



December 2022

KNOWING GOD  
SHOWING GOD  
MAKING GOD KNOWN

MAGAZINE

ISSUE  
**5**



# Thought

WHAT NEXT?

STEVE



GOD SAYS: "I WILL STRENGTHEN  
YOU AND HELP YOU"  
*ISAIAH 41:10 (NIV)*

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## 4 WHAT HAPPENED AT MESSY CHURCH?



### WHAT NEXT?

Steve takes a look into the future with his non-2020 vision.



### CHRISTMAS CHANGES

Find out what is going on over the Christmas holidays!

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### SUN 10AM - MORNING SERVICE

1st Sunday - Open Service  
Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

### SUN 8PM - PRAYER MEETING (ZOOM)

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

### SUN 4PM - MESSY CHURCH (IN JAN)

Last Sunday of the month - Messy fun for all ages with food!

### TUE 8PM - BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM)

A chance to informally study together online.  
Zoom ID:  
<https://zoom.us/j/374335724>

### MON 10AM-12 - COFFEE POT

A chance to have a chat and a cuppa at the church.

### WED 2PM - CAMEO (TERM TIME)

Come and Meet Everyone - a time of fellowship and fun. No two weeks are the same!

### THU 8PM - XPLORE (TERM TIME)

Our Youth Group for those in Year 5 and upwards.

### SAT 3PM - DCF (2ND SATURDAY)

Disabled Christians Fellowship. An opportunity for all to meet together.

# Trustee's Thoughts

## What next?

*Steve*

A Happy Christmas to you all! May this month be full of seasonal cheer. We'll be hearing a lot about the birth of Jesus and celebrating at home and together at Church. But, then....what next? As 2022 limps to its close (unlamented by some), what will 2023 bring? I don't know - do you? Of course you don't!

Back in January 2020, I wrote in another magazine that, even if you've got 20:20 vision (see what I did there?), you can't predict what will happen as a New Year comes. Well, I got that right, anyway - within a few weeks, we were all in lockdown....

I guess a year ago you might have predicted that 2022 would bring a new King (the late Queen was 96, after all), but two new Prime Ministers? A year ago, there was suspicious activity on the Ukrainian border, but did any of us expect Russia to invade....and for the war to be dragging on so many months later? And in January, inflation was at 4.9% and we were starting to complain....now it's 11%. Did we see it coming? What about in your own lives this year? Your families? This Church? Any surprises? I'll be surprised if there weren't...!

If we could see the future, we would all be experts....and paralysed with fear. In 1 Samuel 28, King Saul was troubled. Things were going badly and God wasn't answering his prayers. Instead of examining his heart, confessing his sins and waiting for God, he consulted a medium (the famous Witch of Endor). He had trouble finding her because he had sensibly expelled mediums from the kingdom - thus adding hypocrisy to his other crimes. Did the witch tell him what he wanted to hear? No: she brought the prophet Samuel back from the dead who told him what he didn't want to hear - that the next day, he and his sons would die in battle with the Philistines....as indeed they did. Samuel was very cross with Saul for disturbing him. Quite right, too! The prophets and apostles have already told us all we need to know - it's all there in God's Bible. Even Jesus was content not to know every detail of the future when He was here on earth, but instead to leave it to God (Mt. 24:36).

So, as 2023 approaches, you don't need to go to the end of Southend Pier to see what "Mystic Meg" has to say - she's got no more idea than you! Instead, determine to use all the gifts and knowledge that God has given you and will give you to make it a good year for yourself and for others, too. But, most of all, remember what Jesus said:

I am with you always [in 2022 and 2023] and to the very end of the age (Mt. 28:20).

So, Merry Christmas and a Happy TRUSTING

RESTING

LOVING

New Year!

# What's on this month?

## Sunday Mornings

Date	Speaker
4th	Tim (Open)
11th	Colin
18th	Dave
25th	Steve

## Bible Study

Date	Speaker
6th	Steve
13th	Colin
20th	Heather
27th	Tim

## Prayer Meeting

Date	Speaker
4th	Colin
11th	Steve
18th	Carols by Candlelight with John

## Notices

### The Building Fund

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the Building Fund. It now stands at £126,908.

### Christmas Services

We'll be having our carols by candlelight service on the 18th December at 6.30pm led by John.

On Christmas morning the service will start at 10.30am (not 10) with a family feel.

On the evening of the 25th we won't have a prayer meeting.

CAMEO, Coffee Pot and Xplore won't be running over the holidays as per their normal pattern.

### December Giving Service

On the 10th December we will be collecting items and money to help the Basildon Resource Centre. They help local people with advice and also long life food items. If you are able to help with items for them, please bring them to the Parade Service on the 10th.

## Update

### Messy Church

Messy Church has been a great success since we restarted with a really good core of children and adults coming back every session. Some of whom are even bringing their friends (which is very welcome!)

This month we held our Christmas Messy Church where the children made bracelets, wreaths, tree decorations, advent calendars and all sorts of other things.

We always have a couple of songs and a story from the Bible. This month the children helped with the reading of 'A very noisy Christmas' which showed it maybe wasn't such a 'silent night' after all!

And as with any event at the Mission there's then food afterwards!

We are massively grateful to all those who give up their time to make this (and all the other events!) run - THANK YOU.

We're having a break for Christmas and next open on the 29th January.