

STREET JESUS



E News

Issue 129

February 2026

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Welcome to the February edition of Street Jesus e-news. In our Wednesday group we have been talking about the different types of human power and in the political sense how that manifests. We asked who is the most talked about person in the world today. Just about everywhere we go where current affairs are being discussed the answer is emphatic, it's the US president Donald J Trump. He is a person who stirs the emotions not least because his approach is so unconventional. He touches our prejudices, frustrations and sense of justice all at once as well as challenging our Christian calling not to judge others. How can we refrain from judging Donald Trump? He is the subject of mass criticism and conversely significant adoration. Surely the ultimate marmite character. He has been voted in twice as US president and in the most recent US election he received 77.3 million votes, winning by over 2 million ahead of the democrats. We like to think that a character like Donald Trump would not be voted for in a European election, that his success is a reflection of the nature of American people, that somehow we are more sophisticated and discerning this side of the Atlantic. However we note that right wing leaders are gaining public support all over Europe.

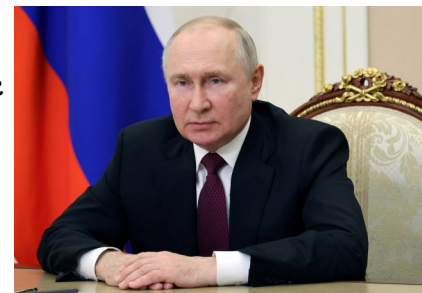


In Britain, Reform UK led by Nigel Farage have a significant lead in the opinion polls promising to do something completely different. Commonly commentators posit that this is due to general frustrations, that the concerns of the electorate have not been listened to. That serial Conservative and labour governments have not solved our

problems and we need a change, the idea that any party could not be any worse or more corrupt. The offer of simple solutions to complex problems is tempting when faced with a complex world particularly where trust levels have dipped and fears of mass immigration recession and war arise. A negative narrative that Britain is broken give voice to how people are feeling, we then look not just to easy answers but to scapegoats as well.

Social media has no doubt amplified these feelings of dissatisfaction as have the use of technology when dealing with organisations, people being kept at arms length by systems whereby we lose that personal touch.

A recent survey of Generation Z (16-19 year olds) revealed that 27% would prefer a dictatorship to a democracy. The nearest thing we have in Europe to this is the Russian president Vladimir Putin. This is a significant and



Surprising number. This reflects our human desire for certainty. If we are uncertain about what may be happening we tend to feel more anxious and less secure.

Further research into the survey showed that those young people rather craved strong leadership as opposed to a dictatorship where free and fair elections were absent. Political division, frequent change along with the cost of living, scarce housing and job insecurity were cited as the reasons why they wanted a strong figure to just sort it out. This is the attraction of someone like Donald Trump. The political equivalent of the Nike tick Just do it.



To achieve a goal without the need to consult or gain consensus, to get things done regardless of the method, even if bullying, force and blackmail are required. Even if diplomacy, convention and long standing organisations are ignored sidelined or dispensed with. Power is strength, might is right are after all the bread and butter of many non democratic countries across the world. What's remarkable is the tension, confusion and anger that this approach has caused in democratic countries with a long record of personal freedom, rights and the rule of law and the term electoral dictatorship has been coined to describe this concept.

Donald Trump is a confessed Christian, he prays regularly and has a strong political support from the evangelical Christian right. He believes he is doing Gods will.

The word Christian means little Christs. In this respect we are to follow the ways of Jesus, he is our human template. He has laid before us who and what we should be and how we are to behave. He



calls us to put our prideful ego to bed and embrace humility. To relegate the material in favour of the spiritual. To reject the love of money but instead practice generosity. To show agape love ie The selfless concern for wellbeing of others rather than the love of self. To seek justice. To be patient, kind, gentle and full of grace and forgiveness, to feed clothe and heal the

hungry, poor and sick. To Reject violence To bring peace rather than conflict. Does Donald Trump represent these values?

When we look at these values do we ourselves live them in every way, every day. Although we may not display sin overtly we can certainly tend to them in our thought life. When we point the finger at Donald or anyone else we have three fingers pointing back at us. We tend to have a sliding scale of sin, some being worse than others. But in truth we are all part of a fallen and corrupted humanity. Although Jesus said "Peace I bring to you" he knew that he would also bring division and conflict.

