

STREET JESUS



# E News

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Welcome to the November edition of Street Jesus e-news. Its that time of the year where there is very visible change, there is something so beautiful about the blaze of colour, the gold red and yellows to be followed by the starkness of leafless trees, the nights pulling in, and the putting on of central heating and colder weather. But as in life we all experience the darkness from time to time and things can be bleak for many people. During our week of evangelism we spoke to many people and we heard something of the bleakness in peoples lives. When life seems ok for us, for others it can be sheer misery. Yes even here in lovely leafy Wickham market. When we scoop up the leaves and leave them to compost down, and dig them into the ground we help to nourish the soil to allow things to grow. Its often the case that like the fallen leaf people feel no longer of any use, discarded, left on the ground. How often when we are at our lowest point, and whatever troubles we experience can ultimately be used for good, how often is it that we learn more in the tough times. That these experiences can ultimately help us to grow and thrive. God is interested in the downtrodden, the broken and the marginalised and he want to spiritually nourish us so that we grow closer to him.



Sometimes its good to have a change of environment and to that end Barbara and I recently spent 8 days in Northern Cyprus, the first time we had been overseas for six years. It was a cultural tour, so not much in the way of poolside relaxation Cyprus has a rich biblical history. It mostly appears in the new testament but is also referenced under the name Kittim, in Numbers Isaiah, and Jeremiah in the old.



In Acts Cyprus is visited by Paul, Barnabus and John Mark. Barnabus is the patron saint of Cyprus and is seen as the founder of the orthodox church. He is noted as having a good reputation, full of the holy spirit who brought many to faith and a monastery near Famagusta is dedicated to him. We were able to visit his reputed tomb there which was located in a vision. He arrived in Cyprus having sold all his goods in Jerusalem for which he earned the title Son of encouragement. He preached at the Synagogue in Salamis and has an encounter with the fake prophet Bar Jesus. Paul and Barnabus quarrelled about the suitability of John Mark to join them in ministry and so they parted for a while. Paul was flogged while in Paphos. After Barnabus was executed he was buried by the Jews, John Mark then took his bones and buried him.



There is something special about being in the places where these biblical characters once walked. Having visited Israel and Ephesus in the past it somehow adds something to the imagination.

Its interesting that the history of Cyprus is similar to Israel, in that many different empires have occupied both countries. The invading empires are almost identical and in the same way that conflict remains in Israel / Palestine so a united Nations peace keeping force is still stationed on the Green line buffer zone segregating the Turkish and Greek parts of the island.



One of the most haunting parts of the tour was the Ghost town of Famagusta where buildings over a 25 square km area have been left as they were, frozen in time at the point of conflict in 1974. The conflict is marked by mistrust, the lust for control, the invoking of past history with each side placing their claims on a single epoch of history. The Greeks invoke Alexander the Great and the Turks the ottoman empire.

This trait of not forgiving or forgetting the past perpetuates bitterness and violence. The human lust for power and control which lurks in us all, becomes devastating when exercised by those holding political power. Peace and reconciliation can only be achieved through repentance and forgiveness. We pray for all those areas in the world that are in conflict.



During our week of Evangelism in September all but 9 of the 77 respondents to the personal belief survey had prayed at some time in their adult life. Most often when in a crisis over which they have no control. A lot of people we spoke to focus their prayers on other people who were going through a tough time rather than praying for their own needs. The God to whom they are praying is many and varied, from a non-specific force or energy to the God that we would recognise in our experience as Christians.

There are some interesting things happening in Europe right now regarding young people, there are many reports of spontaneous worship sessions breaking out in the streets in major cities like Rome Paris and Amsterdam, the kind of joyous street worship that we read about in the Psalms. In the USA

the sale of bibles following the death of the controversial evangelist Charlie Kirk have significantly increased. A new generation seem eager to discover faith and look to the person of Jesus Christ with fresh eyes after many years of declining interest in the Christian faith. This has not been manifest so much in the UK as yet, although we are seeing more public worship in major public spaces like Trafalgar square. Could it be that the promised nirvana of secular humanism, choice culture and individualism are failing to satisfy the deepest longings of the human soul. We pray for a generation to rise up in Jesus name.



Regrettably we had to cancel our October outreach as it was very wet and rainy. We plan to be on Wickham market hill on November 8th and November 29th for the Christmas market. We will be continuing the personal belief survey as it was such a great way of communicating the gospel and finding out what people think and feel about faith. Lets all share the good news. 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:**

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 next meeting will be on Thursday November 27th 7pm The speaker will be Samantha Brazier-Gibbs. Archdeacon of Ipswich

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](http://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



# Prayer of Living Sacrifice

*Inspired by Romans 12:1*

Heavenly Father,  
In view of Your mercy,  
I offer myself wholly to You—  
heart, mind, and body—  
as a living sacrifice.  
May my life be holy and  
pleasing in Your sight,  
a true act of worship that  
honors Your name each day.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

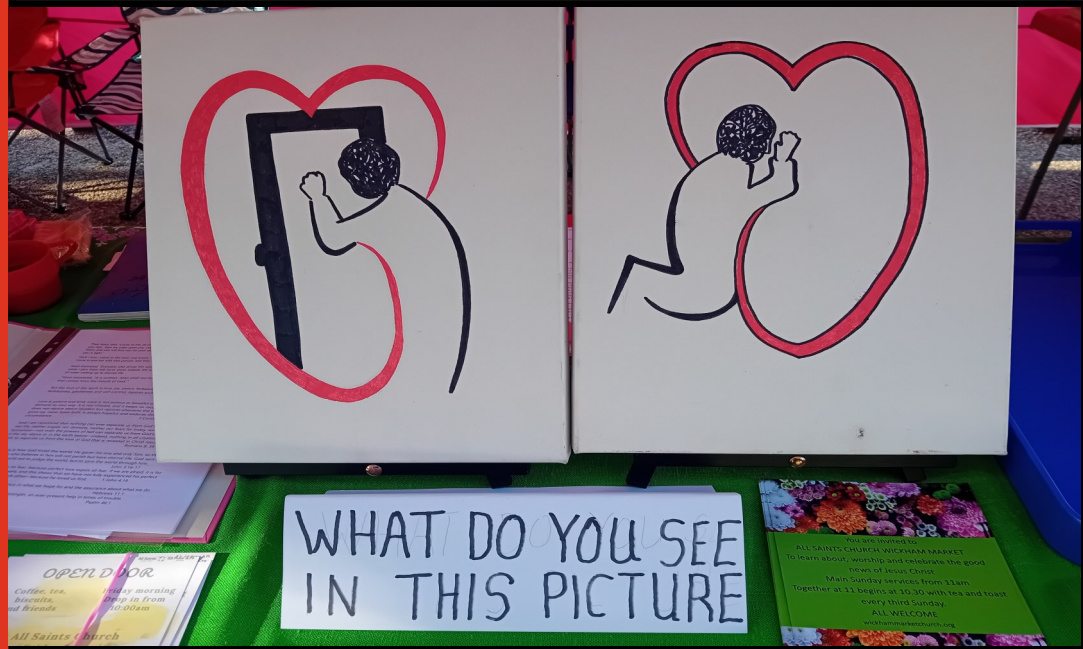
**'Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as ever you can.'**

— John Wesley



By the grace of God. In the sunshine on Wickham hill, ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Ready to offer a listening ear and prayer to anybody in need.





Jesus at the door  
 What conversations these two pictures have brought

Book of the month



Our next outreach's are on  
 Wickham Market Hill  
 on Saturday November 8th and 29th

Facebook



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