



**I** imagine what it must have been like to be without mains electricity over the Christmas period. Many people in the South of England had to manage without power for several days. Imagine what it must have been like to have your house flooded, with your furniture and other belongings ruined. Many people had to evacuate their homes and find makeshift accommodation. Quite rightly we remembered them all in our prayers as we sat in our warm homes enjoying the usual festivities.

Now imagine being those wise men who travelled hundreds of miles to see a royal baby. There were no trains running, and the only light was that given by a bright star. Their accommodation would have lacked any home comforts. Today it is difficult to imagine what life was like then. However, traditionally during the festival of Epiphany we remember three events in the early life of Jesus. In addition to that arduous journey by the wise men, some Christians celebrate the baptism of Jesus, and some celebrate his first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

These events underline both the humanity and divinity of Jesus. The wise men were there to rejoice at the birth of a baby born as a human, but divinely conceived. They made an earthly journey guided by a divine satellite navigation system. Jesus was baptised by his cousin John in the Jordan just like many others had been, but the ceremony was made special by the anointment of the Holy Spirit. The wedding at Cana was just like any other wedding, until Jesus demonstrated his divinity by changing water into wine. Imagine what it would have been like to have witnessed any of those events.

The Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God to the world, and it is an ongoing process. Are we prepared to make the sacrificial journey that brings us closer to God?

*Mike Dyer*

## Pilots



Last term our Pilot group took part in Remembrance Sunday, when Liam, Conrad and Alicia shared the honour of presenting the flag and the wreath at the War Memorial.

There were other Pilots present as well, and they all did very well having to stand very still for such a long time, as the whole service took place outside and not in St John's Church as previously.

In December Pilots presented a Play in a Day - *Jonah and The Whale*. The children had been working hard all afternoon preparing the play, and had really enjoyed themselves putting it all together. The Church Hall was full, and there was not a vacant seat to be seen! Even better, the Pilots were word-perfect, and everyone enjoyed themselves. If you were there, you would have had both good entertainment and good food (thank you Cherry). We are grateful to Valerie and Peter for having the foresight and belief that their Pilots were capable of performing this play.



Thank you to everyone who supported us in any way - parents, friends and helpers - and to Pamela Jenner who gave her time in producing our play with such imagination and patience! Pamela surprised us all by saying that she would like to do another play another time, maybe at Easter. so watch this space!

## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th 10.30 am Andrew Brown

12th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins

19th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Covenant Service & Communion

26th 10.30 am Rev'd George Lambdon

*Services will be held in the Hall during January and February*

### Other Activities

Fri 10th/17th/24th 6.15 pm *Investigators in the Hall*

Sun 12th 11.30 am *Fairtrade goods on sale after service*

Mon 13th 9.30 am *Church Oversight Group 7 Blythwood Gdns*

6.00 pm *Pilots in the Hall*

Mon 27th 8.00 pm *Shalom At Home - 7 Blythwood Gardens*

### Whitechapel Mission Collection



Thank you to everyone who brought gifts and contributed to our Christmas Day collection, which amounted to £160.

The gifts will be taken to Whitechapel in the next few weeks, and the money has already been sent.

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th January. Please submit articles by Friday 17th January to: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk). Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to: 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP. Editors: Alan Wheeler 813745 and Mike & Marion Dyer 814059

**Copies of this and previous editions of Imagine can be found on our website [www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**

# Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC  
[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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## Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

## Pilots Children's Work

**Monday (monthly)** 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: [pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

## The Place on the Hill Drop-In (All Welcome)

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)