

## **...so what...**

How important do you think it is for us to recall and reflect on the church year? How does it shape our faith?

Read Isaiah 9.1-5

What do you think is the force of the word 'nevertheless' here?

Read the context for this passage in Isaiah 8.

What do you feel you are saying 'nevertheless' against in our time in choosing to trust in God?

The promises of Isaiah 9 come to a remnant of faithful people who are called Immanuel.

These are those who do not look to sort out problems excluding God, but who look to trust to God, see Isaiah 8.11-17

How easy do you find it to keep looking to God rather than fixing things independently?

Look at 8.16-17.

What is suggested here to help people look to God?

Cf. Hebrews 12.1-3

In Isaiah 9.2-5, there is a picture of the coming kingdom.

Look at the detail here and discuss the qualities that are to be found in this kingdom, the qualities which we are to look for and exhibit in faith today.

All of this is to underwritten by the birth of a child.

How strange do you find the fact that salvation is promised through the gift of a child?

Cf. John 3.16

What qualities is this child to bring?

If this child is Immanuel, the manifestation of the faithful remnant, what does suggest about who the people of God are now?

## **Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>**



### **Advent Sunday Isaiah 9.1-7**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.