

Street Pastors – Leicester March 2020

We live in extra-ordinary times.

We have suspended all patrols in the city for the foreseeable future. This does not mean we are not out and about helping. We are plugging gaps where we can; from helping the homeless at The Bridge to supporting neighbours locally, to praying for healing. Thankfully The Bridge have sufficient volunteers for the foreseeable future so the homeless can be cared for at this very difficult time. Many of the team have signed up to the volunteer app announced on Tuesday by the Matt Hancock. As the lockdown continues we hope to keep you informed about what our volunteers are doing and to encourage us to continue to be the face of Jesus in our neighbourhoods. They may have shrunk in geographical size and we may well be needing to use new ways of keeping in touch but the need is still real.



Via our WhatsApp group: Leicester Street Pastors, our Chairperson; Russ, is sending out daily prayer suggestions which the volunteers are committed to pray for

Hello Street Pastors, Prayer Pastors and all our supporters,

I hope this message finds you in good health and coping with the isolation situation. I know Anne has sent out an email to the street pastors for some feedback as to what they are all up to during this strange time of being in limbo, and I have already seen some of the results! It looks as though, one way or another, they are all doing well and in high spirits, working from home, doing the gardening, painting and decorating being the most popular. I think by the end of it all, we will have beautiful gardens and incredibly well-appointed homes with a fresh lick of paint, not to mention those keeping the country going.

We have also created a WhatsApp group for the street pastors, to primarily keep in touch and check on each other should there be a request for help. The fun people are having, messaging each other, also keeps up moral whilst we cannot be on the streets doing what we do best.

Due to not being able to go into work, I have been able to help at The Bridge serving breakfasts to between 40 and 55 rough sleepers, where I have met several people we meet on the streets at night. The service The Bridge gives is so necessary at the best of times, but during this crisis they have been invaluable to those in need of common necessities like a warm meal and drink, a shower and fresh clean clothes, things we don't even have to think about. Please pray for this incredible service.

This servant attitude is critical to our society, and my prayer is that out of this terrible time, good will triumph. I know so many of you are helping and looking out for neighbours and loved ones and the governments appeal for a network of 250,000 volunteers managed to get over 400,000 in 24 hours! This, together, with the appeal to former health workers to come back and help is Incredible and wonderful! Praise God.

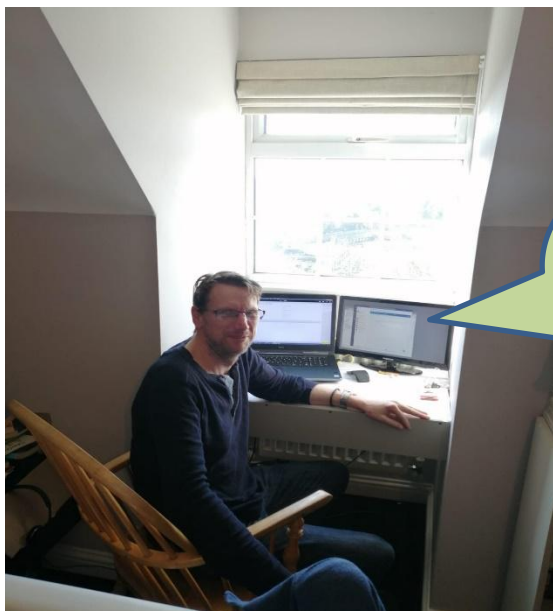
As Street Pastors, I know that this time of lock down is frustrating because we want to be out there seeing our friends on the streets enjoying some time out, I hope we will soon be able to go back out.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those that support us through prayer and finance, your prayers and gifts of money keep us going spiritually and materially, Thank You so much, not just on behalf of the street Pastors but the people of Leicester too. Without your help we wouldn't be able to carry out so many of the things we do now.

To finish, I pray that we all, street pastors, prayer pastors and supporters, remain safe and well. Psalm 46 starts; "God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence." Let us worship the Risen King and celebrate Him, conqueror and majesty, healer and light of the world, remembering to support each other through prayer and keep His love shining. Amen.

Stay safe, God Bless.

**Russ Bentley.
Chairman**



Some of us are continuing to keep the economy going by working from home



Those of us who are fit and able are doing shopping for our neighbours who may be self-isolating. We are also looking at new ways of keeping in contact with one another.