



E News April 2026

Issue 131

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Welcome to the April edition of Street Jesus e-news. As we draw closer to Easter we continue to reflect on the events leading up to Easter from the horror of the crucifixion to the joy of the resurrection. All human life is there. In this edition we are advertising all the services that are happening at All Saints Wickham market in the run up to Easter. Please spread the word.

The Red street Jesus van has now been sold. Evangeline has been a good and faithful servant taking us to all our outreaches over the past six years. She was not keeping oil in her engine though, so she was getting quite expensive to run. I must admit I was sad to see her go but like Evangelina, the first Street Jesus van (Who also served for six years) her time had come. So may I present to you Grace the third in the Street Jesus series. She is three years old, has experienced mileage and is awaiting her signage which will be done at the end of April. I would have loved to have had her signed up before the good Friday March of witness in Wickham Market but the printers are really very busy.



Over the years the vans have been a real blessing and it was interesting the way it came to be. I had been urged to attend a series of lectures in London run by the think tank Theos. Gillan Scott who ran a very informative site called God and politics in the UK at that time contacted me to say he could not go. I rang up to apply and was accepted. They asked me what I did and I explained that I ran a Christian street ministry in Suffolk but in truth at this stage Street Jesus was just a project God had placed in my head. Following the Richard Dawkins polemic book on religion 'The God delusion' (2006) it was fashionable to critique religion. Theos in their series were asking the question 'What benefit has religion in society'.



I attended the first lecture dressed in a casual manner to discover to my horror that the event was very formal. I was mingling with ex prime ministers, Archbishops of canterbury, newspaper columnists, humanist philosophers, the chief Rabbi and religious leader from other faiths I felt like a fish out of water. But somehow a passion was lit in me that evening. The Equalities and human rights commissioner at that time expressed the view that Christians should keep their views behind the church door. Matthew 28 immediately came to mind just as it had done early in my Christian life in 2007. At that time the word GO kept bursting into my mind. A few days later after that evening I was driving on the M25 and a van overtook me and on the side, it said Glory to Allah- Muhammad peace be upon him. Fighting an urge to overtake it I thought Why don't we do that. Our culture is not big on displays of religious devotion unlike in Kenya when I visited in



2010 where it was very common to see vehicles with declarations of faith. God is great or Jesus is Lord painted on them. Having purchased a van I noted that the word van is contained within the word eVANGelism so it seemed the right thing to do. . The wording on the side of Evangelina was taken from a display outside the Christian education centre in Martlesham which I passed regularly in my work, way before I became a Christian. The words Love -Hope- Freedom- Come just as you are! had stuck in my mind. God doesn't waste a thing.

Having the words put on Evangelina was interesting. I was given the option of which design, there was a bold one and another which was in italics , a bit arty and a bit more subtle. Having intended to choose the bold one i chickened out and asked to have the subtle italics text instead. Bold just felt too in your face. When I picked the van up at the end of the day the bold script was on the side. So whether I mis-said or they Mis-heard I reckoned that Bold is what God wanted it to be.



I had no real idea as to what reaction the van would get but it certainly attracted a lot of attention at first. Over the years it has prompted many conversations, the most common question that people ask is why have the word freedom on the side. Love and hope yes but Freedom ?? Christianity with its rules surely restricts your freedom . Of course Christians are expected to behave in a certain way which may seem restrictive from the outside but the freedom of being relieved of our inner burdens, to break the chains of sin that bind us is something amazing.

I was very self conscious in doing this, realising that many people in my own community who know me well (warts and all) would find this declaration ever so slightly hypocritical. But again God can transform us, heal and restore us, All the major characters in the bible, committed serious crimes yet Jesus in his mercy redeemed them. Occasionally people will tap on the window when I am parked up and want to ask questions there have been those who are in distress and in need of a listening ear. Very occasionally we have received an abusive comment or a reverse Winston Churchill sign but more often we get a toot of the horn or a thumbs up. In the main we have found that Christianity still carries a great deal of social capital, even in those who do not seem to believe in God.

I Have some favourite memories. Evangelina transporting our dear friends Jane and Alan Hutt to the airport as they embarked on their amazing missionary journey to Africa in 2014 which led to their founding of the Beehive Children's foundation. A group of young men hanging out of their car windows cheering with thumbs up as we were driving on the motorway. A large group of football fans chanting Jesus Jesus albeit sarcastically and drunkenly, but surprisingly some seemed happy to take some Street Jesus leaflets. Driving nervously through the Gay pride march in London with very little reaction. On our first trip out to a camp site in Norfolk we noticed how evasive-people were when approaching the van and seemed to arc around us. Were they concerned that we would try to convert them? I don't know or maybe burst into song singing Kumbaya. Some feel that this





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 next meetings will be on ,
April 23rd,
May 28th
Please visit the website 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
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

Holy Week

Mon March 30th 6pm "Journey to the cross"

Tues 31st March 6pm "Reflective Compline"

Weds 1st April 6pm "The Art of the Passion"

Maundy Thursday 6pm "HC with footwashing"

Good Friday 10am "Walk of Witness"

Good Friday 11am

The Passion Reading with music

SERVE



Good Friday March and Service

10am @ All Saints
March of Witness and
Outdoor Singing

11am @ All Saints
Reflective Service



Easter Day

5th April

11am

Holy Communion

Service

followed by:



**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





Saturday
11th April
10am-2pm

Wickham Market Church

**Craft Activities &
Demonstrations**

All ages welcome
Refreshments
Free entry

In Support of the Royal British Legion
Centenary Fun Weekend

God of all, sow the precious seeds
of your love in the shallow soil
of so many hearts in this world,
those who seemingly have no
respect for the lives of others,
whether in families or nations;
those who abuse their power
for personal gain, who profit
from the damage they create.
Sow the seeds, that they might
quickly flourish, and the weeds
and thorns of greed and pride
begin to fade, to be replaced
by the fragrance of your love.

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IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT YOU KNOW THE
PEOPLE YOU DO. IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT
THEY'RE IN YOUR PATH. THEY NEED THE
GOSPEL. YOU KNOW THE GOSPEL. GOD
WANTS THEM TO HEAR THE GOSPEL.

RICO TICE



JoshWilliamson.org



Jesus at the door ready to go at the
Wickham market spring market

Still Waters

In the style of Lectio Divina, time to dwell
together on God's word

Join us at the Wickham Market vicarage on the
second and fourth Mondays of each month

2 pm, all welcome, just come along and see if it
is for you

Monday 13th March 2026 Next meeting



Pip having a chat at the Spring market

STREET JESUS



Our next outreach is on
Wickham Market Hill
on Saturday April 11th 9am–3pm



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