

# Canterbury Street Pastors Annual General Meeting 2015 Report



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## Meet The Team

Below is our current list of our team and it is also fantastic that it also represents the involvement of about 16 different church fellowships.

The Prayer Pastor list is just a small representation of those who come and pray. Those on the list marked with + are currently unavailable to patrol.

In the last year 5 new Street Pastors have joined our team bring our current serving team to 25 with 2 non-serving.

<b>Street Pastors</b>	<b>Management Group</b>	<b>Prayer Pastors</b>
Lorna Bedford -URC	Simon Redman (Ch) - SMB	Geoff Farnham - City
John Morrison - CC CofE	David Clegg (Vice Ch) - Ash CofE	Andrew Pantling - Day Spring
Geoff Farnham - Vineyard	William Pettit (Sec) - Cathedral	Liz Jenkins - Barton
Liz Jenkins - Barton	Will Howe (Treas) - Methodist	Liz Madge - Barton
Gemma Traquair - All Saints	Geoff Farnham (Pray Co) - City	Vicki Adams - Boiler Room
Mark Jennings - City	Julian Coode - Baptist	Lyndall Bywater - Boiler Room
Chris Pestell - City +	Sally Waters - All Saints	David Clegg - URC
Maggie Pearson - SMB	Margaret Northey - St Mildred's CofE	Fraser Thompson - City
Paul Chandler - Beacon HB	Alice Corfield - Barton	Esther Squirrell - URC
Doreen Laven - St Martins CofE		Richard Groombridge - City
Liz Madge - Barton		Rosemary Patton - URC
Margaret Northey - St Mildred's		
Mark Callanan - Canopy		
Julia Bartlett - Barton		
James Ajebon - City		
Susanna Taylor - SMB +		
Rosemary Patton - URC		
Avril Leyton - Dayspring		
Pat Banks - Dayspring		
Bug Price - Barton		
Maureen Smith - SMB		
Terry Smith - SMB		
Michelle Torok - Baptist		
Sally Barnes - City		
Judith Daley - New Life		
Niall Greathead - City		
Rena Yiapatou - Barton		

## Thank You

We express our thanks to our Street Pastors, Prayer Pastors and Management Group for their encouragement and for all they do as a team to build up the work of Street Pastors.

In April one of our faithful Prayer Pastors Richard Groombridge moved with his wife to follow God's call to live and witness in Serbia. He will be a great loss to our prayer team for his enthusiastic and regular presence in support of Street Pastors.

## Chair's Letter to AGM

What a privilege it has been to have been chair of the Canterbury Street Pastors once again and this AGM is a wonderful opportunity to reflect back on over four years of the Street Pastors mission and on how much has been achieved by so many people who give their time freely to help those who need a helping hand.

I would like to start by thanking All Saints church for hosting the AGM this evening. The fact that it was so hard to find a venue in our usual churches is testament to the many activities going on in Canterbury, Praise God!

Our shared vision is that the people of Canterbury are kept safe and experience the unconditional care that is the calling we have from Jesus ' But pity anyone who falls and has no-one to pick them up' [Ecclesiastes 4.10]. This vision is about Christians getting out of their churches and blessing those who may never come near a church.

The statistics for the year of 2014 show how the street pastors have responded to that call to pick someone up when they are in trouble. There were ninety four occasions in the past year when the team made a significant impact on the safety of an individual and often saved an ambulance being called. They have got people in vulnerable circumstances to a place of safety, reunited them with friends, offered first aid, called an ambulance and waited with a lone individual whilst help came, walked someone in the direction of home or just been a listening ear. My elder son is at Durham University where they have seen two students drown in the river over the last year, after coming out of nightclubs and so I would hope that Street Pastors could be there for those students too.

In addition the street pastors gave out 423 bottles of water to dehydrated clubbers, 446 pairs of flip flops to girls who risked injury from glass that gets scattered everywhere sadly and given 151 space blankets out to those who could suffer serious repercussions from hypothermia. Not to mention the 4500 cans and pieces of glass picked up, surely a shocking figure, that's £357,000 at the Council fine of £80 per time!

