

## ENews Issue 77 December 2021

stretjesus2012@gmail.com

www.streetjesus.org.uk

Street Jesus News:

Welcome to the December edition of our e-news.

As we approach Advent, looking forward in anticipation to celebrating the arrival of the Christ child we may indulge in many traditions that have built up over the years. My wife likes to keep to the tradition of

mixing the Christmas pudding and the Christmas cake on stir up Sunday. Its interesting that this phrase was first instituted in the Book of common prayer and relates to the stirring up of the spirit at this time. Many people like to practice the Nativity fast which was first declared at the Council of Tours in 567 with the Christmas feast being its culmination.



We all know that the season of Advent is closely related to the nativity but it also looks forward to Christs second coming and the coming of the holy spirit into our lives personally. Most of us will have been involved in the lighting of candles in church in the run up to Christmas. The tradition of lighting candles on the Advent wreath started in Germany in the 19th century and as we light them all these years later we remember the patriarchs, prophets, john the Baptist and the annunciation and ultimately we light the candle that depicts



Christ the light of the world on Christmas eve. Many other customs also reflect Jesus. The old practice of hanging the greens , the garlands of holly and the Christmas tree signify both the crown of thorns and the 'evergreen' nature of the spiritual life in Christ. The tradition of the advent calender also has its origins in the German lutherian church. So as we move into advent and whether we practice these customs or not may we all reflect that God came into the

world in the shape of a baby in very humble circumstances to reconcile us to him. Emmanuel -GOD WITH US. May God be with us all this Christmas.

age of a church worshipper is 61 and rising and the numbers

worshipping in Church each Sunday is in decline. We do need to be

Our facebook page often throws up some interesting discussions. Different expressions of theology can be quite contentious and increasingly as we see society becoming socially more liberal, so is church theology. An article by Matthew Paris in the times recently caused quite a stir. " Anglicanism was never about God" In the article Matthew picks up on Justin Welbys admission that the Church has failed to





### Street Jesus News:

Careful though when using these figures as much church attendance is by other denominations and Church increasingly takes place during the week. The Pentecostal church for instance is growing. Aside from this there is a growing home church movement that is not involved in traditional structures. We remember that the early church was essentially a network of home churches. There is a great need for spirituality in our country which presents us with a great opportunity. Matthew attends church regularly, he prays but not sure who to. Scripture in rich and inspiring but merely as a literary work. He enjoys the liturgy ritual and atmosphere of

church and its beauty and sense of peace. He views Jesus as a great moral teacher and example of how to live. He seems to reject the supernatural aspects and the work of the holy spirit in peoples lives and that the evangelical mission to share the gospel is pointless. The article was depressing in that it limited our faith to the cultural level but we know from our



experience in ministry that the holy spirit transforms and renews many who have been living very desperate lives. It may be that the cultural more's are so strong, that they appeal naturally to our individual desires rather that what appears to be a strict set of rules. Cultural Christianity may be a guide and help us to live better lives but this is nothing compared to having a relationship with the living God, nothing compared to the inner abundant life that only he can bring. Even when we don't seem to make headway in sharing the gospel our calling is to share it anyway in thought word and deed. We remember the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

We were recently invited to do a talk at Charsfield Baptist church where we received a very warm welcome. It was nice to be able to give a fuller account of the Street Jesus work and not to have such a time



restraint. We were able to talk about the Street Jesus van more fully and the opportunities we have had through it to share Jesus.

The day after the talk we had one such experience where a young man was gently teasing me about how much I got paid to drive around in the Jesus van. He told me that he studied Christianity when at school

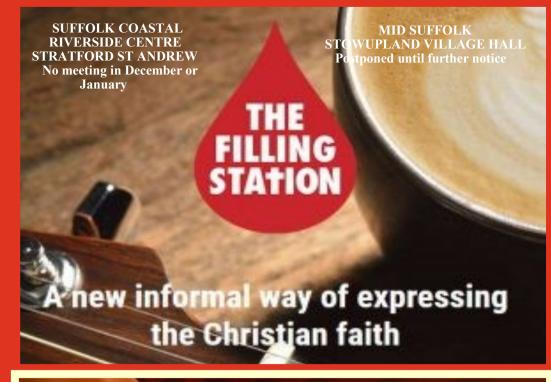
but felt he had done his time inferring that he had grown up now and saw through it. He had donated to the repair of the church roof or was it to the Bishops £100,000 + salary which he had recently read about. He hadn't of course but was making the point that he saw the giving of money as an obligation but for what purpose? As much of what he was saying was tongue in cheek he was expressing a common objection to the organised church, namely the unwise use of money.

