



Cheltenham Street Pastors

The Church in action on the streets



Who are Street Pastors?

Street Pastors are an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people by caring, listening and talking. We are church members of all ages who are willing to offer support, practical help and a visible ministry to those who are out in the town late at night. We reassure folk who may feel vulnerable, help reduce the fear of crime, provide a listening ear and offer genuine, non-judgmental pastoral support to those who need help. We are not about preaching but are always ready to share the Christian message with anyone who is interested.

Caring... Listening... Helping...

Information sheet

Training

Street Pastors are provided with full training. Before becoming a Street Pastor, volunteers are expected to commit to 6 core training sessions spread over some Saturdays and weekday evenings. Volunteers are then asked to attend a series of further training sessions. The core training sessions cover subjects such as roles and responsibilities, street safety, counselling and mentoring, and alcohol and drug awareness. The further training includes first aid, youth culture, child protection, mental health and the Probation Service.

Uniform

We have summer and winter uniforms comprising a coat, shirt, fleece and hat, all of which have "Street Pastor" printed on them. We only wear the uniform whilst on duty or at a related activity.

Cost

The cost of putting a Street Pastor on the streets is about £300. Volunteers are therefore asked to make a contribution towards this cost of £50 together with a £50 uniform rental payment which is refundable if they cease to be a Street Pastor and the uniform is returned. Donations can be made through our website "www.cheltenham.streetpastors.org.uk".

Cheltenham Street Pastors

Cheltenham Street Pastors started in 2009 and now has over 50 trained volunteers from 30 churches. We operate in the town centre in groups of four from 10 pm to 4 am on Friday and Saturday nights and are expected to work a minimum of one night a month.

A Street Pastor must be over 18 (no upper age limit), attend a local church, have a positive reference from the leader of a Christian church of which they have been a member for at least a year, receive a satisfactory DBS (previously CRB) check and complete the appropriate training.

Observers

Anyone interested in Street Pastors is very welcome to join us one Friday or Saturday night for a few hours as an Observer. For more information please refer to the Contact details below.

Prayer Pastors

Our Prayer Pastors provide us with vital prayer support. They are linked to our teams and pray for them either at the base or at home.

They arrange a Prayer Meeting for the work of Street Pastors on the second Tuesday of each month at St Matthew's church in the town centre from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Everyone is welcome to these meetings.

Requirements for a Street Pastor

In deciding whether a volunteer will be accepted as a Street Pastor the following additional qualities are taken into account. This is not an exhaustive list but is used as a starting point in the selection process.

Volunteers will be expected to demonstrate the following:

1. Commitment to be a Christian rooted in belief and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Commitment to the Street Pastors' ethos, i.e., our calling is not to preach the gospel or to offer professional counselling; our calling is to listen, care and provide practical help. We only share our faith when asked to do so.
3. Non-judgmental attitude and a willingness to show unconditional love to anyone and everyone.
4. Understanding of the need to be dependent on God's Holy Spirit and an awareness of spiritual issues.
5. Commitment to participate fully in all training sessions and to complete the training programme.
6. Personal willingness to raise the funds to pay for the training and uniform.
7. Ability to work as part of a team and to follow the directions of the Team Leader.
8. Sufficient understanding of streets to be aware of danger and not to be easily offended.
9. Ability to relate to a wide range of people from all walks of life.
10. Sufficient physical fitness to be able to withstand the demands of the ministry without compromising the safety of others in the team.
11. General behaviour and lifestyle which would not bring the Street Pastors movement into disrepute.

Appointment of Street Pastors

Volunteers must be the right people and are carefully selected based on talent, skill, experience, motivation and overall spiritual maturity.

Prospective Street Pastors must complete an Application Form for which two references are required, one of which must be from their church leader.

Volunteers then have an interview with representatives of the Management Committee with whom the final recruitment decision rests.

Further Information

Further information about Cheltenham Street Pastors can be found on our website "www.cheltenham.streetpastors.org.uk".

The site also contains our News Sheets and DVD and articles from the Gloucestershire Echo. An Application Form to join us can be downloaded from the site.

The DVD can also be viewed on You Tube by searching for Cheltenham Street Pastors. Further information about Street Pastors nationally can be found on their website "www.streetpastors.org.uk"

For further information or an Application Form please refer to the Contact details below.