



# Cheltenham Street Pastors

*The Church in action on the streets*

Winter 2010

## First Anniversary and Commissioning Service held in Cheltenham



Over 150 Street Pastors, guests and friends attended a service at Cambray Baptist Church on Saturday 27 November to mark the first Anniversary of Cheltenham Street Pastors and also to commission twelve new Street Pastors. The service was led by the minister Rev Tim Welch and the address was given by Rev Dr Richard Cleaves, minister of Highbury Congregational Church, who made reference to his recent evening on patrol with one of the teams. Patron Mike Browne spoke of the importance of prayer to support Street Pastors and police Superintendent Tony Godwin expressed his pleasure at receiving positive reports from the Street Pastors on Monday mornings. Worship music was led by a group of Cheltenham Street Pastors.

The twelve new Street Pastors were commissioned by Rev Tim Welch, assisted by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Rt Rev John Went and Nigel Bennett, Chairman of the Management Committee. They were then led out onto the streets and later joined teams on patrol in the town centre. There are now 50 trained Street Pastors in Cheltenham who are out in teams on Friday and Saturday nights each week between 10.00 pm and 4.00 am.

### More Pastors Needed

**Street Pastors.** 50 more volunteers are still needed to fulfill the vision of providing a second team on Saturday nights as well as a team one weeknight and for other special events such as race week. Volunteers must be over 18 and attend a local church. They will receive full training and a uniform. We hope to start the next training course in March and contact details are given below.

**Prayer Support.** More people are always needed for prayer support either at home or at the base on Friday and Saturday nights from 9.30 until 11.00 pm. Again contact details are given below.

There is also an open invitation to a daytime prayer meeting at St Mathew's Church in the town centre on the second Tuesday of each month from 10.45 to 12 noon.

### New Year's Eve Thank You

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to the Pastors in Cheltenham last night who helped me with my sister who was extremely inebriated. Thanks to them we had water, flip flops and a blanket and managed to get home safe and sound. Fortunately my sister cannot remember much about last night's events which has saved her any embarrassment. Once again thank you for all the wonderful work you do within the community."

(Email received after New Year's Eve)

### Quote from New Street Pastor

"I used to be fearful of all young people but now realise they are, with very few exceptions, lovely people who are looking out for each other. I feel quite differently now and no longer feel a fear about going out into Cheltenham in the evening"