



E News June 2025

Issue 121

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Welcome to the June edition of Street Jesus e-news. Every weekday morning I garden for a very lovely elderly lady in Ufford. It's a walled garden, landscaped many years ago and a place of peace. For me it's an environment for prayer and a perfect way to start the day. Within those walls you somehow feel protected. So many beautiful plants and shrubs to enjoy. So many scents and sounds. There is a large Victorian greenhouse there, within which there is an apricot tree. I have never known a tree that holds so much fruit and this year looks like being no exception. Green they are, but now beginning to ripen. There is so much in a garden that holds biblical references. There are fig bushes in a long line that have grown over time, they are plentiful in season. I often consider that Jesus would be pleased with this fig tree when we see that he cursed



the withering one in Mark 13:28-29. It seems a little harsh on the fig tree but it is of course symbolic of us when we do not bear fruit as we are supposed to when we read Galatians 5. Many believe that this barren tree was a symbol of Israel at that time.

This year has been unusual, we have had very little rain. Lawns have been losing their lush green colour which is most unusual for May as is the gathering of ripe strawberries so early. I cannot remember watering quite so much in this season, water butts are empty, garden pond only a quarter full. water bills are going to be higher for us gardeners. The effects of global warming are clearly with us. Water is so vital for plant growth, it is no accident that in his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well Jesus invokes a bubbling spring as the holy spirit, the only water that satisfies our spiritual thirst whereas we know that when we drink from the tap we that we will soon be thirsty again.



Its always interesting to see what is happening in such a large garden, the birds of various kinds, the visiting Muntjac that hides in the shrubbery and among the bamboo. We have had a badger, fox and hedgehogs in recent times. Plenty of mice and shrews and of course visits from neighbours cats. All things he made them. This is a daily reminder of the glory of Gods creation worthy of daily prayer and thanksgiving. It makes me wonder what must the garden of Eden have looked like, a place without thistles or weeds. If only our gardens were weed free , it would save so much hard work. This time of the



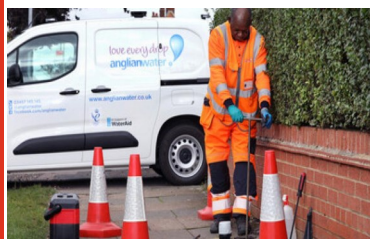
Year we hardly know where to begin. There is much ground elder in the walled garden, which I jokingly associate with the devil, something to be eradicated. As hard as I may try they return again and again. It really requires the master gardener to remove them. In the parable of the sower we see how weeds can crowd out the good, so wherever we may sow, its in the good soil that we find growth. The soil may have been poor at one stage but we notice what happens when we nourish it.



Another garden in the bible is the garden of Gethsemane which is situated at the foot of the mount of olives. Jesus was often found teaching on the mount, it was the place from which he ascended to heaven but most notably where he prayed in anguish to his father on the night before he was crucified. Its interesting that Jesus should use a place traditionally associated with idol worship and death to fulfil important parts of his mission which were aimed at the life eternal. Olives are very practical but also symbolic. From the story of the flood we note the olive branch being a sign of peace, when we are looking to end a conflict and be reconciled we often use the phrase to offer an olive branch. In practical terms olive oil is used in lamps for illuminating, for cooking, as a lubricant and for anointing the monarch. When King Charles was anointed at his coronation. The oil was poured onto his head and chest by a person of status, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Jesus in contrast was anointed by a woman Mary of Bethany who as a woman would have been regarded as an inferior person, but also on his feet rather than his head.

The olive tree is seen as a symbol of life, abundance and longevity as well as hope and renewal. Olives have to be pressed to release the oil. Sometimes we have to be pressed too, If we think of our bibles as a press we are there to squeeze out all the spiritual goodness that we know is in it.

This reminded me of an experience I had whilst on Town Pastors a few years back. There had been a water leak in the turban centre in Woodbridge and two men from Anglian water were there to fix it. We got chatting and I noticed that there was a bible sitting on the dash board of the van. I asked one about it and he told me that he had been reading Ezekiel, he was very enthusiastic, calling Ezekiel a great geezer. I then asked which



fellowship he belonged to, to which he relied none. He had tried he said but felt like a fish out of water in Church. He prayed often. I have lost count of the times over the years that I have heard the words " I don't need to go to Church to be a good Christian"

This past weekend I have been talking to someone who recently had a significant experience of God, feeling an overwhelming urge to pray. They have begun reading their bible, but have the same kind of barrier when it comes to going to church. A notion that they don't need a mere man to tell them about God when they already had a direct line to God in prayer. Yet Jesus asks us to come together as one body to encourage and learn. The disciple trinity. PRAYER -BIBLE - CHURCH

On May 17th on Wickham Market square Street Jesus worked to sow seeds, we did not always know the quality of soil on which we were sowing, We attempted to water and nourish the seeds, and poured out the oil. We have spoken to many people on the day, we blessed and prayed for them all and we will be out again on June 21st at the village summer market with our healing spiritual water and oil. Please do come and see us. 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...

