

## Tony Thinking Allowed lxxxii

I guess like me, a few years ago, you may have wondered what 'Black Friday' was. It is of course like many things an import from the USA, the Friday following Thanksgiving Day. A commercial incentive – par excellence when everything, we are told, is offered at bargain price. Expect irresistible deals – well who does not like a bargain? There is pressure to buy for Christmas.

So how important is it that we think carefully before parting with our cash? Can we afford it? Do we need it? The Bible says, 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also' (St Matthew 6.21).

We all think of our loved ones and friends with whom we want to share the joy of Christmas. We do not always stop to think like this... *gifts are given at Christmas because of the most significant gift of all ... Jesus, God's gift of his Son to us who came to help us understand more about the Love of God and so our need to love other people.*

So, what about doing something which reflects that aspect of Christmas? Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, the day to start your Advent Calendar –although with some you have to wait until December 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year and again this year Tatenhill Church invites us to take part in a reverse Advent Calendar! An opportunity to demonstrate our concern for those who are less fortunate. A reverse Advent Calendar is as you open each window you put aside something to go to someone in need (most likely non-perishable food). That means twenty-five items. Now the practicalities. Items can be taken to Tatenhill Church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at service times. There are other places including the food bank at Morrisons. If your gifts are toys etc., best to go there before Christmas.

Not only a Reverse Advent Calendar – but a reverse Black Friday – a White Christmas of Joy and Hope.