



Aberdeen

2014 - 2015

Street Pastors



Annual Report

Partnering

It goes without saying that the Street Pastors volunteers have prevented situations escalating, identified numerous potentially vulnerable people and prevented them coming to harm. There are now many hundreds less victims of crime within the City Centre.

George Macdonald.

Area Commander. Police Scotland



Chairman - Robert Denning

When we look back on the eight wonderful years that Aberdeen Street Pastors has been in existence we thank God for all He's done and provided. Since our humble beginning, Aberdeen city centre has changed considerably. The statistics for violent crime in the city centre show a reduction of 50% from last year.

This of course is a team effort and we play a small part in doing our bit alongside Police Scotland, Weekend Working Partnership, all the club door staff, and taxi marshalls. Seeing the local church working with others to see our city a safer place is a great encouragement. Of course there are still issues, mainly associated with alcohol, but the noticeable improvement in the past eight years has helped make Aberdeen one of the friendliest and safest cities in the UK. Well done all that have played a part.

As a charity we are committed to doing our best to see the values we believe in shape all the work we do and the initiatives we are involved in. Our volunteers who show remarkable dedication and sacrifice are the real heroes... Could I thank all our volunteers for their commitment, their love and passion for their city and their willingness to be the church in action. I would also like to thank our management team and board of directors for all their behind-the-scenes work. Without either of these groups Aberdeen Street Pastors would not function.

I would also like to thank our partners, police, local government and the business community that have invested in our ministry and the local church community that continues to support all of our teams.

Rob Denning
Chairman



Operations

Growth and Changes

Our night time street work continues and over recent months seventeen new volunteers have been trained and joined the teams. Every organisation experiences change with people joining and moving on as a natural course of events. We want to say thank you to those who have moved on and in particular the three team leaders, Dan, Brian and Phil who have made an enormous contribution. Wilma our previous administrator has also moved back to education to train as a social worker. Whilst these changes are a challenge they also present an opportunity for others to step into the vacant roles. This, along with the recruitment of a number of students has helped to increase our multi-generational profile.

School Pastors and Retail Pastors teams continue to develop; although small in comparison to the street work it continues to be fruitful. It has to be said that the level of commitment the volunteers bring to their work is commendable. We are looking to increase their numbers this coming year to strengthen the work.

"Thanks to your team on Belmont street for helping my daughter's friend tonight. She got separated from us and you looked after her until I was able to find her."



Highlights:

We receive positive feedback from those we help who often contact us at a later date. In the retail and school pastors work there have been some life changing stories where our volunteers have supported individuals they work with and enabled them to move on from difficult situations.

A major highlight of the year has been the replacement of our Safe Space vehicle. The management team have been working with colleagues in the Weekend Partnership organisation and local churches to source, transform and equip a new vehicle to work in the city centre.



Safe Space.

The new Safe Space was launched on the 1st October. This has replaced the previous vehicle which was sold to another Street Pastor scheme. The new truck, a Mercedes, had previously been a mobile GP surgery in southern England. It was in good condition with limited mileage when we purchased it in March 2014. The vehicle was taken to the original bodybuilders who have made some internal alterations. One of the two surgeries was opened up to create a new seating area and we have added a kitchen unit. The vehicle has more space than the previous one, including a larger first aid room and a third seating area which enables casual conversations to unfold in the entrance area.

Safe Space Statistics

Visitors	676
Hot Drinks	426
First Aid	59
Reassurance	90
Spiritual Conversations	79
Prayer	27



Since its launch the vehicle has been out every weekend and statistics show it is being used to positive effect. Some uses of the vehicle include a young lady who lost all her belongings and was able to borrow a Street Pastor's phone and contact a parent to collect her. In another instance the Police were able to bring a very distressed person onboard to interview them in private. As a result of this investigation and the person being listened too, the person was taken to a place of safety. Others have been treated and then sent to hospital for further medical care. Our teams have experienced a deepening of conversations many are asking poignant questions around life and faith. Some simply spend time warming up and calming down enabling them to journey home in a safer state than when they arrived. We would like to take this opportunity just to thank everyone who has supported the delivery of this new project.



Looking Forward:

What does the future hold? We must not forget that one of the core values of our work and ministry is to be the hands and mouthpiece of Jesus revealing Gods love in action to our city. We will seek to continue to respond to those who see the value in what we do. Police Scotland recently asked us to support special events in Aberdeenshire and we have had requests from other agencies who want to work more closely with us using the Safe Space vehicle. This may mean the vehicle moving to a new location in the city at weekends. Our passion is to continue training and equipping new volunteers for our various listening, caring and helping ministries. This equipping overflows into the local church and their mission setting.

Prevention of Assault	91
First Aid	112
Street Robbery	8
Disturbance/Anti Social Behaviour	83
Domestic Abuse/Violence	29
General assistance & specific advice	808
Assisting door & club staff	203
Assisting people to Transport	303
Homeless practical support	472
Emergency Services Called	83
Flip flops given out	1063
Spiritual Conversations	403
Prayer	54

Thanks

We are thankful for all the financial support we have had from individuals, churches, community groups and the Weekend Working Partnership. Many people have been impressed by the long term nature of our commitment to the city. One example of this is the eight to ten year life span of the Safe Space project. We have received positive comments on the low running cost in comparison to similar projects elsewhere. There is a need for us to continue to raise money for training and running costs for the organisation and Safe Space.