The time freely given by the team equates to well over 2000 hours per year out on the street or praying whilst they are out and I salute everyone who has contributed to this extraordinary outcome.

As a committee we are certain that when God wants you to do something, finance will not be a barrier and that our time should be spent on organising what we do rather than collecting money; so it was no surprise to us that when we met to examine the finances that had fallen a level of concern, that following prayer and a very practical discussion between a talented and passionate committee, that the finances should be rapidly restored. Thank-you to all those who have supported the vision of street pastors by personal and organisational giving again this year which as the Treasurers report shows, includes churches, individuals, Kent County Council and Canterbury local council, the Police and some businesses. The Committee have always been clear that this mission gives its services away free of charge and encourages those who would like to help to do so. I am aware that the question is often asked of Street Pastors out late on a cold night, as to why they do this if they aren't paid. The answer of course is that we are called to freely give away what we have been so lucky to have received and so Street Pastors do just that with their time, wisdom and love. Thank you also to Will who once again has undertaken the duties of Treasurer which is so often the job that no-one else wants to do!

There have been some really creative ways to make giving fun which it should be, including the easyfundraising scheme, which allows us to contribute to Street Pastors just by using this search engine when shopping on line, the charity 100 club recently launched, and participating in the Waitrose store charity scheme.

The Committee has in the past ensured that we optimise the monies we are given by spending wisely and has significantly reduced the annual budget costs of running the street pastors ministry and my thanks go to everyone on the committee who has given their evenings to oversee the work of the street pastors.

We have completely overhauled our governance documents to ensure we manage ourselves in the best way possible and to prepare ourselves for an application to achieve charitable status which will give us access to new funding opportunities and again is in keeping with what our stakeholders would expect for this ministry. My thanks go especially to David Clegg who has done so much work to steer the committee into a position where we can make an application.

Of course it is important to tell people what we do and I am grateful to Gemma Traquair for using her skills to develop the website, Facebook page, twitter and in developing the 'Your night App' which is so important in communicating with those who socialize in Canterbury and keeping us all informed about what is going on and there has been significant press interest in the work of Street Pastors during the year. More details on the communications activity is contained later in the report.

In addition with your help we have promoted the work of Street Pastors in schools, across a wide range of different churches and with the wider community of Canterbury and bless all those who have given their time to do this. I am particularly pleased to see the increasing amount of partnership activity between street pastor groups across Kent, including joint training, prayer, and sharing of ideas and information. This has enabled us to support one another and bring down the costs of training and increase the resilience in doing so.

Everyone who undertakes the training, comments about its quality and breadth and how much they learn and so I am thankful to all those who have spoken at these events.

Anyone who has tried to organise cross denominational ministry across different churches will know how hard this can be, it shouldn't be but it often is and yet for 4 years, Street Pastors has done just that with 17 other churches working together. Similarly those who have tried to partner with other organisations with seemingly similar values knows how competing priorities can get in the way, and yet street pastor organisations have met together and worked together regularly throughout the year and this mission has worked comfortably with a variety of secular organisations who understand that this is a ministry of love, which is carried out on clear guidelines that ensure it offers a consistent helping hand to anyone who is on the street on a Saturday night.

To field a team of 4 street pastors every Saturday for 6 hours, supported by a prayer team is a massive organisational exercise and so we are very fortunate to have a fantastic group of volunteers for both activities and always need more to replace those who must stand down as their circumstances change. We are delighted therefore that in the last year we have recruited and trained a further 6

street pastors. It is our hope that one day we will be able to field street pastors on Friday nights as well in the peak times, but our dedicated teams have gone out on extra trips for example on the Friday before Christmas 2014.

We are looking to recruit more prayer teams and this is so important that the team cannot go out if there is not prayer cover and as we know 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few' [Matthew 9.37]. Geoff's report gives some examples of how prayer has changed situations when the team have been out, from quelling unpleasant situations to guiding the team to places where someone needs help. I would like to note my thanks to Geoff for leading the prayer team and my relief that he has recovered from his recent collapse.

Going out on the streets to patrol requires commitment and stamina and I am so grateful that we have enjoyed the company of some of our key supporters, such as Hugo Fenwick the High Sheriff, Julian Brazier MP, a representative of the Police Commissioner, and even the manager of Chill nightclub who were keen to experience what goes on for themselves.

I have said thank-you to a lot of people this evening and I have saved the last one for Lorna Bedford our coordinator who has once again shepherded us all so competently and has been the engine of collaboration with our teams within Kent. Lorna is also a street pastor herself and her organisation skills are extraordinary. Thank-you Lorna!

So if you are a street pastor, on the prayer team, a supporter or sponsor or the partner of someone giving time to this ministry, please be excited that your contribution is making a difference to the lives of many young people in Canterbury and they will always remember that act of kindness and practical help.

Simon Redman  
Chair Canterbury Street Pastors

## Prayer Coordinator's Report

Another year has flown by and prayer cover has provided uninterrupted support every night the Canterbury Street Pastors have been out on patrol. However, the number of churches and Christian organisations providing the prayer teams has substantially reduced over the four plus years the Canterbury Street Pastors have been in existence, and this has placed an increasing burden on the remaining teams. Cover on some nights has only been achieved by the dedication of some individual stalwart prayer warriors who have stood in the gap on Saturday nights faithfully praying for the SP teams out on the streets and their impact on the City of Canterbury.

The names of these redoubtable prayers have no need of mention here, they are known in heavenly places and will receive their rewards in due season in that place. Notwithstanding this, Richard Groombridge must be commended as one of the faithful intercessors, as we have recently lost his input due to a move with his wife Gordana to serve the Lord in Serbia; our grateful thanks and prayers go with them and we look forward to hearing good news of their service to the church in Serbia.

The prayer backing to the Street Pastors is a fundamental and key component of the SP initiative, and there are many unmistakable examples of our prayers being instrumental in bringing situations on the street to successful conclusions, this has been particularly marked in circumstances where contact between lost friends and associates has needed to be made in order to get distressed folk home safely. These answers to our prayers are a clear and tangible indication of the great loving heart of our ineffable God and his love for the people of our city. But the palpable effects of our prayers are only a part of the picture, prayers have been pouring into heaven's censor on virtually every Saturday night for over four years, only the Lord knows the full ramifications of all these prayers.

The year ahead will not be without difficulties in continuing to provide prayer cover and ways need to be found to augment the current input. Local churches and Christians will need to be stirred in some way to galvanize increased support. Prayer is and always has been a fundamental of the Christian life, and it is a sad reflection on our age that prayer does not seem to have the high profile and involvement of ages past.

The scriptures abound with exhortations to pray, and I have mentioned these in the past. I have recently benefited by the writings of W B Sprague a divine from the eighteenth century who knew a thing or two, I can do no better than quote: *"For as long as Christians remain asleep, it cannot be expected that sinners will be awake. So long as Christians do not pray, or pray only in a formal manner, there is little reason to hope that sinners will begin to inquire."* And again *"Believe me, Christian, you cannot, at any time, estimate prayer as a means of saving the souls of your fellow men too highly. Though it cannot take the place of other means, it is that without which all others would be utterly in vain; and besides it has a direct influence, the extent of which it is impossible to fully estimate, therefore brethren, pray without ceasing."* May the Lord raise up His prayer warriors in this place and assist us in our endeavour's to love and bless the people of Canterbury through the SP initiative.

## Coordinator's Report 2015

Over the past year the Canterbury Team has faithfully served our City. Included with the AGM reports is my summary of 2014 produced at the end of the year. Personally I would like to thank all those involved in this ministry for their dedication and service.

### The Team

Our team has changed: meet our 5 newest members!

Michelle joined us having trained with our new neighbouring Street Pastor group in Herne Bay. Michelle is a bus driver and brings her great knowledge of people in the city.

Sally is a member at City Church and works full-time in prison education and brings a compassionate side to our work.

Judith is part of New Life Church and is currently studying at Kent University she brings with her quiet gifts and a heart for prayer.

Niall is part of City church and well known in the City as he gets about on his mobility scooter, he is great at instigating conversations.

Rena is part of City Church and brings her enthusiastic vibrant nature to our team.

I am thankful for the huge variety of gifts that are shared across our team!

### Recruitment

Street Pastors continues to look for opportunities to promote its work across the churches, schools and in our wider community. Do you know of someone who God might be calling to join our team as a Street Pastor or Prayer Pastor? We are particularly keen looking to develop the prayer side of our ministry as we look to God's way forward for His work through Street Pastors in Canterbury.

### Stories to Tell!

If you ask a Street Pastor they will be able to share a story of God making a difference on the Street of our City.

Our flip-flops have been described as heavenly! Let us pray that heaven touches earth through our influence on the streets.

Our team has been described as street shepherds!

My prayer would be that the sheep we care for on a Saturday night would come to know the Shepherd's voice for themselves and be able to say with us "The Lord is my Shepherd."

Mrs Lorna Bedford

## News and Updates

### **Commissioning**

We held our Commissioning Service at Canterbury Baptist Church on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, this was four years to the day from the launch event in the Long Market in Canterbury.

For the evening we joined with Street Pastors from Herne Bay and Whitstable as we celebrated our work in these three areas and commissioned new team members. We were delighted that the Lord Mayor, a current serving Street Pastor in Herne Bay, was able to attend and present the caps. Chief Inspector Mark Arnold strongly commended us for our work in our respective communities. Martin Segal from City Church brought God's word to us and reminded us that we were peacemakers not peacekeepers.

### **Training**

We have developed a much closer working relationship with the other Street Pastor Groups in Kent. This has led to the development of an ongoing round of training that is shared by all Street Pastor groups across Kent.

Kent People's Trust (KPT) are generous supporters of Street Pastors and provide regular grants towards the cost of training our new recruits.

### **Easy Fund Raising**

If you shop on line then you can painlessly raise money for Canterbury Street Pastors by using easyfundraising. Simply follow this link and start raising money for Canterbury Street Pastors.

You can now help support Canterbury Street Pastors by using easyfundraising.

Get started now - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/IFHYPO/>

### **App, Facebook, Twitter and Website**

We are very grateful to Gemma Traquair one of our team who has put in a lot of work towards the use of facebook, twitter and the website.

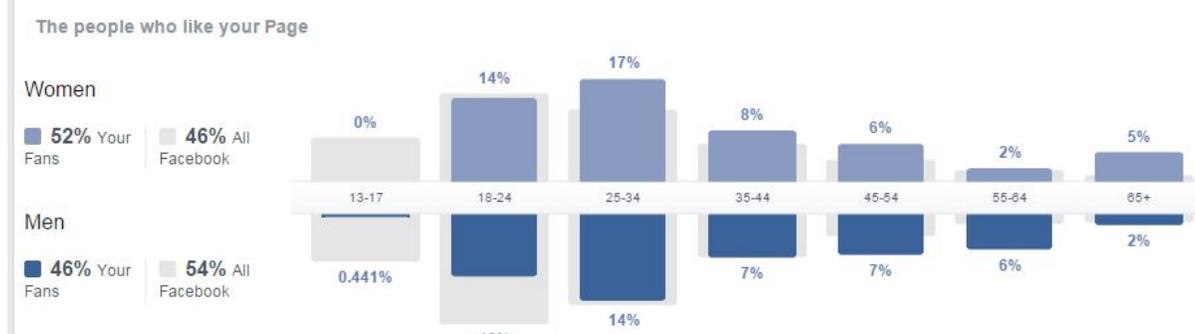
Gemma has also developed the Street Pastor Your Night App for use here in Canterbury. KPT have also been helpful in promotion of the App and will be helping to roll it out across Kent. It would be timely to note that KPT we soon be re-launched under a new title "Safer Kent".



## Website and Social Media April 2014-April 2015

### Facebook

Canterbury Street Pastors Facebook page has 226 likes. This has increased from 168 likes in April 2014. We have an almost equal number of female and male followers and good representation across different age groups.



### Twitter

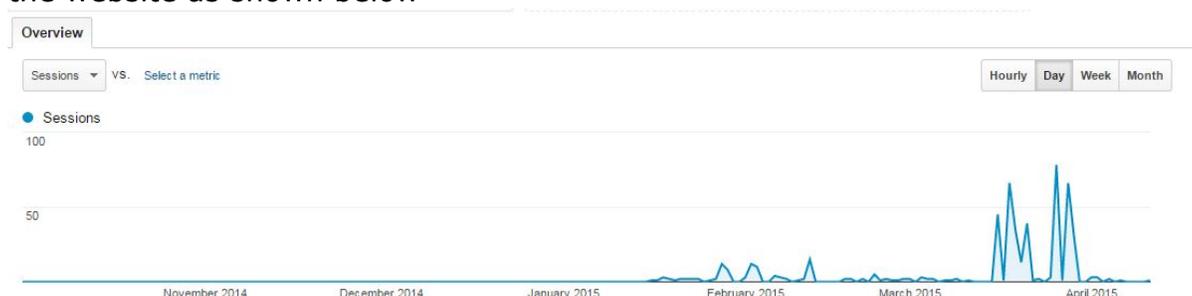
We have 169 followers on Twitter. This has increased from 48 followers in April 2014.

#### Followers



### Website

Our website was redesigned and launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> October after a number of Street Pastor websites, including ours, were hacked in July 2014. Unfortunately all of our old material was lost. The new website can be found at <http://streetpastors.org/locations/canterbury/> and anyone searching for the old website is automatically re-directed to the new one. More people are beginning to interact with the website as shown below



## Kent Area

Links between Street Pastor Groups in Kent are developing well. As well as the previously mentioned joint training programme our Coordinators and Prayer Coordinators meet up twice a year to support each other and plan joint ventures. A Kent Wide Celebration for Street Pastors, Prayer Pastors and School Pastors is in the planning stages. This will be held in Rochester Cathedral in the early evening on Sunday 20th March 2016.

Rev Les Isaac of Ascension Trust will be the Keynote speaker.

Please put this date in your diary.

## Charity '100 Club'

In March we began to introduce our Charity 100 Club. This is a simple way for individuals to give regularly to help us maintain our ministry in Canterbury. We are looking for 100 individuals who will give £5 a month to support our ongoing work.

Will you be one of the 100?

Please contact Lorna Bedford our Coordinator for more information.

## Bank Details and Current Balance

### **BANK DETAILS**

Bank Address: HSBC, 9 Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JP.

Account Name: Canterbury Street Pastors

Sort Code: 40-16-11

Account Number: 72295547

### **BANK ACCOUNTS** (15<sup>th</sup> May 2015)

**Current Account:** £268.18

**Deposit:** £10760.00

**ACCOUNT TOTAL** £11028.18

## Report from the Treasurer (15<sup>th</sup> May 2015)

As we grow and continue to 'reach out', Canterbury Street Pastors demonstrates that it is a necessary initiative, as well as being a viable and efficient organisation. Through the voluntary activities and support of the team, I believe we offer a service that 'money could not buy', in the sense that the real cost of our provision cannot be evaluated within any financial statement. As mentioned previously, we are part of the narrative that makes Canterbury one of the safest cities for students, although our work actually reaches out to all residents, visitors and the surrounding community.

**Funding Streams:** During the year the management team sent out requests for support from the Canterbury Church network, evidencing our ecumenical diversity and sharing our Christian practice. Whilst this has yielded limited response, I believe that the way forward is to continue to make presentations to Churches and faith communities, which evidence our guardianship and Christian duty in the streets of Canterbury.

**Public Funding:** KCC and Canterbury City Council, Kent Police, Councillor Northey, The Kent Peoples Trust, The Knox and Beerling Foundations all exemplify the willingness of the civic community to support the work of Canterbury Street Pastors. We are truly indebted to these organisations for their vital support during the year.

**Individual Contributions and 100 Club:** We continue to receive personal gifts from our community as well as one-off donations, which are used to fund consumables and a range of training activities. Thank you very much for your generosity. As discussed elsewhere, the 100 Club has only recently been launched and our membership continues to grow, details will follow. Please do spread the word, as clearly it is a wonderful way to make a gift the community.

**Operating Budget:** During the year there has been an increase in our activity and consequently our projected operational budget of £8500 has been increased by further £1700.00 to accommodate the adjustment. With this in mind, we shall be setting the budget for 2015-16 at £10500.