



Cheltenham Street Pastors

The Church in action on the streets

News Sheet - Winter 2012



Street Pastors Help 6,000 People

Cheltenham Street Pastors have helped almost 6,000 people in the two years since they started in December 2009. We currently have over 50 trained volunteers from more than 30 churches who, in teams of six, are out in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights between 10 pm and 4 am helping to support the vulnerable and those in need.

During the two years we have given out over 2,500 pairs of flip flops, generally to girls walking home in bare feet after a night out on the town. We have provided almost 2,500 bottles of water and 300 space blankets as well as collecting up over 6,000 discarded bottles and glasses which might otherwise have caused injury or been used as weapons.

We have also provided first aid to almost 50 people and attended over 150 anti-social incidents.

On the Streets

"We found a young man lying in a rubbish yard. He was very cold and may have taken substances so we gave him a space blanket. We could not leave him so called the police and left him in their care. He had very nearly spent a cold night unclothed and ill and there could have been a worse outcome if we had not been led to find him." (Oct)

"As we entered St Mary's churchyard a young woman expressed relief that there was someone to accompany her through the churchyard on her way to the bus stop." (Oct)

"Two young men had some very genuine questions about how we can believe in God. Both had suffered bereavement and it was a pleasure to be able to talk to them." (Nov)

"We found a very wet and smelly young man who had fallen in the pond in Sandford Park. We helped remove his T-shirt and wrapped him in a space blanket. We phoned his understanding sister who agreed to come and collect him." (Dec)

"We were called to a man who had passed out on the street. We got him up and fortunately he could remember where he lived. As this was in the town centre we walked him home." (Dec)

Christmas and New Year

Extra patrols were provided on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The patrols were provided by volunteers rather than the normal teams and we are grateful for those who gave up their time on these nights.

New Year's Eve was particularly busy and we were fortunate to be blessed with two teams. We received many hugs and kisses and plenty of good wishes!

Prayer Co-ordinator Appointed

Cheltenham Street Pastors has appointed Jenny Bartlett to co-ordinate prayer activity for Street Pastors in the town. Jenny will help lead the team of about 20 Prayer Pastors who provide vital prayer support by being linked to our teams and praying for them either at the base or at home. She will act as a focal point for prayer initiatives, the recruitment of Prayer Pastors and the monthly Prayer Meeting. This is held at St Matthew's church in the town centre on the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome to these meetings.

Commissioning Service

There is an open invitation to our next Commissioning Service which will be held on Saturday 24th March at 7.30 pm at C3 Church, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham.