



E News May 2026

Issue 132

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Welcome to the May edition of Street Jesus e-news.

One of the joys of the Christian life is our yearly pilgrimage to the Spring harvest Christian festival. Spring harvest has been part of the Christian calendar since 1979. Barbara and I have been attending since 2008 and have been to almost every festival since. We were first introduced by our home group leaders with whom we went to Skegness. In subsequent years we have gravitated toward Minehead, mainly because it's warmer and less windy. The theme this year was 'No greater life' which follows the 2025 theme 'No greater story' with the trilogy being completed next year with 'No greater adventure'.

As the title suggests, there is no greater life than being in relationship with our dear Lord Jesus, with all the benefits and challenges that brings. The central scripture for the week was from Deuteronomy 6:4-7. Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and all your strength. To this the book of Matthew adds, All your mind.



Each day began with the big start, a family friendly collection of song, sketches and comedy. Set in a film studio named the Start big, lights,



cameras, action reveals Jesus as the great director and the bible as the film script.

Inviting the audience to participate in creating the story, there are no guidelines on what the film should be. Taking part includes your own fancy dress costume wardrobe. Lots of people getting into the spirit of it and having lots of fun. It's a joy to watch all the families

wholehearted involvement and particularly the enthusiasm of the children. Helped greatly by the catchy theme song Every beat.

In order to get inspiration the film crew go down to the Biblebuster video store looking to all the great films of the past. Biblebuster is on the brink of folding due to a lack of interest in Christian films but of course all ends well, the film is made, videos (remember these) fly off the shelf and Biblebusters is saved.

This greatest life has got to be worth an Oscar surely. The message in the film though needs no false idol statuette, it is something that can transform every human heart. We really can have the greatest life.



The worship was great as usual, led by Sam Blake and Phillippa Hanna. There is something truly wonderful about worshipping with hundreds of other people. There is excitement exuberance and full body worship. Lifting our hands high in praise because it is him we adore. It is for this reason that we have booked again for next year, to share



the joy in the Christian community, the feeling of being one body in Christ.

The daily bible study was of the highest quality. Led by Andrew Ollerton, the challenge of living in practical terms was laid before us. How devoted to Jesus are we, what would we sacrifice for him, would we like the fishermen drop everything in an instant to follow him, leaving everything behind or sacrifice a years wages to buy the most expensive perfume in an act of devotion. Would we cover ourselves in the dust of discipleship by taking a risk, Get close enough to him that something of him may rub off on us. To realise that average is not the norm for Jesus and that we would be embarking on a spiritual adventure. Andrew told us of a lady of advancing years who sold her car to go everywhere on the bus, she travelled extensively on her free bus pass but shared her faith with countless people on her journeys. Where would we go for Jesus. Is there something we could do to share our faith?



Andrew highlighted the story of the woman who anointed Jesus with the very expensive perfume known as Nard. Her actions were criticised by some of the disciples who believed the perfume to be a waste of money which could be better used to help the poor. This woman was giving Jesus the best, she served at his feet, she was showing gratitude for bringing Lazarus back to life and healing Simon the leper. Its interesting that the story involves a broken jar



containing something very special, can we see a similarity here between the broken body of Jesus containing the special gift, the holy spirit of God. Are we as dead to our sins as Lazarus and as isolated from God as the leper was from people.

In Andrews third session he asks us to consider the question that Jesus put to his disciples at

Caesaria Philippi" Who do people say I am" ? ' He chose this place where pagans worshipped Pan, Baal and Ceasar (who was also considered to be God by the Romans) to tell them that he was the Messiah. Peter affirms who Jesus is but cannot accept what Jesus tells him, cannot understand why these events including his death must take place. to which Jesus rebukes him for not trusting what he is saying. Six days later on the mount of transfiguration God affirms to Peter James and John who Jesus really is, we see Moses and Elijah with Jesus, its as if the baton of the law is being passed from Moses to him.

We now have the benefit of hindsight, hundreds of years of biblical interpretation to understand these events in a way that Peter could not, but even so are we sometimes not aware of the way God is working in situations and in those around us and don't quite grasp what the greatest life entails.



