Christmas Family Service, couple of days before Christmas...

## **Presents**

- Wastepaper basket and three presents
  - a tin or tube of biscuits
  - small box with cufflinks or similar
  - blank unsealed envelope with a tenner
- Getting to open some presents early but don't want to make a mess....
  - open the tin/tube, throw biscuits in bin and wax lyrical about how useful the tin

Fintry, 23/12/2012, am

- open the cufflinks, throw the cufflinks in the bin and talk about how useful the box will be...
- get the envelope, scrunch up the tenner and bin it and talk about how useful the envelope will be...
- What's wrong?!
  - throwing away the presents and keeping the wrapping!
- It's easy to do that with Christmas:
  - keep all the wrapping of the decorations, food, celebrations...
  - and throw away the gift which is Jesus
- If it doesn't make sense to throw away the presents and keep the wrapping then it doesn't make sense to celebrate Christmas without Jesus

## **Presents from the Wise Men**

- Gifts wise men gave were about more than some random present 'cos they couldn't think of anything better!
  - gold king and kingship
  - frankincense used by priests, burned in temple, points to someone who introduces people to God
  - myrrh used on dead bodies, points to death, good coming out of death

## **Anti-Santy-Ranty**

- Introduce and show video clip, "Anti Santy Ranty" (ex Youtube)
- Jesus is God's gift:
  - its more than just the fact that he's given himself that is important
  - shouldn't get hung up on the packaging of the gift...
  - but engage with the gift in the way intended!
  - Jesus shows up to befriend and to stay...