Lets leave the judgement of Donald Trump to God. There are many examples of God steering those with a hard hearts to his purposes, most notably Moses. In some way, is Donald Trump a conduit for what God wants to do in the world today. God only knows. Regardless lets seek and focus our attention on Jesus rather than any political attention seeker.



Street Jesus were out on the hill last Saturday displaying our new banner. Another great Reach-out. God had certainly put us in the right place, a place where people were able to share their troubles and where we were able to share Jesus. 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...

Next meeting still to be announced. Please keep an eye on the website below 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  SS Peter & Paul 

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

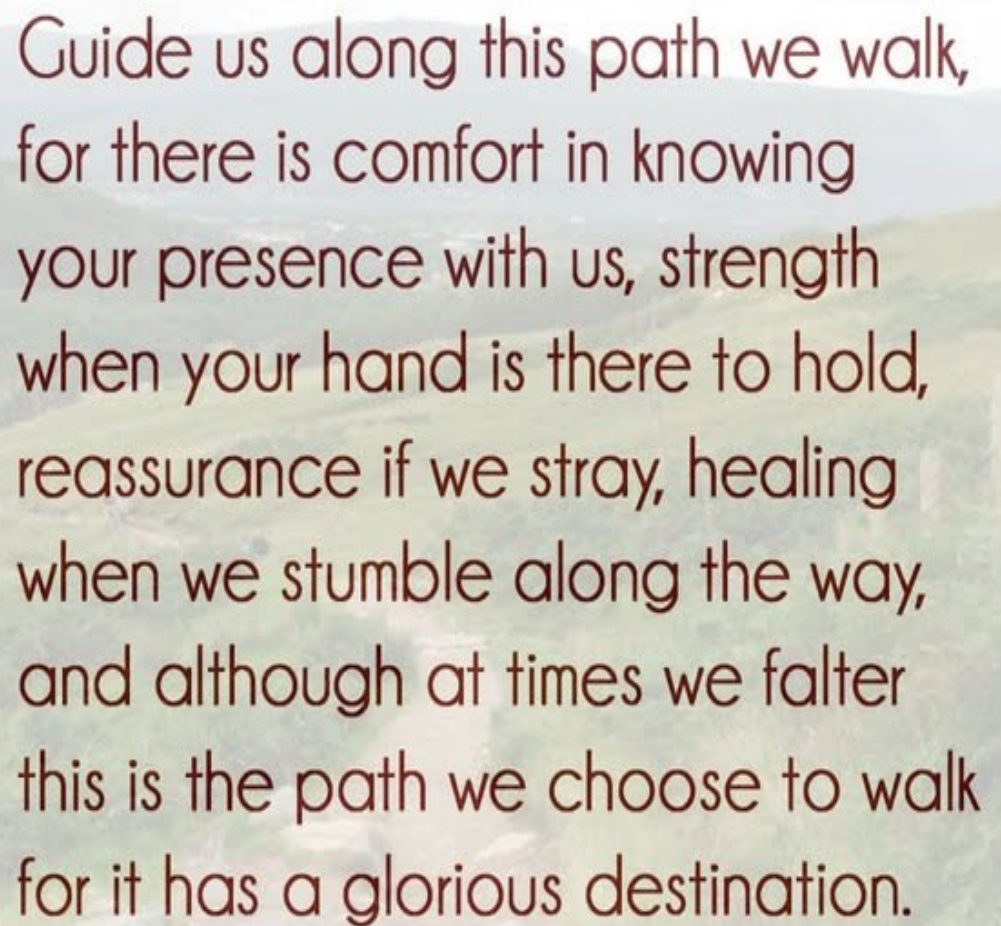


Oasis

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



Guide us along this path we walk,
for there is comfort in knowing
your presence with us, strength
when your hand is there to hold,
reassurance if we stray, healing
when we stumble along the way,
and although at times we falter
this is the path we choose to walk
for it has a glorious destination.



Lord, be to us the light,
within and without,
that illuminates
both thought and sight.



Mike having a chat at our most recent outreach on the hill. The stall all set up with our new banner. We had a fun morning.





Mike Pip and Denise all wrapped up but not quite warm on our January outreach.

STREET JESUS



Our next outreach is on
Wickham Market Hill
on Saturday February 21st 9am–1pm

Book of the
month

Facebook



Check out our
facebook page
[www.facebook.com/groups/
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