



Cheltenham Street Pastors

The Church in action on the streets

News Sheet Autumn 2011

New Street Pastors Commissioned

Six new Street Pastors were commissioned at a special service held at Highbury Congregational Church on Saturday 3 September. Over 150 people attended including Street Pastors, guests and friends. The service which was led by the minister Rev Dr Richard Cleaves, who is Vice-Chairman of Cheltenham Street Pastors Association. The address was given by Rev Malc Allen, minister at St Michaels and All Angels, Bishops Cleeve, and the new Street Pastors were commissioned by Adrian Prior-Sankey from Taunton. The Chief Constable, Tony Melville, was among those who welcomed the new Street Pastors.

The venue for the service was changed with only a week's notice due to flood damage at Christian City Church and we are grateful to Highbury Church for their last minute support. There are now over 50 trained Street Pastors from over 20 churches in Cheltenham who are out in teams on Friday and Saturday nights each week between 10.00 pm and 4.00 am.

Freshers Fortnight

Extra Street Pastor patrols were out on the first Monday and Wednesday evenings of the University Freshers Fortnight. The town centre was full of students and help was given to a number who had made the most of their freedom. It was great to hear from a number of students that they have Street Pastors in their home towns.

We also manned a Street Pastors stand at the University Freshers Fayre. This was a good opportunity to publicise our work, as well as give out free Spikeys which were gratefully received (to put in the tops of bottles to prevent drinks being spiked) and lollipops.

Training

The next training course for Street Pastors starts in January 2012 and will include subjects such as roles and responsibilities, street safety, listening and communication skills, alcohol and drug awareness, first aid, youth culture and child protection.

Anyone interested in Street Pastors is very welcome to join us one Friday or Saturday night for an hour or two as an Observer.



Four of the newly Commissioned Street Pastors

Quote from New Street Pastor

"I went out on Friday for the first time as a Street Pastor and it was amazing! So many of the young people told us how much they appreciated what we did. One young person said that we give peace on the streets. It was such a huge blessing and complete privilege that God has chosen to use me in that way."

On the Streets

"We found a young girl who had lost her handbag and her friends had abandoned her. We managed to calm her down and rang her parents who drove over from Tewkesbury to collect her." (Aug)

"We had a long conversation with a guy at Revolution about his search for a church and his suspicions arising from previous experience of church and Christianity." (Aug)

"We encountered a young man who attends a church in Cheltenham. The bottom had fallen out of his world as he had just been diagnosed with cancer. We listened while he tried to cope with his situation both spiritually and practically and then escorted him home." (Aug)

In St Mary's churchyard a young woman expressed relief that there was someone to accompany her through the churchyard." (Oct)

"We found a young man in a dark corner of a rubbish yard. He was very cold and unresponsive so we gave him a space blanket and called an ambulance. There could have been a much worse outcome if we had not been led to find him." (Oct)