

Belfast Street Pastors Report for 2013



Welcome to the Belfast Street Pastors 2013 annual report!

The figures in the table reflect many ordinary followers of Jesus from different churches, giving up time to go out onto the streets to **care, listen and help**. Primarily we help those coming out of pubs and clubs, especially around 1:30 to 3:00 am. We've also helped on St Patrick's Day and cross-community festivals. This year St Patrick's Day was much quieter (thankfully!) and only 60 bottles were lifted compared to over 1,000 in 2012.

We've again said goodbye to many **volunteers** who have moved on from Northern Ireland, received some who have transferred from Street Pastors schemes in GB and welcomed many new volunteers. We now have 47 active volunteers plus 3 who are 'on the benches' recovering from various ailments.

It is such a **positive and refreshing witness** to those on the streets to see people from different churches working and serving together.

We're delighted that by the end of the year we now have **2 teams** out each Saturday evening instead of one—enabling us to help many more people.

During the year we have got to know the other **2 schemes in Ireland** - Cork and Newtownabbey. It was great to help the Newtownabbey scheme get off the ground by going out with them in their first month and sharing training. There are now more than 250 schemes in the UK and Ireland with over 12,000 volunteers so it's a big family.

	TOTAL 2013	<i>Average per month</i>
Volunteer Hours	1,560	130
Nights out	91	8
Teams out in the month	110	9
Bottles/glasses lifted	3,937	328
Flip-flops used	441	37
Assist people to transport	117	10
Street Pastor cards given out	459	38
General assistance & advice	250	21
Spontaneous thanks	448	37
Emergency services called	10	1
Referral to other agency/service	38	3
Disturbance/anti-social behaviour	56	5
Prevention of assault	39	3
Spiritual conversation	181	15
Prayer	51	4
First aid kit used	12	1
Other	29	2



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

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This year we did more **training** than ever before and now have a pool of trainers who we know can deliver excellent and appropriate training.



We continue to enjoy excellent **cooperation** with the Police, City Council and voluntary organisations. There is no competition as we know we complement each other on the streets.

There have been a number of times where we've been able to stay with someone who the Police would have had to arrest, which is a great benefit to both the individual and the Police.

A new addition to our equipment is **toffees!** We have prevented fights by getting alongside people and offering them a toffee while calming them down. Chewing and 'mouthing-off' is difficult to do at the same time.



We also now have **space ponchos**—thin foil blankets that protect against the wind and cold.

We are aware that some men are taking **advantage of women** who are drunk. We recently intervened when we saw a man trying to get a woman into a car and we suspected she didn't know him. When challenged, he quickly left and we cared for the woman.

In 2014 we would love **more people** to support Street Pastors by praying and becoming Street Pastors. We have a range of presentations and would love to come to your church to explain how people can get involved—contact us and we'll be delighted to come...



From our reports on the streets...

We met a girl who was on her own and very upset and frightened. We reassured her, calmed her down and waited until her friend found her and she was safe. She told us 4 weeks ago she had had her drink spiked and was attacked.

Met a young man on Dublin Road who just wanted to walk with us. He said how nice it was that we had walked all this way and we hadn't try to preach to him! HE then started a conversation about religion and what it meant to be a Christian!

Took a highly intoxicated female to the SoS bus.

We prevented revelers throwing bottles at police near the Botanic Inn. We just went and stood in that area - our presence changed people's behaviour without us having to do anything else...

Sat with a drunk man who was lost until he came round and figured out how to get home.

Broke up a fight between two young men at the Odyssey who were having a dispute over a girl. Ensured that the girl and both men went their separate ways safely.

Met an Italian visitor to Belfast whose phone was dead. Used one of our phones to help him phone home with his SIM card.

Talked to a man who seemed to be trying to pick up a woman. When we asked if she was OK he left and she told us he had been inside the club trying to pick up vulnerable women.

Assisted a confused elderly man managed to get him into B&B in Antrim Road.

Helped an upset woman whose husband had left her alone in the street.

Call received via radio from staff at Duke of York requesting Street Pastors to assist a young woman. We stayed with her until boyfriend arrived. After checking he was in fact her boyfriend, we helped the young woman into her boyfriend's car.

A woman thought we were angels when we gave her flip-flops to ease her aching feet and prevent her walking on glass.

Met a girl who was very upset that she had just been diagnosed with MS and couldn't get a taxi. We got one for her and she was so pleased.

Had lots of hugs and 3 marriage proposals!

Plus hundreds more!!!



thanks very much for the flip flops on saturday night, my feet were aching from my heels and walking on the street, i really needed them!!

We are very grateful for the financial help from individuals, churches, the PSNI and the Police and Community Safety Partnerships plus 'gifts in kind' from BCCM and others which support the training, uniforms and the operation of Street Pastors.