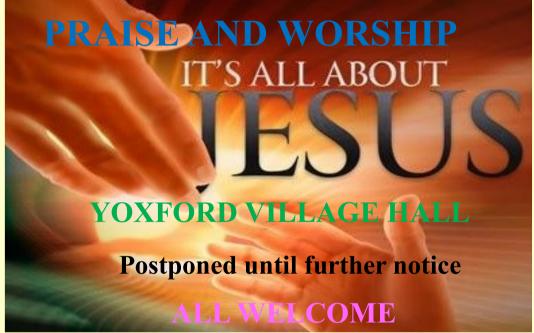
We moved on though to talk about spiritual riches and grace and love and forgiveness and yes the damage that sin does where he was very keen to talk about political corruption and the recent sleaze allegations around Boris Johnson but less about our own individual flaws. For him Sin was mainly for the rich and powerful

I think we could have talked all day but both he and I had to get on with our work. That's the frustration of sharing Jesus, other things invariably get in the way.

We will however be sharing the gospel with people at the Wickham Market Christmas market on the hill on December 4th I wonder who God will place before us, to make him known. Would be good to see you there Gods Blessings Graham.









Trimley St Martin Memorial hall - Worship evening Every 4th Saturday of the month.



PUTTING THE GO B.

**BACK INTO GOSPEL** 

www.outreachuk.com



Inspiring Christians to transform their workplace and the nation

















# PRAYER Every Tuesday 7pm Kelsale Village Hall IP172PB

Contact Paul or Mandy Weekes on 01728-604053

### Open to God Service

1st Sunday of the month at 6.30pm





# Network & SUFFOLK

https://networksuffolk.org.uk/







### CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 4th December 9am - 2.30pm

### Wickham Winter Market Market Hill Square

Enjoy a festive social atmosphere
With warming refreshments
Father Christmas and children's carols

Stalls include local produce and vegetables, gifts, crafts, textiles and clothing, ceramics, up-cycled furniture, Body Shop, Beehive Project, handmade dog accessories and local groups

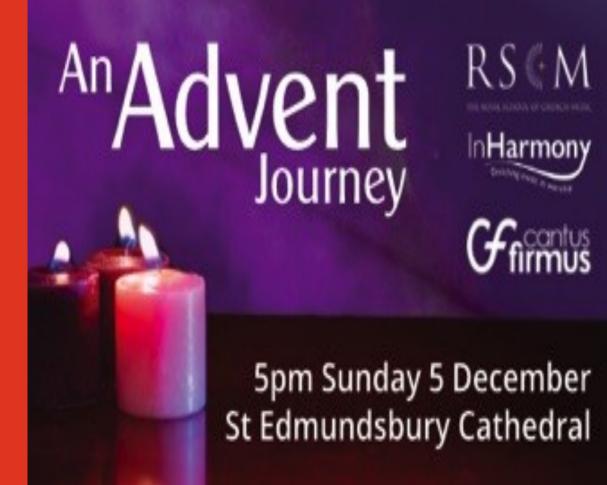
Shops and cafes open, car parking available All Saints church are here





Sudbury Rotary Club will run its Christmas Tree Festival for 2021 from Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 December, in St Gregory's Church.





## Christmas Events

### Carol Singing on the Hill

Friday 17th 5pm, by the Tree

### Carol Service\*

Sunday 19th 6:30pm
At All Saints Church and online

### **Christingle Service\***

Thursday 23rd 4pm
At All Saints Church and online
with an opportunity to dress up!

