

1) Don't fear the visible threat

(7:1-6)

2) Have faith in the sovereign God

(7:7-12)

3) Look for the sign of Immanuel...

...originally a message of judgement

(7:13-17, 8:1-10)

...now a message of salvation

(Matt 1:23, 28:20)

1) Operation Gabriel

Our Christmas cards have arrived, and we have 5000 of them! Use them as your cards to friends and colleagues this year, highlighting which service you would like them to come with you. Also, like the angel Gabriel, we hope to deliver an invite to hear good news to all our neighbours in the area. Please choose a street at the back of church, and take a stack!

2) Women's Christmas Drinks (Thursday 7th December)

Following the success of last years women's drinks event, do be thinking and praying about who you might invite - that your friends might meet your church family and hear a short talk on what Christmas is really all about. If you would like to help bake cookies for the event, please contact Edie Rajguru (rajguru@btinternet.com)

3) Licensing service for Tom Watts (Thursday 4th January, 7:30pm)

We hope many of the church will be able to attend the Licensing Service of the Rev'd Tom Watts as the new Senior Minister of St John's, conducted by the Bishop of Edmonton, on Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm. The service will be followed by drinks and a light supper. Please RSVP to Kerry (office@sjdh.org)

4) Easter Holiday Club 2018 (Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th April)

Our Easter Holiday Bible Club is for all primary school children and will run in the mornings. If you'd like more information about what happens, please speak to Kerry Jones, Gareth & Siobhán Burns, or Tom Brown. In previous years we have had helpers from all ages and we will need lots of help this year too - you don't have to commit to the full week, if you can do one or two days that would also be great! This year we will be using the Mega Makers! material from Scripture Union, based on Matthew's Gospel. It explores the theme of inventions, and that the more we discover about God, the bigger his love for us will seem.

Further Application Questions - Isaiah 7-8 & Matthew 1:18-25

- What do we fear? (e.g. what people think of us, failure, loneliness, evangelism etc)
- In 2 Kings 16:5-9, what did King Ahaz of Judah fear? What did he put his trust in?
- What things do we depend on to deal with our fears? What's the effects of this?
- In Isaiah 7:10-25, how did putting his trust in Assyria work out for Ahaz? What was the sign that God was going to be *with* Judah in judgement? How does this warn us?
- In what way does Matthew use the Immanuel sign to comfort Joseph (descendant of Ahaz) as he faces a similarly scary and hard-to-believe situation? In what sense is 'God with us' in this passage?
- From Matthew 28:20, how will remembering the Immanuel sign help us to be bold in our own personal witness and evangelism?

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