



Cheltenham Street Pastors

The Church in action on the streets

News Sheet - Issue 11



Eight Newly Commissioned Street Pastors

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Eight new Street Pastors were commissioned at the fourth Anniversary Service at St Matthew's Church on Saturday 7 December 2013. They were commissioned by Rev Dr Richard Cleaves, Vice-Chairman of the Association and minister at Highbury Congregational Church. The service was led by Rev Tudor Griffiths, Rector at St Matthews, who also gave the address. There are now over 50 trained Street Pastors from 30 local churches who are out in teams on the streets of Cheltenham every Friday and Saturday night between 10.00 pm and 4.00 am.

12,000 People Helped

Cheltenham Street Pastors have helped 12,000 people in the four years since they started in December 2009. During this time we have given out almost 5,500 pairs of flip flops, generally to girls walking home in bare feet after a night out on the town. We have provided almost 5,000 bottles of water, both to the homeless and those in need of rehydration, and 400 foil space blankets to those at risk of hypothermia. We have collected up well over 12,000 discarded bottles and glass which might otherwise have caused injury or been used as weapons. We have also provided first aid to 100 people and attended 200 anti-social incidents.

Prayer Pastors

Street Pastor teams are supported by Prayer Pastors who pray either at home or at the Cheltenham base. More Prayer Pastors are needed to support the teams and information is available from the contact below.

Prayer Meetings are held 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.

Thanks

"My sincere thanks to the lady and gentleman that I met last night for looking after my son. Your work is much appreciated."

"A big thank you to the Street Pastors in Cheltenham. We had a call from you saying our daughter was a bit the worse for wear and could we come and take her home. Who knows what would have happened to her if you had not been there."

(Emails received in Nov & Dec 2013)

More Volunteers Needed

Street Pastors are church members of all ages who offer practical help and pastoral support to those who are out in the town late at night. More volunteers are still needed to strengthen the existing teams and for special events in the town. Volunteers must be over 18 and attend a local church. They receive full training and their uniform.

You can find out at first hand about the work of Street Pastors in Cheltenham by joining a team one Friday or Saturday night as an observer.

The next training course starts in March 2014. For more information please see the contact details below.

Mayor Visits Street Pastors



The Mayor of Cheltenham Councillor Wendy Flynn joined a team from Street Pastors one night to experience at first hand their work on the streets of Cheltenham.

The Mayor talked to some of the people out on the town as well as some of the door staff and homeless people. She also helped the team by collecting up discarded bottles. She thanked the Street Pastors for their work in the town.