### **Christmas Eve Midnight Service**

Friday 24th 11:30pm @ All Saints Church

### **Christmas Day Service**

Saturday 25th 10:30am @ All Saints Church Bring a Christmas Present to show!

\*Booking In required - spaces limited
Contact - warden@WickhamMarketChurch.org or 01728 748224
Also Streamed Live - YouTube.com/WickhamMarketChurch















## It's church... but not as you know it!

A relaxed time of discussion & refreshments. All are welcome - come with your questions

On the first Sunday of each month from 4:00 to 5:00pm in the Barnsdale Centre, Sutton Heath

For more information, contact Padre Trevor Homfray-Cooper on 07976203278 / padretrevorhc@gmail.com

## Afternoon Praise

A lively and informal service for all ages. Every other week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> September at St John's Churc<mark>h, W</mark>oodbridge.

Doors open 3:45 for a 4:00pm start.

Drinks and cakes provided.

Everyone welcome!



St. John

### **CU LUNCHTIME**

JUST42 ARE LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FOR THEIR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY TO STUDENTS IN FARLINGAYE HIGH SCHOOL. CAN YOU GIVE A HOUR OF YOUR TIME EITHER TUESDAY OR THURSDAY 1.00 TILL 2.00PM? PLEASE CALL 07376 075021 FOR A CHAT



-Christmas & Advent at The Place by the Water





### St Nicholas Hospice Care

# lightupalife

Join our special season of remembrance, Light up a Life, and celebrate the love, joy and happiness that those we miss brought into our lives. #AlwaysRemembered

We'd like to warmly invite people to attend one of our seven special Light up a Life ceremonies during November and December. Alongside our in-person events, this year we will also be sharing a pre-recorded online service, which will be available from 21 December.

Alternatively, you can create an online tribute via our website to share memories.



28 Sudbury

NOV St Gregory's Church, CO10 1BA 3pm

30 Lavenham

NOV St Peter and St Paul Church, CO10 9SA 7pm

9 Thetford

DEC United Reformed Church, IP24 2AD 7pm

12 Bury St Edmunds

DEC St Mary's Church, IP33 1RT 4pm

14 Mildenhall

DEC Kings Church, IP28 7EF 7pm

16 Newmarket

All Saints Church, CB8 8ES 7pm

18 Haverhill

DEC

St Mary's Church, CB9 8AX 3pm

because you matter

For more information, please visit www.stnicholashospice.org.uk/lightupalife



Kindly sponsored by



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### **Churches Together at Prayer**

Monthly Prayer online

1st of each month at 7pm

Praying for our world each other revival

Zoom Meeting ID: 819 191 3344

(for password email: lynspall@gmail.com)



Sunday 19 December at 10.30 am 2 Carr Road, Felixstowe, IP11 2FS

Come and celebration Christmas with us at this family friendly service. Join us for Christmas carols with a special song from the children, followed by non-alcoholic mulled punch and mince pies.

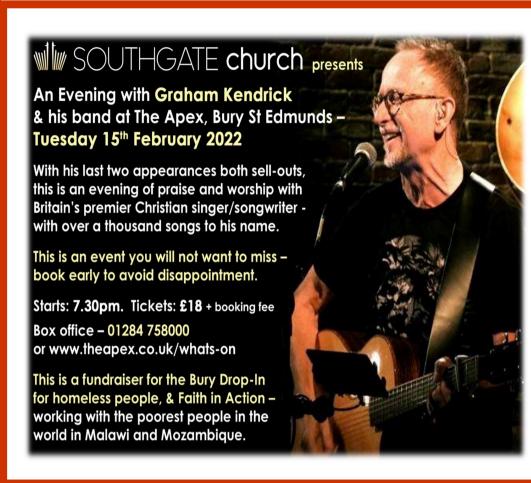
Free Parking - All Welcome - No Booking Required

For more information:

Visit: riveroflifechurch.net - Email: mail@riveroflifechurch.net - Call: 01394 273700

