

STREET JESUS



E News

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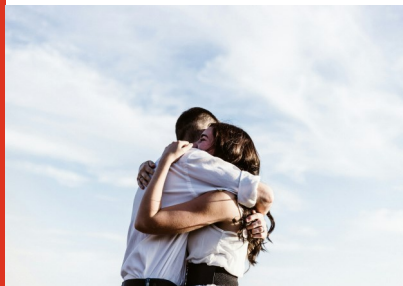
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Welcome to the October edition of Street Jesus e-news. We have recently completed the 'Through Faith Missions' week of evangelism which supported by nine churches took place at venues across Suffolk coastal. We supported this mission by having our stall on Wickham market square between Monday September the 8th, every day through to Friday 12th inclusive. We also took our stall down to the old workhouse in Chapel lane on Saturday 13th As well as taking part in the village Harvest market on September 6th. A total of seven outreaches in addition to the village show in August where we trialled the personal belief survey.



A total of 77 personal belief surveys were completed. Very few people declined to take part which is probably an indicator that working in the village, building up relationships has allowed people to feel a bit more confident about us and our intentions. The fact the survey was completely anonymous with no personal data required also helped. We had many significant conversations and we got the



impression that people quite like sharing what they believe. Also sensitive personal information was disclosed, to which we gave a listening ear. We feel quite honoured to be trusted with these disclosures and we pray for healing for each and every one. Sometimes we cannot find the right words but sometimes a consensual hug is the best we can do. Just to show people we care.

We were blessed with good weather and although we had a couple of quieter days the whole week was very enjoyable and a lot of fun. At the end of the outreach we ask this question. In what context do you get to talk to 77 people about God in such a short space of time?

Various teams in the Through faith missions worked in different ways, we continued to place ourselves at the centre of our community, a point of attraction, the survey was an additional point of contact which interestingly led to more people taking part in Jesus at the door. A number of people commented that they had never had the Christian faith explained like that before, not a whole load of rules and regulations designed to restrict and control but rather a faith that relieves us of our burdens and where we can experience freedom in the love and holy spirit of God. We note that Jesus also ministered in the public square as did the apostles in Acts who travelled huge distances to share the good news of Jesus Christ. I often think what it must have been like for them facing hostility imprisonment and violence how they showed



such courage. They spoke against the philosophical traditions of the Greeks such as the Stoics and Epicurians but also upset the commercial interests of the traders at Ephesus (to the point of riot) who sold graven images to various Greek Gods such as Artemis. (pictured) Pauls assertion that there is only one true God was obviously bad for trade. Why would they put themselves in such danger if they thought Jesus was a lie. The fact that they endured all to testify, lends credence to what they and others insisted was true.



One person we met was very angry at 'Religion' and angry at God. We never contest these arguments if expressed in this way because it can easily inflame things further. Hearing the reasons why we could only sympathise at the negative experiences of their past. Sometimes its best to say little or nothing.

Encounters of this kind are rare, only a handful in the 11 years we have been doing this work. We feel blessed that we can go out and generally speak freely about our faith. I know a brother in Christ who routinely debates at speakers corner in Hyde park, things can get a

little heated there with hecklers and Muslims in particular but this is nothing compared to the severe persecution our Christian brothers and sisters experience in many countries, to the point of torture and death. We are grateful to organisations such as Barnabus and Open doors who keep us informed about this so we can pray for all Christians in those situations. We find here, there is still a lot of social capital in our faith even though we may not think so as it does not always seem evident.

We plan to compile the results of the survey at the end of October to provide data to Through Faith Missions but also for our own interest, to reflect on what we do and how we can approach things better. We have done some initial number crunching even though it does not represent a large enough demo graph to make any solid conclusions. The national secular society after the last census made great fanfare of the fact that less than 50% of the population now identify as religious, implying the majority in the country were now atheists. However only 10 of the 77 in our survey considered themselves Atheists although of the 67 who believed in a God (s) the manifestation of God took many and varied forms. 30 out of 77 believed in a personal God but only 14 believed in Heaven and hell, interestingly 9 believed that we all go to heaven. 28 believed Jesus was the only son of God, whilst 23 saw him as a great ethical teacher. Only one person believed he did not exist at all. 44 people reported a

spiritual experience but most of these were paranormal, ghosts, moving objects, orbs, floating feathers, and other visual or 'presence' experiences mostly with regard to deceased relatives. Only 4 people felt they had experienced the holy spirit, though one person had visually seen Jesus. On our final outreach at Deben court in Wickham market we did something different. We just took teas coffees cakes and biscuits and shared with the residents there. One resident told us that people thought they were rubbish. I hate to think of people seeing themselves in that way. God loves all people which is why we will be out on the hill in Wickham market again on Saturday October 4th 9am-1pm.



Gods blessings Graham





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...

The September speaker is still to be announced. Please keep an eye on the Suffolk coastal filling station web site

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

Coffee, tea,
biscuits and
friends

Friday morning
Drop in from
10:00am

LOVE

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



AWAKE

Suffolk Coastal Mission 2025



We very much enjoyed our training day with Through Faith Missions in Ipswich in preparation for the week of Evangelism from 8th-12th September inclusive. The Personal Faith survey which they will be using as they go from door to door in Suffolk Coastal is a very effective way of starting faith conversations. Street Jesus fully support this work and have been inspired by this initiative. We will be having our stall out in the usual way, every day that week, as we model the approach of Jesus to meet with people in the public square. Let us pray for all those evangelists who will be going out, that they will be protected and blessed and that a mighty harvest will be reaped for the Lord

Jeremiah

33:3

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not.”

Amen!

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

James 4:8



Just a look back to 2017 when our dear friends Jane and Alan Hutt joined us at the Woodbridge Christmas market with our Nikki in the middle who is an absolute whizz at selling African crafts. We continue to pray for Jane and Alan and their faithful work at the Beehive Children's foundation





What would we do without our
tech guys and musicians?

STREET JESUS



*Book of the
month*

Our next outreach is at the village Harvest Market
Wickham Market Hill
on Saturday September 6th 9am–2pm

Facebook



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