Thursday
May 22nd 7-9pm
Chris and Von
Laughlin

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

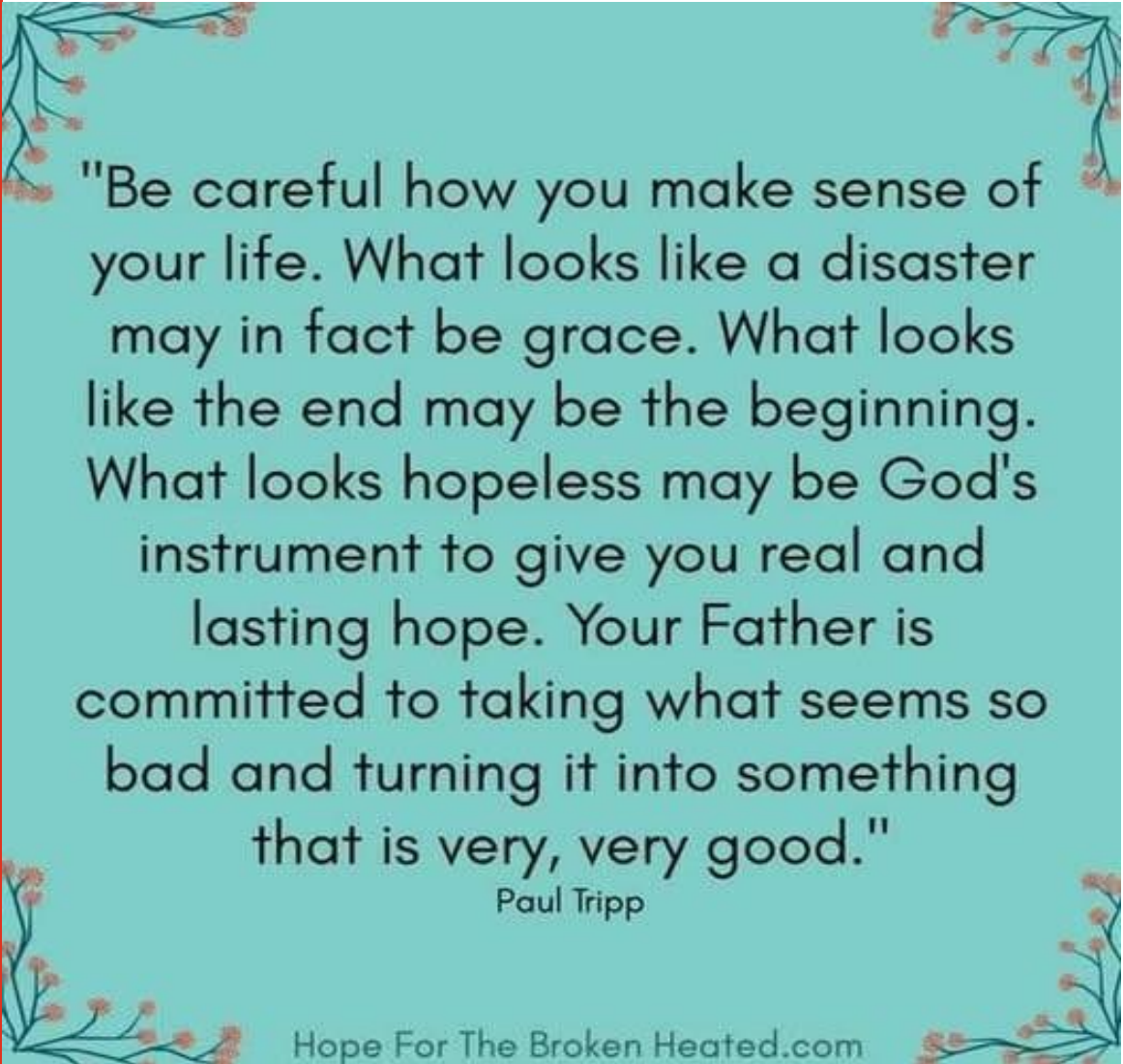
Oasis

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





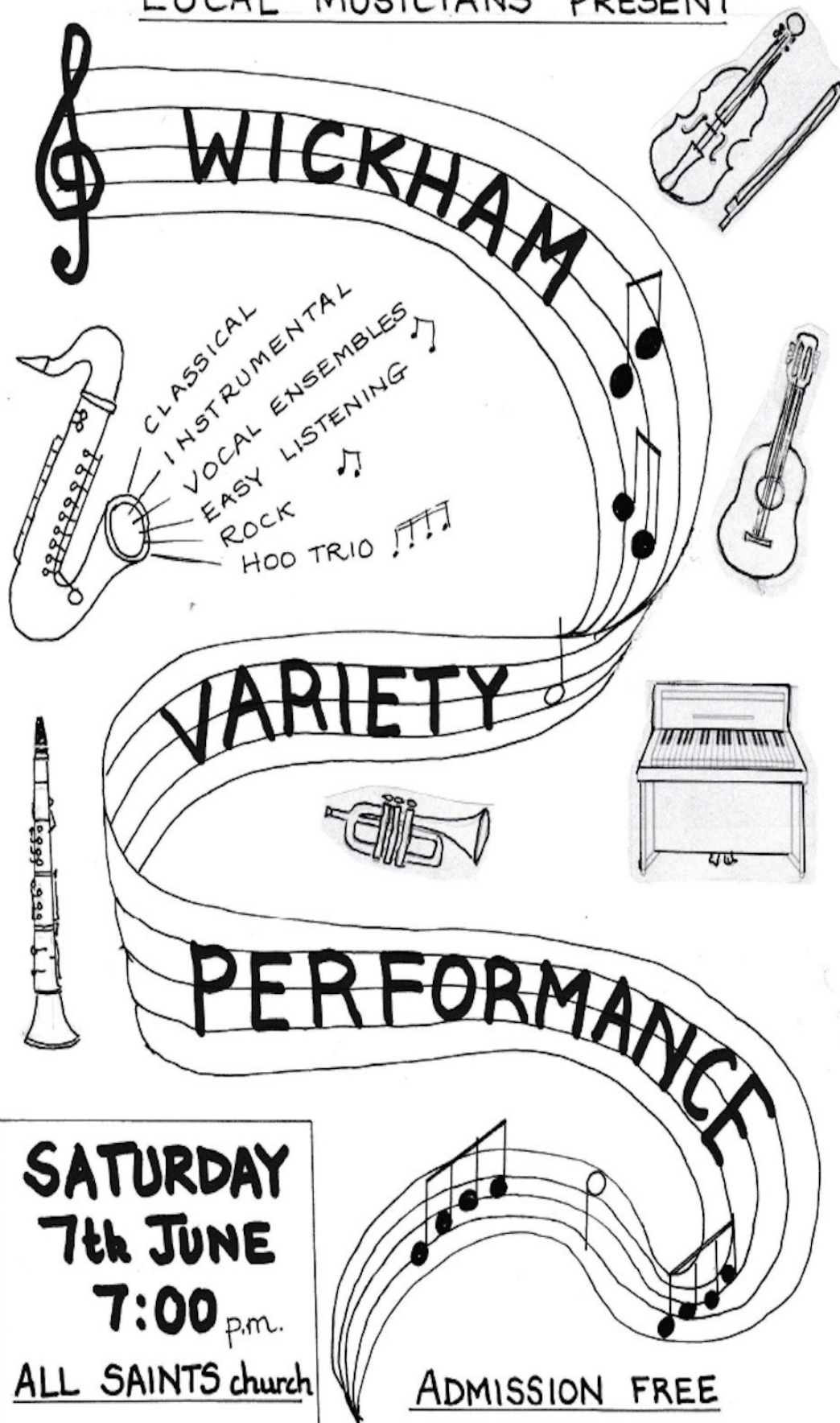
"Be careful how you make sense of your life. What looks like a disaster may in fact be grace. What looks like the end may be the beginning. What looks hopeless may be God's instrument to give you real and lasting hope. Your Father is committed to taking what seems so bad and turning it into something that is very, very good."

Paul Tripp

[Hope For The Broken Hearted.com](http://HopeForTheBrokenHearted.com)

For each step that I might take,
Be my guide, O Lord of life.
For each load that I might bear,
Be my strength, O Lord of life.
For each mountain I might face,
Be my power, O Lord of life.
For each river that might impede,
Be my safety, O Lord of life.
For each place where I might rest,
Be my peace, O Lord of life.
For each sunrise and sunset,
Be my joy, O Lord of life.

LOCAL MUSICIANS PRESENT



SATURDAY
7th JUNE
7:00 p.m.

ALL SAINTS church

ADMISSION FREE

RETIRING DONATIONS
FOR WORK OF THE CHURCH



The Street Jesus 'faithful four' team on Wickham Market Hill on May 19th. We had lots of good conversations throughout the morning. Providing a listening ear for many. We are next out on June 21st at the Spring market.



Gallery



The Bits and Bobs sale is next in the village hall
on Saturday June 7th 9am– 2pm

*Book of the
month*



Our next outreach is on
Wickham Market square
on Saturday June 21st

Facebook



Check out our
facebook page
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