

Belfast Street Pastors

Report 2015

In **2016** we anticipate further growth. We are conscious of the needs outside the city centre and would love to see how churches can make a difference on all our streets.

Street Pastors at its heart is volunteers giving freely of their time and effort and, but we recognise that we need to secure funding for a coordinator who will enable us to continue to grow and develop. We are developing a strong multi-faceted fundraising strategy to enable us to grow from strength to strength.

| Roles & Responsibilities | Roles & Responsibilities |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alcohol & Drugs | Role of the Police |
| Youth & Safeguarding | Mental Health |
| Good News | Communication Skills |
| Knowing your Community | Everyday 1st Aid |

We always welcome new people who would like to get involved. Why not contact us to:

- Come out as an observer
- Do the training & become a Street Pastor
- Give (a one-off or regular gift)
- Pray
- Invite us to your church or workplace to present Street Pastors...
- Contact us and we will be delighted to come....

Keep up to date with the latest news and training opportunities on our Facebook and web pages...

We are thankful for the excellent trainers who make our training effective, interactive and fun. Together with Newtownabbey we run at least 2 courses per year.

Training includes the modules above. Once trainees have done Roles & Responsibilities plus 2 other modules they can start going out on the street as they continue their training. There are also now 2 supervised patrols as part of the course.



We are very grateful for the financial help from **individuals, churches, Trusts, the Christian Police Association, and Diageo**. Others have given 'gifts in kind' such as the **Police, BCCM, BCM various churches** (e.g. May Street Presbyterian for a base to operate from and Hope International for training rooms).

All this supports the provision of training, uniforms, flip-flops, equipment and the general operation of Street Pastors. Above all we thank the many **volunteers** who give up their time to serve our city and help keep people safe.

The church in action on the streets to - care, listen & help

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Welcome to Belfast Street Pastors 2015 Annual Report!

Another year of growth has meant more teams out, covering more evenings in Belfast. We now have around **100 volunteers from 50 different churches**. Working together in unity is a very positive witness in itself. We asked volunteers 'why they are Street Pastors' and some of their responses are listed on the next page.

During the year we helped the **Ards & North Down** scheme (NI's 4th scheme) start with training, advice & administration. There are now 2 people trained in Belfast & Newtownabbey who can deliver the **training** we previously had to bring someone over from GB for. A network of Street Pastors schemes in Northern Ireland is developing. We share training and learn from each other.

Partnership is vital to our work and we are grateful for excellent **cooperation** with the Police, City Council and other voluntary organisations. We each contribute something unique to help Belfast be a safer, better city.

In 2015 we registered as a Company (with charitable purposes) and have applied to the NI Charity Commission to be a registered charity. In October we employed a part-time coordinator as the administration has become too much for volunteers to carry. We did not have enough funds to continue the post, but hope to remedy that in 2016.

| | TOT 2014 | TOT 2015 | Diff +/- | Diff % | Av per month 2015 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Volunteer Hours | 2,368 | 3,215 | +847 | +36% | 2,068 |
| Teams out | 167 | 219 | +52 | +31% | 18 |
| Nights out | 102 | 105 | +3 | +3% | 9 |
| Bottles/glasses lifted | 7,212 | 12,570 | +5,358 | +74% | 1,048 |
| Flip-flops used | 955 | 1,650 | +695 | +73% | 138 |
| Spontaneous thanks | 939 | 1,542 | +603 | +64% | 129 |
| SP cards given out | 907 | 1,275 | +368 | +41% | 106 |
| General assistance | 377 | 630 | +253 | +67% | 53 |
| Spiritual conversation | 240 | 267 | +27 | +11% | 22 |
| Help to transport | 224 | 382 | +158 | +71% | 32 |
| Prayer | 81 | 73 | -8 | -10% | 6 |
| Refer to other agency | 49 | 93 | +44 | +90% | 8 |
| Anti-social behaviour | 41 | 96 | +55 | +134% | 8 |
| Prevention of assault | 38 | 49 | +11 | +29% | 4 |
| First aid kit used | 27 | 54 | +27 | +100% | 5 |
| Emergency services | 18 | 43 | +25 | +139% | 4 |



Some comments from Facebook

"Fantastic work guys, amazing ministry.. bless you & thank you"

"Thank you for caring"

"Those who preach their faith without words"

"I'm not religious at all but can really appreciate people who are out in all weather trying to help people - Angels"

"Keep up your amazing work Street Pastors"

"You guys are making a REAL difference... well done"

"This is brilliant—I admire you guys so much. Such a fantastic job being done in our city"

"God bless these fantastic people for looking out for our kids"

"Thank you for sharing Christ's love in Belfast"

"Its great that you were there"

Caring, listening, helping..... all in a night's work on the streets...



Les Isaac, founder of Street Pastors, commissioning new Belfast & Newtownabbey volunteers

One man came up to the team to thank Street Pastors preventing him from taking his life some weeks earlier



Fully loaded: some of the 1,650 pairs of flip flops given to help prevent ankle injuries & reduce A&E congestion

St Patrick's Day in the 'Holyland'. In 2015 we removed over 5,000 bottles. The Council commented "You set a different tone in the area and prevented some things getting out of hand"



Why are you a Street Pastor?

- It's a great way to show God's love in an unexpected, practical & gentle way
- I want to give something back to Belfast
- In the past I'd have been out late and vulnerable and can understand when people take a night out too far. I'd have loved somebody to sit with me for five minutes. 'Do to others as you'd have them do to you'
- This is what Jesus would do
- Because I care, and 99.9% of people appreciate it
- To show God's love by being His eyes, ears and hands
- God loves people outside the church and it's a privilege to go out and care
- I have kids and would like there to be people like Street Pastors if they needed help
- We are supposed to help our neighbours—we are all made in the image of God
- I enjoy being part of a team, meeting new people and helping those in need
- We are helping Belfast's reputation as a safe city at night—good for local people and great for tourists
- I became a Street Pastor by invitation, to see if I could relate to others in a practical Christian way. From the 1st night I knew it's something that's needed badly in our cities because the world is looking on—as Christians it's vital that we SHOW our faith and not just 'talk the talk'
- People 'see' more than what we say, and they see it week after week, rain, hail or snow
- I enjoy the camaraderie & being of some help to those we meet on the street & knowing that we help the other services to the extent that life in Belfast late at night has become safer