

# Belfast Street Pastors – St Patrick’s 2015



*St Patrick’s ‘Day’ this year was actually a long weekend and what a weekend it was!*

- Thu 12** - **Team** out in the Holyland Area among the students
  - **Ards & North Down** signed the license agreement to become the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pastor scheme in Ireland
- Fri 13** - 3 teams ready to go out in Belfast, but problem with keys!
- Sat 14** - **3 teams** out in Belfast
  - **Training** for over 20 new Street Pastors
- Mon 16** - **Team** of 3 out in the Holyland – picked up 600 bottles
  - **5 Street Pastors invited to event with the Lord Mayor** to celebrate unsung heroes of Belfast
- Tue 17** - **33 Street Pastors** (Belfast, Newtownabbey & University Pastors) involved in the **Holylands**
  - **3 Street Pastors** in Central Belfast for the **St Patrick’s Day parade** – spotted by the Lord Mayor who appreciates Street Pastors so much, she gets them walking **IN** the parade!



In the Holyland area of Belfast there were thousands of young people – many more than previous years. Many (most?) were not local students but friends and even strangers who had come to the area for parties. Generally it was well-behaved – hopefully the result of a LOT of preparatory work from Police, Council, Landlords, Residents etc., and agencies working together on the day itself.



We **talked to and bantered with many students**, even took ‘**confession**’ from one! We **prayed**, gave out some **space blankets** to girls bitterly cold, used the **first aid kit** for minor injuries, got a **guy safely out of the area** (he was confused, upset and thought he was in his home town 40 miles away), **prevented an assault**, called the **Police** for a fight that had broken out and amazingly **picked up over 5,000 bottles** – potential for injury and use as a weapon!!



Apparently Belfast is now one of the largest (if not the largest) schemes in Britain/Ireland! It’s a fantastic witness to the Kingdom of God as Christians from more than 38 churches work together – touching many with the good news in practical and spiritual ways, but we still have a lot more to do!



- *Ordinary followers of Jesus,*
- *The church in action on the streets,*
- *Caring, listening, helping,*
- *Bringing a bit more of the Kingdom of Jesus to our great wee city...*

