

ALADDIN 2015



When we started planning for the biennial Church Panto in 2014 we had no idea that our Director would be moving to Australia and that we would end up holding the Pantomime in the Church for the first time in the history of the St. James Players.



Those of you came will be able to judge the result, certainly the feedback has been extremely positive and along the way we have learnt a lot about the feasibility of a large scale production. The challenge of bringing in extra staging from

two different sources, hiring lighting and sourcing special effects to create explosions that wouldn't burn a hole in the new carpet were added to the usual tasks of assembling a cast, finding time to rehearse, borrowing costumes, choosing songs we could sing and designing posters and programmes. In all nearly forty people were involved which does not include those who were in the front of house and refreshment teams.



Huge thanks to Tim for trusting us to turn his church into a performance space, to Karen for ensuring the heating was on for our rehearsals, to



Rob Ray, Ruth and Simon for their 'magical musical ministrations', to Sheila for overseeing costumes to our technical and stage genies, (Martin, Dan, Norman, Laura, Bob, Michelle O) and to Matthew Dietz, newly arrived Chaplain at Taunton school, who John Newton cajoled into directing our motley crew as he flew off into the sunshine.

For those of us involved it was a great experience, but not without challenges and we were very grateful for the support and encouragement of each other in the prayer time as both practical and personal difficulties were shared. The younger members of the team were a great asset, and worked really hard, fuelled by pizza and chocolate bars.

It was a wonderful exercise in Team work, both in front of and behind the scenes. We hope that those who came, especially those who wouldn't normally come to a church building, discovered a warm welcome and were able to gain understanding of us as a Christian community which can have fun and fellowship along-side our faith.

And the Fund raising side? Well we raised a fantastic total of £1376 for Somerset Sight and St James hall chairs appeal. **Thank you** to everyone who supported us.