

Welcome <i>(ice-breaker)</i>	Can you think of a New Year's Resolution for your group?
Worship ideas	Suggestions for songs of commitment at the start of a new year e.g. Songs of Fellowship 851 I will offer up my life; 859 I will worship; 1160 Father, let me dedicate; 2231 Bless the Lord, O my soul; (NB: 20 files of 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the church lounge for groups)
Word (refs.↓)	<i>Sunday's 9am sermon is available to hear at http://www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on 'download' tab)</i>
<u>Read</u> Matthew 2:1-12 and Micah 5:2-6	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. v.2 – The Magi would search the heavens and the Scriptures (see e.g. Numbers 24:17) to find out what God was saying about the future. Why do you think they left everything to follow this star?2. v.3 – why was Herod concerned to hear a new king had been born? Why was he so keen the baby should be found?3. v.6 – what kind of Messiah does the prophecy from Micah portray (look up the passage in context)4. v.11 - what were the responses of the Magi when they finally met Jesus (v.11)? How does this compare with your response to meeting him?5. v.12 – why didn't the Magi return to Herod?6. What does this passage suggest about the significance of Jesus to the wider world, in contrast with Luke's account of the birth and its announcement to Jewish shepherds?7. (Questions to consider from <i>The Serendipity Bible</i>):<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What 'star' are you following at the moment? Where is it taking you?- In your journey towards God, how are you like the Magi? – and unlike them? How far along the journey are you?- What is the 'gold, incense and myrrh' in your life? How much of this (time, talents, treasures, etc.) have you offered to Jesus?
Witness	<u>Pray</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray for the year ahead as a group and for individual needs, in particular that we will all reveal Jesus to others through our lives, words and actions this year.• Please make sure at least one person from your group can attend the group leaders' meeting on the evening of Friday January 18th.