# THE PROMISE OF CHRISTNAS







### Rushmere St Andrew

http://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net

### Advent Sunday 28th November

6:30pm Church Hall Taizé Style Advent Carol Service

### 4th December

2:30-5:30pm

### Children's Advent Event

Christmas Crafts & Fun for Children aged 2-12 years Contact Ali to book your place: rushmeresundayschool@gmail.com

### From Saturday 18th December Nativity Trail Walk through the Christmas Story

### Sunday 19th December

6:30pm Carol Service The Christmas Story told through Readings and Carols

#### Christmas Eve

4pm The Grumpy Angel Crib Service Children may come dressed as an angel and join in

Midnight Mass 11:30pm ;

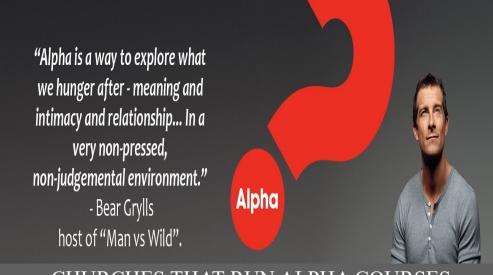
#### Christmas Day

8am Holy Eucharist 10am Family Communion

Boxing Day (the Feast of St Stephen 8am Holy Eucharist

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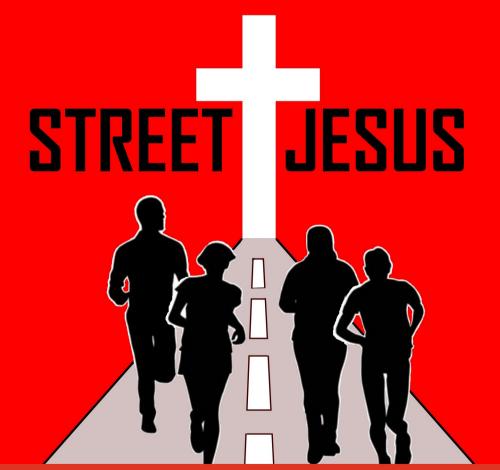
10am Parish Communion



### CHURCHES THAT RUN ALPHA COURSES

HOPE CHURCH IPSWICH - www.hopeipswich.co.uk
BURLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH Tel- 01473-259271
TRIMLEY ST MARTIN CHURCH Tel 01394-200406
ST JOHNS CHURCH WOODBRIDGE 01394-383162
COLCHESTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH -01473-290115
ST AUGUSTINES CHURCH - IPSWICH- 01473 723960

Outreach



Our next outreach will be at the Wickham Market Christmas market on Saturday December 4th

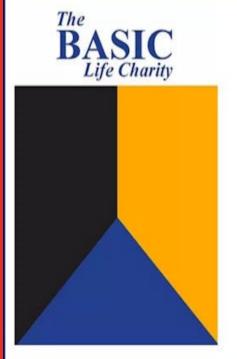
### **BLESSING JARS**



Supporting the Beehive Nakuru Kenya A great place to put your loose change in and say a blessing at the end of the day. To obtain a jar please e-mail thepaellalady@gmail.com or Pam@jenkins-net.co.uk



Leiston Town Pastors are seeking to recruit Christian Church members to their teams. The roles are: Town Pastor - Patrolling the town in pairs between 9.00pm and 12.00am on a Friday evening. Base Prayer - In a team of two, supporting the pastors with prayer, refreshment and coordination from our operating base in the town centre. Home Prayer - Supporting the work with prayer for one hour, at home whilst the pastors are on patrol. This work is rewarding, fulfilling and appreciated by the public and statutory agencies For more information please contact: Leiston Town Pastors Tel: 07804 004669 Email: LeistonTP@gmail.com or speak with a member of your church who is already involved with Town Pastors



# The BASIC Life Charity COMMUNITY POP-UP SHOP

Come along to



2 Carr Road, Felixstowe, IP11 2FS

Friday Mornings at 11.00 am

AFFORDABLE FOOD

Fill a bag for £2.

**NO CRITERIA - ALL WELCOME** 



Wickham Market All Saints Woodbridge Methodist Church Melton –St Andrews church-

Postponed until further notice



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Do you enjoy talking to new people? Can you spare a few hours once a fortnight?

