

Newsletter

Summer 2013



Preston & South Ribble (North) Street Pastors

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. We're a group of 55 people from over 20 churches in Preston & South Ribble who go out onto our streets to listen to, care for and help anyone we meet.

Street Pastors is an interdenominational network of Christian charities operating across the UK and worldwide under the inspiration of the Ascension



Trust who provide central services and guidance. It is a Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets. Preston & South Ribble (North) Street Pastors is an independent charity affiliated to the network serving the people of Preston, Penwortham, Leyland, Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall



Photograph courtesy of Lancashire Evening Post Ltd

City Centre

The winter and spring months have been very cold and we have given out warm clothes and/or sleeping bags on 37 occasions. We also gave out 273 cups of coffee, many with snacks, to people sleeping rough in Preston or on the streets begging. As we stop and give out hats and gloves, a cup of hot coffee and a sandwich or a pot noodle we talk with everyone we meet and listen to their life stories.

Sometimes people ask us to pray for them – this might be to help them with something specific that is happening in their life – like a crucial meeting to find accommodation; or they may be going to rehab to deal with their drug or alcohol problem. We are there to support them and encourage them, directing them to additional support where appropriate. We also provide assistance to young people – handing out the famous pink flip-flops to those unable to walk in their high heels or helping someone to find a taxi home.

South Ribble

In South Ribble our work on the Kingsfold Estate has been recognised by the police and local authority as making a major contribution to the reduction in antisocial behaviour reported and the decrease in the number of incidents involving “gangs of young people”. We continue to walk around Kingsfold most Friday evenings even though we now only meet a few people walking their dogs and young people behaving well on the streets and in the parks.

We work closely with the South Ribble Safety Partnership and are developing new areas to patrol in response to concerns within the community – particularly areas where large groups of young people congregate – they’re not necessarily behaving badly but the community feels threatened so we will spend time with these groups of young people – getting to know them and encouraging them to think of ways to be less intimidating.

We are grateful to the South Ribble Partnership for awarding us a grant to enable us to grow this work over the coming year.

Inner East Preston

In the St Matthew’s, St George’s and Fishwick wards of inner Preston we continue to walk the streets every Friday from 8.00pm to midnight and find opportunities each week to talk with residents, meet young people and chat with shopkeepers.

The PACT meetings, police and local councillors recognise the impact of the work carried out by Street Pastors. We have contributed to articles in the Lancashire Evening Post about the reduction of kerb crawling and the reduced presence of street sex workers in this area. Recently one of our Street Pastor teams assisted a family at a house fire where they provided support and practical help whilst the fire service dealt with the fire

Interested in becoming a Street Pastor?

Be part of the Church on the Streets. We are recruiting now! To become a Street Pastor you should be a Christian and have been a member of a local church for at least a year – and have a heart to serve God and His people.

Street Pastors receive full training and our next course starts on Saturday 6 July.

You’ll be equipped in all areas of the work so that you will be an effective member of the team – and every Street Pastor goes out once each month on a Friday evening into their designated area.

Being a Street Pastor is a brilliant opportunity to serve God and the people of Preston & South Ribble, is this the right time for you to join us?

If you want to find out more about praying for, giving to or becoming a Street Pastor please call our Coordinator:

Dave Brown on 07794 008767 or email him at streetpastorspandsr@gmail.com

And if you want us to come along to your church, community meeting, school or youth group to tell you more about our work then give Dave a call.

Preston & South Ribble (North) Street Pastors

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