

## SPEAKERS

6th - Colin (Communion)

13th - Heather and Guiding groups

20th - Dave (Communion)

27th - Steve

Sunday Services are happening in the church. To book in email [booking@manormissionchurch.org.uk](mailto:booking@manormissionchurch.org.uk) or phone 01268 727681.

**Christmas Day** - A pre-recorded service will go on the app/website at 10am

## GET IN TOUCH

Manor Road, Laindon, SS15 6PA

Email: [manormission@aol.com](mailto:manormission@aol.com)

Website: [www.manormissionchurch.org.uk](http://www.manormissionchurch.org.uk)

Facebook/Instagram:

@manormissionchurch

Prayer Chain: 07736 195152

**KNOWING GOD, SHOWING GOD,  
MAKING GOD KNOWN.**

## ONLINE SERVICES

To watch from home use these links and to watch afterwards visit our online hub.

### In person and online

**Sunday 10am Service** (recorded)

Stream on our website/apps -  
[www.manormissionchurch.org.uk/media](http://www.manormissionchurch.org.uk/media)

### Online only

**Monday 10am-12 Coffee Pot**

<https://zoom.us/j/466823239>

**Tuesday 8pm Bible Study** (recorded)

<https://zoom.us/j/374335724>

**Sunday 7pm Prayer Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/645605703>

### In person

**Thursday 8pm Xplore youth group.**

We also have Android and Apple Apps where you can watch the services and the recordings of the Bible Study and Steve's Thoughts.



DECEMBER

2020

MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE  
EACH OTHER AS I HAVE  
LOVED YOU.  
JOHN 15:12 (NIV)

## BUILDING FUND

Thanks to everyone's donations we're now up to £78217.

We've appointed an architect and are working with them to get some initial plans to discuss.



## NOTICES

### Christmas Collection

As with the Harvest collection, we will not be taking a physical collection ourselves in December. However, we would encourage you to donate to the Community Resource Centre via their website - <https://basildoncrc.weebly.com/>. If you'd like to donate cash, please clearly mark it as for the Resource Centre and put it in the offering boxes at the back of the church.

### Christmas Morning - 10am

We won't be having our usual Christmas morning service, but will put putting out a pre-recorded service which will combine some people's thoughts on Christmas and their favourite carols.

## Advent - Steve

And so it's December which means, of course, The Tenth Month (decem means ten, as in decimal). TEN?! But December's the twelfth month! Ah, but that's because the year used to start in March! (It should really be Duodecember.) You see, nothing is forever – even the calendar changes. December is the beginning of winter (unless you're in Australia etc.) and it's the darkest month, but it also contains the solstice when the days at last begin to lengthen. I also notice that in the USA it's National Egg-nog Month and National Fruit Cake Month.

Why any nation needs an Egg-nog and a Fruitcake Month\*, I don't know, but we're not in the USA anyway, and, with current restrictions, most if us aren't likely to go there for a while, anyway - egg-nogs and fruitcakes notwithstanding!

But it's also Advent, which means arrival and has been celebrated by Christians since....well, no-one knows! The earliest reference is in 480AD, so the festival is at least a millennium and a half old.

What are we celebrating as we hang up our Advent calendars, open their little windows and scoff those little chocolates?

Three things:

1. The arrival of Christ in Bethlehem – what we call the Nativity, celebrated at Christmas.
2. The arrival of Christ in our hearts – what we call faith, celebrated every day, I hope!

3. The arrival of Christ when He returns – what we call the Second Coming or Second Advent, celebrated....well it hasn't happened yet, but nos. 1 and 2 prove that He's on His way!

You see, everything changes except one thing – God's faithfulness. I the LORD do not change, He said in the last book of the Old Testament (Malachi 3:6), just before EVERYTHING ELSE changed with the first Advent. So,

- We can trust Him to help us in 2021 just as He did in 2020!
- We can expect Him to help us with the unexpected in 2021 just as He did with COVID 19!
- We can ask Him to help us with our rebuild! (What will the Mission look like in 2022?)
- We can overcome.....[insert your current need/fear/anxiety etc.]

I'd like to wish you a happy New Year, but that's beyond my gift, so, instead, I'll wish you a blessed New Year. And my advice for 2021? Keep one eye on the earth, so that you can make the most of every opportunity (Eph. 5:16) He gives you; and keep the other on the sky, because one thing's for sure – the Second Advent is a year nearer than last December....

\*Dawn proofread this and said, "Mmm, I LOVE egg-nog and fruitcake!"