



Leamington Spa Street Pastors

July Newsletter

July 2015 Issue 16

Are you made of the right stuff?



As ever we are seeking new Street Pastors, a full and varied training programme is provided and uniform with the all too fashionable choice of baseball cap or beanie, in fact they are so wonderful and hot, they haven't even made it to the cat walk in Milan yet as they are exclusive just for you! So could you do it? Could you sacrifice one Saturday or Friday evening every 4 - 6 weeks, to talk to and help total strangers at 2am in the morning in the freezing cold? Leamington like all town and city centres becomes a totally different jungle once all the shops have shut and the street lights have come on. We are blessed in Leamington that we have such a good night time economy team, with the Street Marshalls, the police and some lovely doors staff. Leamington town is a popular choice for students and although it can certainly look like a war zone with groups of people sitting/lying on the pavements (often modelling silver blankets and flip flops courtesy of us) screeching and frolicking with friends, litter strewn and the odd puddle or 10 of the "rejected" kebab from Leamington Fish Bar, it is by and large a friendly town. We asked Gail Linnet, one of our dedicated Street Pastors what it's like serving God on our streets

What attracted you to do service with the Street Pastors? I read about the Stratford Street Pastors in the local paper, having no previous knowledge of them I googled the Ascension Trust organisation to find out what they were about, I thought we definitely need Street Pastors in Leamington. I decided if there was a call for volunteers in Leamington I wanted to be a part of that group.



Why give up your Saturday nights for sick, darkness, drunken louts and the cold? I am a Leamington girl so I am very committed to my local community, I love to help people and I am aware that Leamington is a very different place at night time, so it's great to be able to go out with a group to help and support people, especially those who see the answer to their problems at the bottom of a bottle. I'm not keen on the vomit though!

Is doing service with the street pastors anything like you imagined it would be? I thought maybe we would get a lot of hostility as we are from the local churches

and not everyone likes us but apart from a very few occasions when people have been negative, it's been a fantastic positive experience. I also thought I might feel a bit scared when the fights started, but we have fabulous back up from the Police and the Street Marshalls and of course the cameras follow us everywhere!

Do you ever feel like you've made a difference and can you give examples? Yes I would say we have made a difference, there have been quite a few distressed young ladies we have been able to comfort and sort out their arrangements for getting home or re-joining them to their group of friends. I think my best example is a young lady who was walking past our base just as we were going back out, about 2am, she stopped us and said she was being followed by a guy she didn't know. One of our male pastors told the guy to clear off which he did and I then said we would escort the young lady home, she was so relieved she burst into tears. I think we all felt our patrol that night had been a worthwhile one.

Has being a street pastor made any difference to your faith? Yes, I think many times I have seen Father God at work, sometimes he just gives me the words to say in a tricky situation, but also when to hold back and observe, I rely totally on him. Even in the most difficult situations he gives me the strength to just get on with it. I never know what I am going to face on a patrol but I trust Him to provide me with all the resources and of course I have the other Pastors for support.

If you are interested in joining our team, why not contact our Coordinator Emily Lövgren to arrange coming out as an observer with us. There is no pressure to sign on the dotted line, just come and check it out and see if it is the right service for YOU.

Upcoming Events

Prayer Meeting, 01st August, 10.00am at Leamington Spa Baptist Church, Chandos Street.

Use the side entrance on Guy's Place East, come up the stairs, and we are back in the Satchwell room as usual

Please spread the word, come and join us if you can for prayer, fellowship, cake and a cuppa.

Future Prayer Meeting dates, 05th September, 03rd October, 07th November and 05th December

Get the dates diarised! AGM to be confirmed but may be held during the October Prayer Meeting. Further details to be released.



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Coordinator's News

...And that six months went where exactly!!! I am so pleased to be back at work after an incredibly short but wonderful 6 months. Jonas and I had our second daughter Florence Audrey on the 29th January and we are full of love and adoration for this perfectly healthy little bundle of joy, albeit with a slight aversion to sleeping at night...or when I need to get jobs done...or when it is convenient! A huge, massive, love filled THANK YOU goes out to Karen who managed to hold the reigns in my absence, and after meeting her for a short hand over, she looked rather chilled and a tad relieved. She did a wonderful job of filling in for me. I am looking forwards to catching up all the different people that make up our team from the prayers, the pastors and the trustees but also those whom we have links with and work along side. Since my maternity leave we have had new and re-elected counsellors, Chair and changes in the Street Marshal team and I look forwards to bumping into you all on our different journeys. My organisational skills have been somewhat lacking and I have become an expert in booking in two meetings at the same time, apparently through the sleep deprivation and constant (usually welcome) distractions from working from the kids I obviously have come to believe that I CAN actually be in two places at once?! My facebook page has already become littered with "working" related messages including of how I missed the days of having two computers on, two blackberries, the house phone, children to look after and the house work to do all at once and I am getting back into the swing of "forgetting" I have someone on hold on one or other phone! It's all good fun and done in the love of God.

Prayer of the Month - by Fiona Baxter

We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
and conflict and caring link arms.
We believe in a with-us-God



who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life
and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.
Amen.

June Figures & Quotes:

What did we do this month? We handed out, with chats, smiles, a few wet wipes and how are yous:

40 Bottles of Water

90 Lollipops

20 Flip Flops

We collected and disposed of over:

60 Glass bottles and glasses

62 Cans

...And we "attended" 4+ significant incidents, giving first aid, counselling support, aiding with transport home and just listening, sitting and waiting with people.

Some examples of assistance in June:

- We helped a young man arrange for friends to take home
- Helped some extremely grateful boyfriends by providing flip flops for their girlfriends

If you have any queries regarding the Leamington Spa Street Pastors, quotes or articles for the next newsletter please don't hesitate to contact our Coordinator: Emily Lövgren, 07789953941, or email us at: leamingtonspa@streetpastors.org.uk