



E News

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Welcome to the August edition of Street Jesus e-news. Its that time of year when there is an uptick in the number of cars on the road, the schools have broken up and families endeavour to enjoy days out together or go on holiday. It is reported that many more people are choosing staycations rather than taking holidays overseas. The cost of living may be a factor, the fact that there is less need to go sun-seeking as we seem to be experiencing hot weather here in the uk. Holdups and crowding at airports and ferry terminals due to changing technology. A growing sense of hostility towards tourists due to pressure and affordability of accommodation may lead some to decide to stay at home.



We live in a beautiful country with much to see and do. We have a very rich culture.

My son and grandson live in the highlands of Scotland, so it was a great pleasure to recently spend ten days there. When I was young it was much more common to live close to our families but with increasing social mobility partly due to greater opportunities to go to university or employment elsewhere we are more likely to spend time apart from our loved ones. The time we do spend with them is precious. Face timing is great to keep in touch but there is no substitute for personal contact.



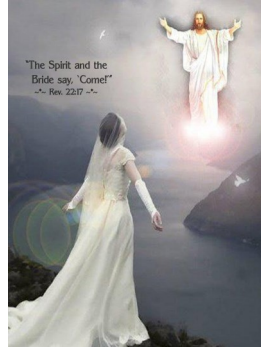
My daughter with her husband and four children will also be visiting from Guernsey shortly so very much looking forward to that time. Family is the glue that holds society together, it is the social fabric that provides a natural support system. At its best it is a place of love and nurture, a place where we learn to negotiate difference, resolve conflict, form our viewpoints and be part of a shared micro culture and these cultures contribute to stability in society. Because we believe that God is relational, that man and woman come together to create new life within the context of marriage, a relationship that is modelled on the Christian principle of sacrificial love, we are to mirror this also in our own lives.

For many though the family is not a happy place, it can be a place of abuse, fear and conflict. Learned negative traits pass down through the generations affecting mental health and self esteem along with behaviours that are at odds with a harmonious life or society.

The idea of traditional married life has come under attack in recent years. There are many more co-habiting couples, one is more likely to be a partner than a spouse. It is true that many people were trapped in loveless marriages in years gone by, women were much more



Dependent on their husbands. Men tended to be the breadwinners and wives tended the home and cared for the children. As the counter cultural revolution of the 1960,s took shape and the event of contraception and greater and wider employment opportunities, women began to realise that they need not be stuck in loveless or abusive relationships and that they could be fulfilled outside of marriage and domesticity. This liberation brought freedom and opportunity but also family fragmentation and a loss of security for many children. The expectation was to marry and have children whilst young, but increasingly people chose to explore life before settling down and have children later on. There was a stigma to being a bachelor or spinster



Whilst the Christian tradition has its focus on marriage we remember that Jesus himself was single. The apostle Paul did more than anybody to share the faith but spoke of his desire to remain single so to dedicate himself more fully to Jesus and not be compromised by divided loyalties.

In a secular sense many believe that marriage is just a piece of paper , that bringing up children as a single parent should not be subject to stigma. It is certainly true that there are many impressive single parents but there are also situations where a lack of a male or female role model is detrimental to the child. It is reported in gang culture that absent fathers is a factor in young men joining a gang as some kind of surrogate family. Without in house support many single parents are under stress and financial pressure and require added



"I promise to always pursue you, to fight for you and to love you unconditionally and wholeheartedly for the rest of my life."

support from friends and the extended family. Increasingly people are choosing the a single life, often through hurt in previous relationships but also a choice to take responsibility for themselves and not have to navigate the rather tricky business of living with somebody.

Many single Christians report that they are made to feel less Christian for not being married. Yet marriage is given to us as a concession to channel our desires toward one person but Jesus tells us as a church that we are the bride and he is the groom and that we are to be faithful to him. The single Christian is as married to Jesus as a married Christian. When we get married we make binding vows and promises and when we say the prayer of commitment we are doing exactly the same.

This is the most important marriage because it gives structure, guidance and a spiritual dimension to our earthly marriages. When things go materially wrong whether it be a job loss, relational conflict, mental health issues, money troubles or ill health the tendency often is to look at the problems solely from our own personal viewpoint and apportion blame the other person.

The saying, When trouble comes in the door, love flies out of the window is often true.

Jesus instead points us to Agape love, the selfless concern for the wellbeing of the other. When we come to the limit in our own relationships, God can be the one who brings the extra strand in the cord that makes a relationship stronger. Like all good relationships this needs to be a two way street. Just as we need to work on our faith and develop a closer relationship with God ,so it is with our earthly relationships



On our recent outreach we saw how a relationship bond was broken by death. Greif, distress and bewilderment were the result. We supported the lady the best we could, we pray that she will adjust to her changed circumstances. How much worse would it be if our bond with Jesus were broken. Let us then keep the faith.

Godbless 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.

Please visit the website for details.

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 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



Jesus, Lamb of God,
when you walked this earth
you did not consider
heavenly equality,
though it was yours to choose,
but took the role of servant
and in humility
and obedience
allowed the rough nails of our sin
to be hammered into your flesh
for the sake of our salvation.
And so it is
that we acknowledge you
as Lord of our lives
and Lord of all,
to the glory of God the Father,
Son and Spirit, Three in One.



©John Birch, from 'The Act of Prayer'

***Lord, thank you that just as
you raised Jesus from the
dead, one day you will raise
me with him to full and
eternal life.***

***May your Holy Spirit so
fill me today that I brim
over with hope.***



July outreach - Wickham 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

Still waters is paused until
September



Delivering the message by puppet at All Saints
Wickham Market



Our next outreach is on
Wickham Market Hill
on Saturday August 29th 9am–3pm



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