- To love people through practical acts of compassion and Christian love.
- To empower every volunteer to be an agent of positive change.
- To positively influence people's perception of the church and the church's perception of the city.
- To help young people make quality life choices through preventative informative education.

SAFE
SPACE.

School Pastors

This year has been a successful year for our School Pastor team. School Pastors have been in the school at lunchtime on over 100 occasions and have been involved in the Support for Learning Lunch Club on a weekly basis.

The School Pastor team is small in number but big on commitment and this gives a huge reward as the team are now seen as part of the school day and community. One of the recent developments has been that our Schools Coordinator Jo Bowyer was involved with the St Machar's Leadership Academy. This is a week long residential trip to Cromdale in the Cairngorms designed to help the pupils discover their personal values enabling them to bring out leadership qualities and skills. Jo said, "as a participant it challenged me as well as being a lot of fun! There was team building on many levels and I have the privilege of meeting up and mentoring the pupils since our return. It is encouraging to hear how they are adjusting their motives and choices according to the skills and values they discovered within themselves."

Developing the individual to their fullest potential

We continue to coach pupils on a one to one or group basis and have seen some significant breakthroughs. One pupil commented "I couldn't have made it without my School Pastor coach". This makes all the training and studying worthwhile! We are hoping to begin training volunteers again in March and welcome any enquiries from people wanting to know more.

- **To offer a listening ear and support**
- **To build self-esteem and confidence**
- **To help the pupil make informed choices**
- **To draw on the Life Coach's experience**
- **To encourage thinking about future aspirations**
- **To create achievable goals**



Aberdeen School Pastors work in a local school to build and develop relationships with the pupils and staff. They encourage the pupils to positively relate to peers, teachers and the wider community. The ethos is the same as that of Street Pastors and this is to listen, care and help young people who on occasions may require support.

"The School Pastors' scheme in St Machar Academy is innovative. It works with some very needy young people at a difficult time in their lives but importantly it undertakes the work at a time when young people can be influenced and change direction."

Isabel McIntyre. Head Teacher



Retail Pastors

This last year of Retail Pastoring has been very exciting. More and more we see our presence making a difference in people's lives, and over time, through friendship and trust we have become, we hope, a significant part of the life of Union Square. We have seen people encouraged and supported, and wonderfully one person come to faith! This favour and warmth that we have received is testimony to God's grace and love for all people.

It really is so simple: we go and chat to people; to listen, to care and to help. It is such a privilege to share in people's lives and to encourage them in this way in their workplace. Our conversations range from family life; from stock taking to hopes and dreams for the future; from targets and recruitment to the crazy Christmas shoppers! All these conversations are so important because it is precisely in these moments that we build trust and confidence. It has been expressed by the management and by staff members how important it is that people know they have someone who they can talk to. They may not have a great crisis but having this in place means that they are supported and cared for: there is someone who they can turn to. We will often say as we leave a shop, 'let other staff members know that the retail pastors were in today,' this raises the awareness of our presence there that day, and is a reminder that we care.



"We provide confidential listening, along with a caring attitude and in some instances further help and support. Often those we meet want to share their story and know about ours and what motivates us to undertake this ministry. We seek to value every individual no matter what their circumstances, background or position in their company."

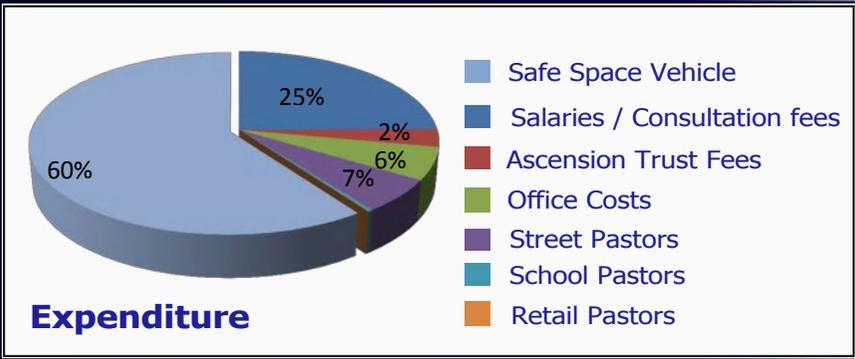


Income

Local church support	£10,731
Individuals and Local Groups	£38,169
Partnership Organisations	£59,406
Training and uniform	£5,327
Gift Aid	£2,722

£116,355

Financial Report



Expenditure

Salaries/ Consultancy Fees	£33,078
Ascension Trust Fees	£4,075
Office Costs	£7,613
Street Pastors	£7,891
School Pastors expenses	£458
Retail Pastors expenses	£75
Safe Space Vehicle	£79,336

£132,526



Aberdeen &
Aberdeenshire
CHURCHES



POLICE
SCOTLAND





Aberdeen

Listening. Caring. Helping

Street Pastors



**Credo Centre
14-20 John Street
AB25 1BT
01224 625487
Email: aberdeen@streetpastors.org.uk
www.aberdeen.streetpastors.org.uk**

**SCO 41984
Co No. 390373**