

STREET JESUS



E News

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Issue 127

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Welcome to the December edition of Street Jesus e-news. As Advent approaches and we anticipate celebrating the birth of our dear lord Jesus we look to focus on the real reason for the season amidst all the commercial and glitzy distractions. We see Christmas lights adorning houses in a multi coloured blaze of light. Many households do this for charity, some in celebration but there is also the competitive element of having the best lights in the street.

Christmas is a time of light amid the short dark days of winter. We think of the guiding light of the star which led the shepherds and sages to the place of Jesus birth who himself was to be the light of the world. We as Christians are to share in that light. Our vicar here at Wickham market has recently talked about bathing in the sun (son) light of Gods love. This is to warm our hearts as the colder weather begins to bite. Not only are we to share IN the light, but also share it OUT to others.



I have recently been thinking about the virgin Mary, I came across some notes that I made a few years ago at a Spring harvest seminar. On reflection it may seem to be a bit strange to be learning about Mary at a Christian festival that is held at Easter but the common thread of course is in the manner of obedience. Mary had faith in what the angel predicted, both in what was to happen and in all the instructions, telling the Angel Gabriel "I am the Lords servant" Our



Lord Jesus was also obedient as he cried out to the father in the garden of Gethsemane to have the Cup taken away but ultimately he was obedient to the father, to be crucified and resurrected as the saviour for all mankind.

Its been really interesting to hear the declaration by Pope Leo recently, stating that the virgin Mary is not a co-redeemer for all mankind. This overturns a papal declaration made in 1854 which was decided after years of debate, based on the idea that mother Mary was also sinless. Catholics have built a substantial iconography in their veneration of her and have habitually included her in intercessory prayers to mediate on mankind's behalf. Pope Leo has confirmed that Jesus alone was sinless and is the only way to the father. This brings the catholic church closer to the teachings of other denominations and heralds a welcome unification in the body of Christ.

As we think of Christmas we remember that God always had a plan for a Messiah. The prophets tell us so. We think of Jesus as a light for the world, Emmanuel God with us. Yet there is so much darkness in the world. We think of driving in the dark this time of the year, headlights



dazzle us, the sun is low in the sky and can blind us. It can be hard to stay on the road if somebody forgets to dip their lights. Manfred Manns Earth band sang Blinded by the light and the meaning of its lyrics are not at all clear. There are so many lights in the world promising insight and enlightenment, philosophy, various new age ideas and practises. The light that God provides is bright indeed. .



We often think of darkness in terms of behaviour " he's got a dark side" "there is something of the night about him" are phrases that we may hear but the biggest part of darkness is not just our actions but understanding who Jesus is and what God has done for us. It is only when we have that lightbulb moment, feel moved to flick the switch in the power of the holy spirit, that we begin to see more clearly and the light leaves no place for the darkness to hide. The light that God provides give us a clearer vision. It is a lamp to our feet and illuminates our hearts and the world.

Why was it important that Mary was a virgin. We remember from the garden of Eden Gods blessing on Adam and Eve and that we were to live in perfect harmony with him. We were to be obedient to Gods command, not because he wanted to control or restrict but because



he wanted the best for us that we may share in his love. This act of self harm by humanity is the seed of all the anguish we see and experience to this day. Sin harms us. If Jesus was with sin he would have had no right to pay the ultimate price for us. If Joseph had of been the biological father of Jesus, he would have inherited his earthly fathers sin

nature instead of the nature of God through the power of the holy spirit. A sin nature that we all carry.

Mary could have been forgiven for being anxious, she was probably young, had to face being a new mum, with a question mark over her good name, with a new husband in the knowledge that she would be birthing the long awaited Messiah. It wasn't just that she was obedient, she embraced her calling and sang songs of praise, she rejoiced in her God. How many of us fret rather than rejoice over our calling. Its interesting that Elizabeth was there as a mutual support and so it is with us. We need one another as Christians, the encouragement to be like Mary.

It was great to see the Raymond Briggs snowman character at the village Christmas market. There was no sign of snow though and the promised downpour turned out to be couple of showers. The wind was lighter than expected. We had been praying all week for the forecast to be wrong, not least because so much hard work goes into organising this event, people in the village really look forward to it and the stallholders work hard to craft and produce things. Its also a chance for community groups and charities to make people aware of the work they do. We managed to keep the stall dry. People took literature and bibles We had a couple who took part in 'Jesus at the door' and three personal faith questionnaires were completed. We also had significant conversations, two were pastoral, the other theological as well as general conversation. Free chocolates were also well received Our next outreach is on the hill on January 24th .



Happy Christmas to you all. God bless 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 November meeting was the last for 2025. Details of the January meeting will appear in our January e-news

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

Everyone is Welcome

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

All Saints  SS Peter & Paul 

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

As we walk through each new day,
facing whatever life throws at us,
may this thought be in our hearts,
that the very One who died for us,
and who was raised to life for us,
is the presence of God with us,
supporting, protecting, guiding us
through the peaks and troughs
of each day, and absolutely nothing
can separate us from that love,
God's gift to all who walk with,
and serve him daily in this world,
through his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.





Advent and Christmas 2025

Our Advent Sermon Series starts on 30th November

**Together we will look at The Patriarchs, The Prophets, John the Baptist,
Mary and Joseph**

And Christmas dates for your diary

Saturday, 29 November: Christmas Market on the Hill 9am-2pm

Friday, 19th December: Carols on the Hill 5pm

Sunday 21st December: Carol Service at Pettistree Church 9.30am

Sunday, 21st December: Christingle Service 11am

Sunday, 21st December: Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion - 11.30pm



It's a feature of all our outreaches that we hand out free chocolates. People look out for them now and our outreach at the Christmas market was no exception. We always give out celebrations. We not only celebrate Christmas but all that God has done for us. Not sure why the bounty sweets are always the ones left over .





Pip with Charlotte on her big day

Book of the month

STREET JESUS



Our next outreach is on
Wickham Market Hill
on Saturday January 24th 9am–1pm

Facebook



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facebook page
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1246450225452294](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1246450225452294)