

WEEKLY SERMON

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



There is only one gift we REALLY need

At this time of year, the television adverts are constantly telling us what we need in order to have the best Christmas.

Coca Cola is telling us we need more Santas; Michael Buble is encouraging us to buy food in Asda and I wonder how many of us are now considering whether or not to decorate a Venus Flytrap instead of a traditional Christmas tree!

I asked a group of children just what the TV adverts are telling us we need. They mentioned turkeys, decorations, lights, presents, candy canes and much more. When I asked them if they thought we really needed to have all these things, or whether it was maybe all stuff that we just like to have, they admitted that it was great, but perhaps this was all just a little bit much and wasn't necessarily needed.

When we think about the first Christmas it was in fact very simple and at the heart of it all there was only one gift; not piles and piles of boxes wrapped in shiny paper. God gave us all one gift, his Son, Jesus our Saviour and that is all we really need.

With this one gift we have everything, not just what we need to have the best Christmas, but what is needed to have the best life.

Although there is only one gift, that baby brings with him many things; many gifts that will fill our hearts and transform our lives. I asked the same group of children what they thought those gifts were and they mentioned love, peace, friendship, truth, hope, forgiveness, joy and kindness. They then agreed that they are in fact the things we truly need in our lives.

Going back to the adverts there is one that does have a message for us all this Christmas that is worth listening to. Picture three old ladies sitting on a park bench watching children sledding.

One of the ladies orders three cushions online and presents them to her friends. The three ladies then have a wonderful time whizzing down the hill and Amazon tells us that 'Joy is for Sharing'.

This is exactly what we should be doing: sharing the joy. The joy that the one gift we were given at the first Christmas is in fact the only gift we truly need.

**Lisa Fenton, Adviser to Primary Schools and Academies
Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

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