



E News

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Welcome to the October edition of Street Jesus e-news.

We have just spent a weeks holiday near the Mourne mountains in Northern Ireland. A little cottage in the middle of a field. It was so peaceful. God has given us the sabbath in recognition of our need for rest. Many people myself included find it difficult to rest, being rather more rest-less makes it more important to take time out from our busy lives. A holiday in a remote place, close to nature helps us to 'Be still and know that I am God'. Reflection and prayer time are so much easier without the everyday demands.

We had hired a car so took the opportunity to visit Belfast. Taking in the Titanic and Ulster museums giving us a sense of Belfast's industrial history particularly in the linen trade and shipbuilding at Harland and Wolff.

We took in the city open top bus tour which passed through the Falls and Shankill roads. These are the Catholic and protestant areas which are divided by a number of peace walls. The main peace wall is in three tiers as the British army had to keep building it yet higher to prevent both groups throwing projectiles at one another. There are heavy gates between these areas that are left open for traffic during the



day but closed at night and can be electronically closed at any time should trouble brew. The walls are covered in murals with various political slogans. They are works of art in their own right but highlight a divided community which is still marked by sectarian violence. History is invoked to demonise the other. Right back

to the 12th /13th centuries when the Anglo-Normans first invaded Ireland. Murals on the Catholic side disparage Oliver Cromwell and English rule there. Each side is a mixture of Nationalism and religion. The catholic republicans crave for a united Ireland whilst the protestants see the six counties in the north as British. Tensions this week are running high as protestant Orange men seek to revive their traditional march through a Catholic neighbourhood near Drumcree Church. The Protestant side mark both the world wars, and the part Britain played in them. Images of King Charles, Queen Elizabeth also very prominent. Images of King William of Orange are common marking the Battle of the Boyne where King Billy defeated the Catholic King James II. There are union Jack flags and Orange lodge banners everywhere, and even the kerbs are painted Red, white and blue. Loyalists and royalists they certainly are. More traditionally British than we on the mainland. . Apologies for not including Republican images but our access was part restricted on the falls road. In the republican areas there are images of hunger strikers, prominent Republican leaders, IRA martyrs



The Irish potato famine and Bloody Sunday in 1972 where 14 protesters were killed by the British army. There are pro Palestine murals drawing a parallel between British colonialism and Israeli Colonialism. In the Ulster Museum there is a very large section on the troubles and it is very well done in that it covers the subject without bias. The conflict is even expressed in football loyalties, not relating to Irish teams but rather Celtic and Rangers in Scotland. Each have supporters clubs in their areas. Celtic for Catholics and Rangers for Protestants. They each charter a ferry to carry their supporters to the games in Glasgow.



In a place like this you can feel tension in the air, it's incredibly sad to watch people at the memorials, that so many have lost their lives in such violent circumstances. The scars can be seen in the buildings but there are many more hidden in the human heart.

For some the conflict is all about religion which is maddening because it brings Jesus into disrepute. We have heard the statement often in our Street work. Religion causes more wars than anything. This is not strictly true because Nazism and communism have been the biggest killing regimes in history although religious groups have had their fair share over the centuries.

Another common comment is about us being religious and although Christianity is classified as a religion we see it completely differently and we always say that we are not religious but rather follow Jesus the best we can. It's not about the 'thou shalt nots' but rather a loving relationship.

Recently a friend and my wife were talking about what they would be doing the next morning. Barbara said that we would be in Church. The friend thought it must be such a bind to go to church when you could maybe be doing something more interesting. But we don't go to church out of a sense of duty, we go because we desire to enjoy coming together in worship and praise of the loving, living, forgiving God, to



learn and grow together and encourage one another in Love.

It was interesting to see that the local Tesco's was closed on Sunday mornings but opened in the afternoon, this reflects a national encouragement to go to Church. Church going in Northern Ireland is three times higher than the UK average.

In a country where more people pray and listen to the teachings of Jesus and where we found the people to be very friendly, it's hard to understand the sectarian division, because Jesus teaches the opposite. He teaches non-violence, he doesn't teach nationalism. He teaches forgiveness not revenge. He teaches life not death. Our primary identity is in him, not the nation state or a religious label.

In our online ministry we are seeing some strange expressions regarding the teachings of Jesus so it's not just in one community.

This is why our Street work is important in reaching those who are not inclined to cross the threshold of a church because of what they think. On our recent Outreach we had some great conversations. A lot of pastoral work but also two very significant conversations using 'Jesus at the door'. It's great when people engage, are honest and admit to sin, recognise that there needs to be a way of preventing the misery that it causes. All, felt it was an usual way to explain what Jesus has done for us, but effective. It made them think anew. Our prayer is that God may take these planted seeds, that they may grow. As ever we pray and bless all those who visit us. We will be out on the hill again on October 17th and ask that God will place before us those who are in need.





The Filling Station is an informal way of expressing the Christian Faith, using celebration meetings to encourage the local church, predominantly in rural areas across the UK.

What to expect when we meet:

A warm welcome with light refreshments... Contemporary worship led by local worship leaders... Stories of God at work today... Guest Speakers to refresh our faith... Prayer together for worldwide and personal needs...

Generally meetings are on the 4th Thursday of the month. Please visit the website for details.

The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew
Refreshments at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

Everyone is Welcome

<https://thefillingstation.org.uk/>

All Saints
Wickham Market

SS Peter & Paul
Tottistree

OPEN DOOR

LOVE

Coffee, tea,
biscuits and
friends

Friday morning
Drop in from
10:00am

At All Saints Church
Every Friday Morning

Network SUFFOLK

Connecting Christian Communities in Suffolk

GOOD NEWS

www.goodnews-paper.org.uk

Evangelistic Newspaper

**All Saints Church
Wickham Market**

Prayer & Praise Evenings
3rd Sunday of the month
at 6:30pm

Informal service for all ages



Every third Sunday of the month at 11am
All Saints Church, refreshments from 10.30am

Oasis

Informal Service @ All Saints Church
3pm every Second Sunday. All invited!

A time of worship, fellowship,
and light refreshments.

Meet old friends and make new ones



**“Do everything in
love.”**

— 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



With **GOD**

*all things are
possible.*

MATTHEW 19:26 KJV

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Mike having just set up the Street Jesus stall.
Wickham Market Hill

Still Waters

In the style of Lectio Divina, time to dwell
together on God's word

Join us at the Wickham Market vicarage on the
second and fourth Mondays of each month

2 pm, all welcome, just come along and see if it
is for you

Next Still waters
October 12th & 26th



Puppets sharing the message
All Saints Wickham Market

STREET JESUS



Our next outreach is on
Wickham Market Hill
on Saturday October 17th 9am–3pm



Check out our
facebook page
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1246450225452294](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1246450225452294)