Help us show care to people in need

Our Ipswich Winter Night Shelter project is recruiting volunteers for next winter. Please email clare@selig.org.uk for details.

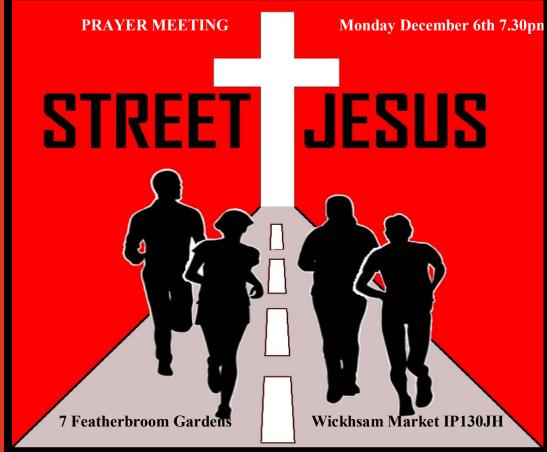




CROSSROADS-Saxmundham High Street THE RUNWAY-St Michaels and all Angels Martlesham OPEN DOORS -All Saints Wickham Market-Every Friday morning.

HUB COMMUNITY CAFÉ-St Johns Woodbridge - Every Monday morning 10-12



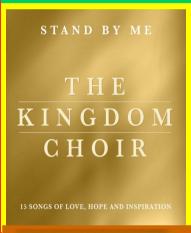


Gallery



Denise and myself showing off the decorative candles on Ipswich market March 2019

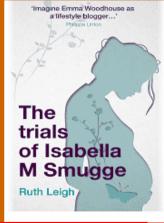
CD of the month



CD of the month Stand by me

The Kingdom choir

Book of the month



#### BOOK OF THE MONTH

Life in the country isn't going as Issy Smugge planned it. However, the woman Gorgeous Home magazine once called 'Britain's Most Relatable Mum Designer' is nothing if not resilient! With an unexpected baby on the way, a good-fornothing husband and a mother who never seemed to care but now needs caring for, her hands are full. Her venal agent and creative socials guru keep work fizzing, but how will she cope with the mysterious village snitch and poisonous gossip columnist Lavinia Harcourt? Discovering others' problems can be far worse than her own, she confronts bizarre church sub-culture to slay every dragon they encounter. It also contains real-world examples of encounters with spiritual darkness, demonstrating examples of how the light can be explored and faith gradually found

Facebook



If you would like to join our facebook page

www.facebook.com/groups/1246450225452294

# Think tank on religion and society

www.theosthinktank.co.uk

Gatherings





### Bible reading

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed we all make many mnistakes. For if we could control our tongues we would be perfect and control ourselves in every other way. We can make a horser go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. It is a whole world of wickedness corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fir by hell itself. People can tame all sorts of animals, birds reptiles and fish but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil and full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our lord and father and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God so blessings and cursing comes out of the same mouth. Surely brothers and sisters this is not right. Does a spring of water bubble out from both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? No you cant draw fresh water from a salty spring. If you are wise and understand Gods ways then prove it by living an honourable life doing good works that come from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealously and selfishness are not Gods types of wisdom. Such things are earthly unspiritual and demonic. For wherever there is jealously and selfish ambition there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, it is peace loving and gentle at all times., willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favouritism and is always sincere. Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness James 3: 1-18

### Prayer



Quote to note

What you are is Gods gift to you. What you become is your gift to God

Hans von Balthasar

Please get

with others and would like to become involved with our project then please contact us for more information. If you would like us to promote any of your Church events we will do our best to include them in our e news. If you would like to contribute to e-news with any information or recommendations such as a book, music C D, film, article, a prayer, or a bible verse then please e mail us on streetjesus2012@ gmail.com.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 10th January at 7.30

THANK YOU!

Thank you for showing interest in the Street Jesus project. If you do not wish to receive our e news or would like more information about the project please e mail streetjesus 2012@gmail.com

pm. At 7 Featherbroom Gardens Wickham Market IP130JH