



Happy New Year!



Patrolling on New Year's Eve is always a great experience and this year was no exception. An amazing number of people, all good natured, so many hugs, best wishes for the New Year and appreciation of what we do. Some really good conversations, as well as giving out flip-flops and water.

One guy we spoke to said he met us on our first night out – the night of the Mop. It brought back such good memories of the three years-plus of supporting the night-time life of Evesham. Friendships made and support for those who, at that particular time, were finding life tough. There is still just as much need but things do change, Fridays have become quieter and there is a need to consider patrolling on some Saturdays, maybe once a month in place of one Friday.

A few Street Pastors and Prayer Partners have left, moved on to other places and we would love to do more nights. So could you give this prayer and thought, maybe you could consider becoming involved or could you encourage someone in your Church who would be really good at the work. This is mission work – the work of Christ on our doorstep. If you are interested please ring me on 07747 842192.

John Darby – Evesham Street Pastors' Co-ordinator

Reports from a Patrol by a Street Pastor:

- We passed a man in his thirties, smart but with no coat. We stopped to chat and then he said: 'I buried my best friend today', clearly grief-stricken and slightly drunk. We asked him about this and offered him help. We called back to the prayer team to say a prayer for him and his grief.
- We met a young couple who had been helped by SP in Cheltenham, gave out lollies and chatted about our work. They asked one of the

three questions we often get asked: 1. Are you paid? 2. Are you afraid? 3. Isn't it a bit late for you to be out?

- Later we chatted to Elaine, the manager of the Angel Vaults, the manager of the Blue Lagoon Bangladeshi restaurant in Waterside, Carmen at Marilyn's and Donna at the Ambassador Club in Avon Street who made us coffees
- Sometimes it is just being asked to walk with a young woman to a cashpoint and back to a pub; sometimes it is to challenge us on a point of theology; mostly it is about listening, caring, helping with the odd lollipop!
- And this is mostly about mission and ministry in reverse. God in the form of Jesus is already in these places and we as Street Pastors respond; we have all developed as a result and we could cite many personal testimonies of this, many undergoing training and further education in theology and pastoral care. *Chris Sheehan – Patrol Leader*



From Our Prayer Co-ordinator

When you lose someone close to you there are regrets: the things you failed to say, or listening, failed to fully comprehend. Street Pastoring is a lot about listening. Encounters with those

who want to talk are God-given, Kingdom moments and often all too brief. We need to pray hard for, and as, Street Pastors in those moments. It can't be easy to find the right words and show the right sensitivity and it is a huge responsibility. If God is living in us and we are his hands and feet and sometimes his voice – that is truly awesome and also demanding.

In his recently published book, *A Luta Continua*, David Haslam refers to Jesus at prayer reflecting, searching, struggling to discover how he should be, what he should say and do. 'The Gospel', David writes 'is deeply radical about human values, human behaviour and what human

beings are making of the world. It goes to the roots of what we should be, loving our neighbours... and both praying and fighting for the structures which will encourage us all to live up to our high calling as children of a God who loves peace-with-justice.'

In the streets of every city
Where the bruised and lonely dwell
Let us show the Saviour's pity.
Let us of his mercy tell.

(Hugh Sherlock)

Sheila Himsworth



Prayers from the Patrol reports:

Thanks that patrols over the holidays have been quiet and peaceful and for opportunities to contribute to the enjoyment of the revellers and their safety. Surely the sweeping up of broken glass is symbolic of this!

Pray for the people with whom the patrols have had conversations, all 200 of them!

Pray for a new Assistant Manager at one of the clubs.

Pray for the door staff who have sometimes to deal with difficult customers.

Pray for the other staff and entertainers providing for the enjoyment of customers.

Praise for over 1800 hours of volunteering by Street Pastors and Prayer Partners alone, as well as days of work by John, our Co-ordinator, our other 'day workers' and trustees that made the work possible in 2016.

Evesham Street Pastors is a Registered Charity in England & Wales number 1156750

Prayer Co-ordinator: Sheila Himsworth on himsworth@bbmax.co.uk

Donate: Evesham Street Pastors, c/o 10, Aspen Close, Evesham, WR11 1YY

Contact: John Darby on 07747842192 or evesham@streetpastors.org.uk

Website: www.evesham.streetpastors.org.uk

Street Pastors is an initiative of Ascension Trust and Churches Together in Evesham & District

Please pray regularly for all those involved in Street Pastors in Evesham

You may like to use the following lists for your weekly prayer focus:

Street Pastors and Prayer Partners are invariably on duty on a Friday evening, occasionally on a Saturday and on most 'Super Sundays' when a Bank Holiday occurs the following day.

**Pray for our town,**

- the pubs, the main venues of the 'night time economy'
- Ye Olde Red Horse
- Royal Oak
- Chancers
- Ambassadors
- DugOut (Gardeners Arms)
- Ruby Jack's
- Marilyn's
- Bar 24
- Amber Café Bar
- Red Lion
- Old Swan
- The Valkyrie Café Bar

- the late night cafés,
- Snappy Pizza
- Dominos Pizza
- Pomodoro Pizza
- Marco's Pizza

Please remember

- the Police and Ambulance Service who support our Street Pastors
- door staff at the clubs who have a serious responsibility to check the clientele and maintain calm.
- taxi drivers who are the last to get to bed
- street cleaners who are the first to get up.

Please pray especially for the emergency services who safeguard us all day and night.

Pray for each of our Street Pastors (**leaders in bold**):

Peter Barry	Helen Manners
Diane Bennett	Mike Powell
Simon Brown	Rachel Powell
Trevor Burton	Linda Raybaud
Andrew Capel	Carol Sheehan
John Darby	Chris Sheehan
Sandie Davies	Andrew Spurr
Joy Dimond	Graham Wells
Lee Fisher	Steve Wilderspin

for Prayer Partners – without whose support Evesham Street Pastors will not set out.

Liz Booth	Lindsay Ladbrook
Stuart Brown	Derek Markie
Robert Bryce	Kay Wall
Joyce Davey	Heather Walsh
Anne Evans	Michelle White
Margaret Fuller	Paul Wingert
Sheila Himsworth	Anne Yelland

and for our Board of Trustees

Diane Bennett MBE
Ralph Bolland
John Darby
<i>(Co-ordinator)</i>
Sheila Himsworth
Edward Pillar
<i>(Chairman)</i>
Andrew Spurr
Kay Wall
Paul Wingert

and representatives of the Police and Wychavon DC who meet with them

Pray for the churches who reach out to the community in so many ways and also support Street Pastors financially:

All Saints
Baptist
Elim
Methodist
Quakers
Salvation Army
St Mary's & St Egwin's
St Peter's
St Andrew's
Vale Christian Centre

Pray especially for Churches Together initiatives reaching out to the 'unchurched' in experimental ways

CaféChurch
cafecurch@cted.org.uk
1st Tuesdays at 7:30 pm
at Ye Olde Red Horse,
Vine Street

Surprisingly frequently we are asked about our Christian belief; 2.00 am is probably not the best time for these conversations, so Café Church and Soul Food have been set up as a place where these discussions can take place.

Soul Food
Each Sunday at 6 pm
at All Saints

For more information on all of these initiatives please contact John Darby on 07747842192 or