iron is not working….its leaving white marks on my black shirts…..That is the perfect gift!!!!...but wait….The Christmas shop doesn’t have everything we need to make Christmas complete.

I did buy Jeanette an iron for Christmas once…..her reaction was priceless….Thankfully for me, inside with the iron was her beautiful cross and necklace….close call tho.

So….a blinged up car or iphone….an iron…or even a beautiful necklace….these are not the gift that really matters at Christmas…..they are not the perfect gift….

The moral of this story is a simple one…..and a very short one….hence why I rambled on about our trip to York….you are not getting off with a very very short sermon!!!

The perfect gift is available to everyone……they don’t sell it in the shops…not even The Christmas shop….for the angel Gabriel told us and the shepherds , ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord…….GOOD NEWS….

It’s Simple!

It was this moment in history….the seemingly insignificant birth of a baby in the manger that gives you and I the gift of a relationship with God….Abba….father….daddy…..for he sent his only son to save us from our sin….that act of love is overwhelming and unconditional…..

So, we are back to where we started…..Love….not as in my case…puppy love….but the love that Transends THINGS….Possessions….intellect…..standing in society….power……A love that Transends understanding!

Love is the priceless gift that I leave with you today….

And as we take a moment to consider what love has done for us….and can do for us….I would like to wish you a happy Christmas….a Christmas full of god’s blessing….a Christ-centred Christmas ….a Christmas full of love…..and this love goes out not just to you…but to all those whom you love….not just today…but tomorrow, next week, next month….forever.

Amen