In Andrews final teaching he focuses on the boat trip across the sea of Galilee where Jesus had chosen to preach. The other side of the lake was considered the dark side and a risky place to go. As Jesus was sleeping a severe storm brewed up and there was much panic among the disciples as the boat begins to fill with water. In truth they were in great danger. They wake Jesus fearing they might drown, who immediately rebukes the wind and waves and calm is restored.

Is this story telling us that we too need to go to the other side, to the difficult places, to reach people with the good news, that it may not be plain sailing and there will be circumstances in which we may well feel afraid, but when we call to him in prayer he is there with us and able to calm the situation.

It may be that we do not go unopposed.

We got down to Minehead a little early so

we went to a pub to take in some food. I

had my Street Jesus top on and was

verbally attacked by two woman. They

were angry and asking questions to which they already had their own

answers. It was not much point giving reasons for our faith in this

situation, thankfully by keeping calm it de-escalated. I was able to

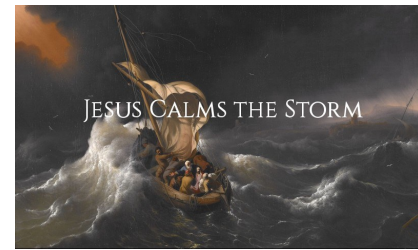
bring to mind the scripture to bless those who curse you and wish

them a good day. The bar staff were very supportive, checked that

we were ok and reprimanded the people concerned. It is quite rare

for this kind of thing to happen, only a handful of times in the 12

years we have been going out and any critique tends to be inquisitive rather than hostile.



After all the exuberance and overt spiritual manifestations it was an interesting Spring harvest for me personally.

I became aware in stark terms that there

are other forms of connections with God

which are quieter and calmer than what is

usual for me. Not all people feel

comfortable in this bouncy environment but

who clearly have a connection with God. The

holy spirit manifests itself in different ways

in different people. It became a quieter spiritual Spring Harvest for

me which was just fine and it was so interesting that this was

referenced in Geoff Lucas's brilliant talk on 'Where is God in the fog'

ultimately we have faith that he is there even when we don't feel the

connection. It was also the subject of our first sermon at Wickham

Market on our return, to practice patient listening in our time of

prayer. I thank God for this revelation through experience.

We were recently able to support the 100 year anniversary of the

Wickham market branch of the British legion by having a stall on the

hill. One lady had strong views about the behaviour of priests as

reported in the media, that religion causes more wars than anything

else and that Christianity was patriarchal. She said she was a pagan.

There are responses that give context to

these questions but again there was no

desire to listen. We accept that some just

want to get what they believe off their

chest.

We spoke to a messianic Jew which was

very interesting. One man went through

'Jesus at the door', he listened very

intently and identified one of the sin

rocks that pertained to him personally but disregarded the others as

not relevant to him, even if he were to be faced with difficult

situations. The recognition of personal sin and the concept of grace

we have found to be the main stumbling blocks for people in

considering faith. We took 4 prayer requests and supported a lady

whose sister had recently died. We raised £15 for our own funds.

Two bibles and some Christian literature were taken and the

chocolates as always were popular. Our next outreach is on the hill on

Saturday May 9th. Please do come along for a chat if you are around.

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 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

**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



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



**The All Saints stall at
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**

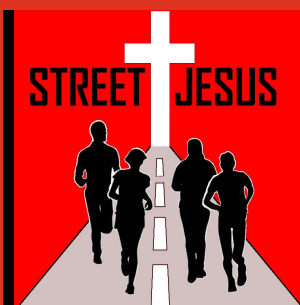
**2 pm, all welcome, just come along and see if it
is for you**

Monday 13th March 2026 Next meeting



Mike and Denise all wrapped up warm for the Royal British legion celebrations on the hill.

A poster with a red background. At the top, the words 'STREET JESUS' are written in large, bold, black capital letters, with a large white cross symbol positioned behind the word 'JESUS'. Below the text, there is a graphic of a grey path with white dashed lines leading towards the cross. Four black silhouettes of people are walking along the path: a man on the left, a woman in the center, and two men on the right. At the bottom of the poster, the following text is written in white: 'Our next outreach is on Wickham Market Hill on Saturday May 9th 9am-3pm'.



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