

Street Pastors Belfast 2017 Report



Opportunities galore to serve: - a walk through the year...

We held our **training** courses Jan-Mar, June-July and Sept-Nov, working with Antrim & Newtownabbey and Ards & North Down to train up, commission and deploy new volunteers. We have now included *Suicide Awareness* and *Prayer on the Streets* as core modules. We continue to get excellent feedback as we prepare Street Pastors for their work and service.



In February, the PSNI kindly hosted over 130 volunteers from **all six Ireland schemes** for a buffet dinner. It was fantastic to hear what is happening in different areas. The founder of Street Pastors, Les Isaac, sent a message by video and there was warm praise and thanks from the Police, Council and Diageo.



With our sister schemes, we had 43 volunteers in the *Holland area* of Belfast over **St Patrick's Day** weekend and contributed to helping the celebrations pass off safely. 12 teams volunteered 168 hours and lifted 1,988 bottles.



In February, we were asked to consider going out to engage with **young people** gathering beside Central Station earlier on Saturday evenings. This began in **April**, and we've been well received. We engage with groups of between 20 and 130 young people and by listening and earning trust, we are able to have meaningful conversations about drug & alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour, relationships, noise levels, dangerous behaviour and hope for the future. Sometimes, they ask if they should turn their music down! The Police and Council recognise that Street Pastors can engage with people in a way that others in authority can't and we are planning to further develop in other areas. Street Pastors can grow, adapt and develop in different ways as the church gets out on the streets to:

care, listen & help...

Belfast Street Pastors 2017 Annual Report



One of the 1,536 pair of flipflops.
Note the guy helpfully carrying the high heels!



Belfast Street Pastors

4 December 2017 at 14:33 · 🌐

Saturday: 5 teams out (2 early in residential areas + 3 until 3am): prevented a fight escalating 🤝, stopped someone moving an unconscious man until medical help arrived ❌, talked to 2 young men very interested in Jesus 😊, cleaned blood from a girl's face who had fallen 😞, challenged a man who was being racist towards a Roma woman 🙅, 25 flipflops 👣, 221 bottles removed 🗑️ plus lots more. The church in action on the streets - December is busy!

Facts & Figures

2017

TOT

Per
month

Volunteer Hours 3,112 259

Teams out 135 11

Nights out 180 15

Bottles/glasses lifted 8,994 750

Flip-flops used 1,536 128

Spontaneous thanks 1,779 148

SP cards given out 1,627 136

General assistance 549 46

Spiritual conversation 216 18

Help to transport 226 19

Prayer 62 5

Refer to other agency 50 4

Anti-social behaviour 73 6

Prevention of assault 39 3

First aid kit used 76 6

Emergency services 25 2



Les Isaac (founder of Street Pastors) and friends

New in 2017:

- **School Pastors** Launch in Feb
- **Easter at train stations:** working with Coleraine, Newtownabbey, and Ards Street Pastors
- Patrolling **East Belfast** parks and some residential areas
- **Core training** now includes Suicide Awareness and Praying on the Streets
- **Cycle Ride** with Les Isaac and friends
- All **six Ireland schemes** and volunteers hosted for an evening in New Forge Country Club, Belfast and thanked by Council, Police and Diageo.
- Carolyn P., our **Prayer Pastor** coordinator organises a rota of people who pray while teams are out.

Showing and sharing good news..



Find us on:
facebook

Some comments from Facebook



5 December at 17:53

Brilliant work, feel safer when they are about 👍👍

S.M. these people are angels..... A church finally helping, not judging

Frances: Praise the Lord for people like you(s) Praying for you and following from Italy

J McK: Can I be a Street Pastor?

God bless you all. xx 🤗 Special street Angels 😊XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

a good nights work



Belfast Street Pastors updated their status. ...

23 April 2017 at 12:50 · 🌐

Sometimes it's great fun on the street:

Last night a hen party met the stag party - marriage is next month 🤰. When they saw 'Street Pastors' they asked us to marry them so we prayed a blessing on the street. 🍷

Later a middle aged woman: 'Where can I get a taxi?'. 'There's a taxi office 🚗 down the street.' 'Away down there?! That's 2 camel 🐪 rides away! I just want to be tucked up in bed 🛏 with my Oscar.' 'Your husband?' 'NO - my wee dog!' 🐕

Belfast is some craic! 🍀🍷

Our revised Saturday training program

9.30am - 12.30pm	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Roles + Responsibilities	Roles + Responsibilities
Youth + Safeguarding	Mental Health
Suicide Awareness	First Aid
Good News	Communication Skills
Role of Police	Knowing Your Community
Drugs + Alcohol	Prayer on the Streets

Heard on the streets

'You guys are the best'

'You've literally saved my life with these flipflops'

'I wish we had this in our country'

'I've seen you guys in Glasgow & Aberdeen'

'With you around we feel safer'

'What's a Street Pastie?'



School Pastors are engaging with pupils of Malone Integrated College twice a week since February. We get alongside pupils, and have been warmly welcomed by staff and students alike. This is the first School Pastor scheme in Ireland.



the church has left the building...

So what's next?

- Belfast could easily benefit from **another 50 - 60 Street Pastors** as we continue to expand into residential areas and cover the night time work around the bars and clubs.
- **Response Pastors** are Street Pastors who have had extra training on dealing with trauma and are available to go out if there is a major incident such as an air crash, the Grenfell Tower disaster etc. We are training Response Pastors from the 4 NI schemes in March 2018.
- Developing **residential and community work**: we are now working well in East Belfast and have plans to expand into West, but we need more volunteers, especially from West Belfast. If you read this and could help or could recommend someone, please get in touch!



Growth is fantastic but very difficult to manage when we only have one part-time coordinator and no administrator. We need to identify secure ongoing funding to help ensure the scheme is stable and can continue to develop.

You can help Belfast Street Pastors develop:

- **Pray**
- **Give** - we keep costs very low, but do need some support
- **Invite us** to a church or group to share more about what we do
- **Get involved**, or get someone you know involved. Or simply come out as an observer for one night.

*We thank all those who have supported Street Pastors in the past year - individuals, churches, trusts, companies, the PSNI, Belfast City Council, other voluntary organisations and most of all our **fantastic volunteers** without whom, none of this would happen.*

Be like Jesus - GET INVOLVED...

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- f** Belfast Street Pastors
- envelope icon** Belfast Street Pastors c/o BCM, Grosvenor House, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, N. Ireland, BT12 5AD

Support Street Pastors by **Text Giving**

Text SBSP22 £5 to 70070 or, go to www.justgiving.com and search



NI Charity Number: NIC 105299, Company Ltd: NI 631556

the church in action on the streets to care, listen and help