

ABERDEEN STREET PASTORS

Newsletter - 2016



COMMISSIONING

Friday 29th January
The Garage
Windmill Brae
Aberdeen, AB11 6HU
6.30pm - 8.30pm

RSVP 15TH JANUARY 2016

You are invited!

Please reply to the office to confirm your attendance

aberdeen@streetpastors.org.uk 01224 625487

SERVICE 2016

TRAINING DATES FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

- 5th March
- 12th March
- 19th March
- 26th March
- 23rd April
- 30th April

We are recruiting...

We are looking to train more new volunteers! Our start date for training is 5th March and we would love to train another ten **Street Pastors**, four **School Pastors** and a **Retail Pastor**. We provide fifty hours of training over a period of about ten weeks, which includes six Saturdays from 10am to 3pm. This initial commitment is a major factor in becoming one of our volunteers but many reflect back to us how good the training is and how it helps them in other walks of life and faith.

Our volunteers then commit to being part of a team, none of our volunteers work on their own. For example, **Street Pastors** commit to going out one Friday or Saturday night a month from 9:30pm to 4:00am. We have a Street Pastor Union Square team that engage with the young people who frequent the shopping centre on a Friday evening. These guys do a two hour shift from 6:30pm. Could you join this team once or twice a month?

School Pastors provide a weekly lunch time presence and most of our volunteers pick a specific day in the week and it becomes part of their week. School Pastors also get the chance to train as Life Coaches and extend their commitment by coaching pupils. **Retail Pastors** work in pairs in the shopping centres on a weekly or every other weekly basis. A normal shift is for a three hour period morning or afternoon which includes a coffee break.

Please get in touch if you would like to join one of our teams for an evening as an observer or would like more information.

Our Annual Report is now available. Please contact our office if you would like to be sent a copy.

To make a regular monthly donation please write to us at:

Aberdeen Street Pastors, 14-20 John Street, Aberdeen, AB25 1BT.
01224 625487. Email: aberdeen@streetpastors.org.uk

Or to donate by text please text ABSP10£(followed by the amount you wish to donate) to 70070
i.e. To donate £5 text **ABSP10£5** to **70070**.

We currently have 91 amazing volunteers from all walks of life, aged 18 to 76 years old!

Interview with Rose Jopp one of our Retail Pastors...



When and where were you born and something about your life today? I was born in Aberdeen 76 years ago and have lived here all my life. Over the years I have enjoyed travelling to many countries on holiday, but there's no place like home.

Please briefly describe your Christian journey? As a child I attended Sunday School at St Marys church. I remember getting myself there on a Sunday morning and afterwards shopping for a penny bag of 'chipped' fruit. All we could afford in those days but that was still a treat. Then I would go off to visit my grandfather. Over the years I have always held strong Christian beliefs. I haven't been a regular church attender until recently. Sometimes life can get very busy bringing up three children, however being a Christian is about a lifestyle. I like the core values of Street Pastors, it's all about helping one another, being there to listen and support when we can, I think that's why I feel at home within the role.

What interests do you have? I have always enjoyed knitting, and my needles are clicking away right now for my new great grand-daughter. Sophie is 5 months old now and my great grandson Nathan is two and a half. I love spending time with them, they are so much fun.

Describe how you feel about your role as a Retail Pastor? Becoming a Retail Pastor has given me a new lease of life! When my husband died in 2014 I wondered how I would cope with loneliness. After a conversation at our Cafe Plus, the idea was planted in my head. I had never done anything like this before, and had little confidence. My family persuaded me to give it a try, just to see how I got on, and I'm so glad I did. My confidence grew little by little and now, over a year later I enjoy it so much. I've met lovely people and formed new personal friendships, it means so much to me and really is an important part of being part of the wider Street Pastor team.

In your own words describe how you think Street/Retail Pastors make a difference? Retail Pastors are a recognised part of our community and are well received. I think that is because we are not an 'authority' like the police or street wardens. People feel less intimidated talking to us, it's all very informal and I think people like that about us. At Christmas it was good to see the police chief advising the public to take care when out partying, he mentioned the Street Pastors were there to help and it feels good to be part of it.

"Everyone I speak to who works within the night time economy gives me the impression that Street Pastors are the glue that holds everything together." Manager at ADP

PRAYER POINTS

- Thanks to God for his provision and our volunteers.
- Thanks for the relationships we have across the city and beyond.
- Praying for the impact of Aberdeen Street Pastors and local churches would continue to change our city.
- Praying for a new group of trainees.
- Praying for the Management Team and Directors as their roles evolve.