



I imagine what fun I had at the pantomime recently with my extended family. It is a good job that we have a few children to justify our regular annual attendance! The panto' writers always manage to include a few big words that would be over the heads of the children. Imagine my surprise at hearing the Nasty Squire refer to his epiphany. He had just seen the error of his ways and decided to be nice rather than nasty to the tenants on his estate. It set me wondering about what is really meant by epiphany. Most of us are only aware of one particular epiphany, which traditionally occurs on 6th January, when the wise men worshipped the baby Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The coming of the Magi was seen as evidence that Jesus was meant for the gentiles as well as for the Jews.

In a more general sense an epiphany may be defined as a sudden manifestation of the essence or meaning of something. More simply put, we might describe it as seeing the light. The Magi saw the light literally in the form of a star, but more importantly they were privileged to be the first of many gentiles to see God revealed to mankind through his Son Jesus. Paul's encounter with God on the road to Damascus is a classic example of an epiphany. Most of us will remember less dramatic times when we have seen things in a new light. One of the joys of teaching is seeing the look on a student's face when the penny drops and they see the light.

Epiphanies come as a result of seeking the truth. In John 8:31 -32, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." As we enter 2013 let's resolve to discover more of the truth so we can share in the experience of the Magi.

Mike Dyer

What's on in January

Worship at Stansted Free Church

6th 10.30 am John Banks

13th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Covenant & Communion

20th 10.30 am Andrew Brown

27th 10.30 am Sarah Devereux

Other Activities

Mon 28th 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 7 Blythwood Gardens

Sun 20th 2.00 pm Children Unite Talk B S Methodist Church

Thank You....

.....to those who gave so generously to our collection on Christmas Day. The sum of £150 has been sent to [Water Aid](#).

.....to everyone who brought items for our [Food Bank](#) to the Gift Service. One parcel has already been sent to a needy family and we are expecting further requests during January. The four churches in Stansted take it in turns to supply a parcel when a request is received. Our Food Bank will need replenishing in the near future, so further donations are welcome, and can be brought to church any Sunday or Wednesday morning.

.....to all who supported the Churches Together in Stansted Celebration of Christmas and Carol Singing. Over £660 was raised for [Spangles Children's Centre](#).

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 27th January. Please submit articles by Friday 18th January to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to:

23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP. Thank you.

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



give child domestic
workers a voice

Sunday 20th January

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Morning worship

at 10.00 am led by Rev Stuart Veitch

A hot Lunch at 12.30 pm in the New Hall

Presentation at 2.00 pm by Helen Veitch

Children Unite is a registered charity and was set up to eliminate the international exploitation and abuse of child domestic workers which is largely invisible because it takes place in 'homes', behind closed doors. This isolation allows children to be abused and exploited without anyone knowing about it. Children Unite is working to raise awareness so that communities are aware that child domestic workers exist and so that governments will introduce measures that will better protect children in domestic work.

For further information please see: www.childrenunite.org.uk

Helen (daughter of Stuart and Brenda)
is the Co-founder and Director of Children Unite.

Lunch tickets available from December 30th

Adults £5 Family £12

from Brenda Veitch and Sue Haworth

Arranged by the Circuit **Methodist Women in Britain** group

If you are attending your own morning worship you are welcome to join us for lunch (tickets required), or you can just come for the presentation

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.
Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk