



Canterbury Street Pastors

Caring, Listening, Helping

2014 Review



As Christmas and the New Year approach join us as we look at 2014 with the Street Pastor Team in Canterbury.

Our regular weekly/monthly team reports during year show quantify our work and show the increasing high regard in which our team is held. In July this was reflected at a Canterbury-wide Night Time Economy Working Group attended by representatives from the police, council, nightclub-owners and residents associations. In his opening remarks Inspector Mark Arnold mentioned our positive impact and the fact that there were now Street Pastors in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.

Month by Month with Canterbury Street Pastors

The year started with a New Year's Eve Patrol. The team saw the New Year in waiting for a daughter to be collected by her father and then they returned to base for a belated celebration! (Our base at St Andrew's URC is a brilliant place in the heart of the city for our team to operate from and we really appreciate this provision for our team and the prayer team.)

January

Our teams ventured out on some chilly nights in January. Our eagle eyes spotted a Driving License that was duly posted back to a grateful and happy owner! We also assisted a "Gappy" from Kent College who was clearly very drunk and later helped a young lady from Kent University we found on the steps of the Marlow make the right choices to get back to campus safely.

February

One evening this month we removed 13 abandoned umbrellas – Yes it was windy! First aid skills were put to use and on two occasions an ambulance had to be called.

March

We do often get feedback from our interventions but in March we received this message on our Facebook page after we handed in a wallet at the Police Station:

"Hello, I lost my wallet last night and wasn't expecting to see it again, found that it had been handed in. Would just like to say thank you to whoever found it."

This month we were also able to put our "Power Monkey" to good use. This device acts like a battery and will power up a dead mobile phone.

April

This month seemed to be the month of lots of faith chats and opportunities for prayer. At this point I might mention the unseen edge of Street Pastors. This is the Prayer Pastors who pray every night in the building while the team is out on the street. Without their support our team just would not function. Is God calling you to pray for our team?

May

This month we met three generations of one family out clubbing (Grandmother, mother and daughter!). There were some fairly aggressive situations and we saw the calming effect of prayer by our prayer team. The District Watch Radio system helps us to be aware of what is happening in the city and we keep the prayer team informed. We can also use the radio to hear and respond to calls for our help from the various venues in the city.

June

This month our teams reported many good-natured encounters and that the city felt busy and happy! It would be fair to say that the presence of our team is much appreciated across the City.



July

In July we held our AGM at the International Study Centre at the Cathedral. On the streets our team enjoyed patrolling on warm nights and many folk seemed to be enjoying the warm evenings and some were planning to stay out all night!

This month we registered for Easy fundraising:

You can sign up to raise funds for Canterbury Street Pastors.

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

August

Street Pastors from Herne Bay have started to join our patrols and we look forward to them joining us on a regular basis. We attended several incidents involving very drunk individuals. At times it was very busy especially with people returning from "Hop Fest". We were described as "Street Shepherds" as we care for lost sheep on the streets! Flip flops were in much demand, one evening we gave out 23 pairs!

September

Training for Street Pastors began this month, with 5 new recruits for Canterbury. The Street Pastor App 'yournight.mobi' is now up and running with information to help you on a night out in the city. We attended several drunk young women and it was lovely to get this message from one of them

"Hi its me from last night you helped me outside Essence thank you ever so much for looking after me and keeping me safe."

We also woke a young man who had by mistake fallen asleep in the doorway to a bank! Our "Don't walk by" First Aid training from the Red Cross saved him from a very cold night!

October

Homelessness seemed to peak in the city this month and so after contacting "Porchlight" we were happy to have one of their workers accompany our patrol and we hope this will foster a closer working relationship.

November

We seem to have seen an increase in the amount of glass we collect and this month we recorded 243 glass items that together with 179 tins cans made our city environment much safer. Messages of thanks of encouragement are always gratefully received! This one came after an hour of intervention by our team and finally resulting in the need for a paramedic: *"I was out on Saturday night and three members of the Canterbury Street Pastors helped my drunken partner out. They were very supportive and helpful, I really appreciate all the help they gave that night, what an excellent job! They were lovely people who I would trust if I were in a bad state! Words can't say how thankful we are, excellent job guys!"*

We were joined on patrol by High Sheriff, Hugo Fenwick, who showed great interest in our work and following his visit articles were featured in local newspapers.

December

The weather changed, so we experienced a wintery feel and enjoyed the Christmas lights in a busy, lively and festive city. The Canterbury Index Magazine featured us as Charity of the month and we also gained a place on the Waitrose Green Disc Scheme. We finish the year as we began with a New Year's Eve Patrol.

Locally and across Kent we have fostered closer links with SP groups. We are holding Kent wide training and in 2015 we will have a joint Celebration and Commissioning Service for Street Pastors from Herne Bay, Whitstable and Canterbury to be held at Canterbury Baptist Church on Thursday 5th March.

Thank you for your interest and support of our work.
We pray that God's love would be shown in all that we do.

Lorna Bedford - Street Pastor Coordinator Canterbury
Visit our web site: www.canterbury.streetpastors.org.uk
Follow us on facebook or twitter
email: canterbury@streetpastors.org.uk

