

# Luton Street Pastors Newsletter February 2016

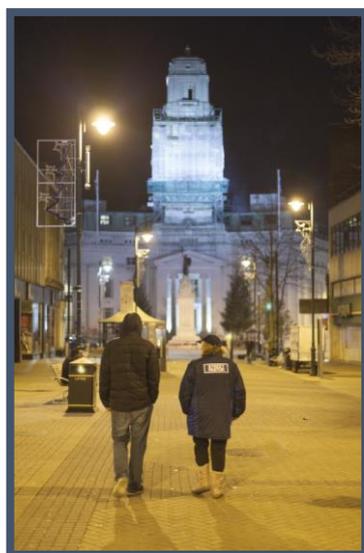


## The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire goes out on patrol!

After being invited to the **High Sherriff of Bedfordshire's Afternoon Garden Party** in September our coordinator, Ros, met the **Countess of Erroll**, who was very excited about the work of Street Pastors and was keen to know more about what we do. So in November she came out with one of our teams to observe their patrol. It turns out that the Lady Erroll is quite a night owl and she happened to observe a



very busy evening with the team staying out until 4am. **Lady Erroll** really enjoyed her evening with our team, and has since continued to be a supporter and advocate for our work. **She invited 2 of our team personally to her Justice Service later that month.**



## Love Luton Award and Funding

In October we were pleased to be awarded a grant of **£1000** from **Love Luton**. The money has been dedicated to the development and launch of a **'Safe Space'** as part of our regular patrols. 'Safe Space' will be an area set up during patrols for people to get hot drinks and biscuits, have a kind word, and find the help that they need. Similar initiatives have been launched by other Street Pastor areas; keep an eye out for updates on this around Easter.

Not long after this, Love Luton let us know that we had been nominated for a **'Keeping Luton Safe'** award at the **Luton's Best Awards 2016** and were invited to celebrated the awards, alongside many other individuals and

organisations who make a positive difference in our town.

Ros and Jane, our chair of trustees, had a lovely evening including a 3 course meal and meeting Nadia from The Great British Bake Off. The evening was made even better when we were announced as the **winners** of the award! We felt particularly privileged to be nominated next to LAMP and Alcohol Services for the Community.



Photos courtesy of A Thin Place and Abigail Lamptey



## Statistics 2015

In 2015 we gave out...

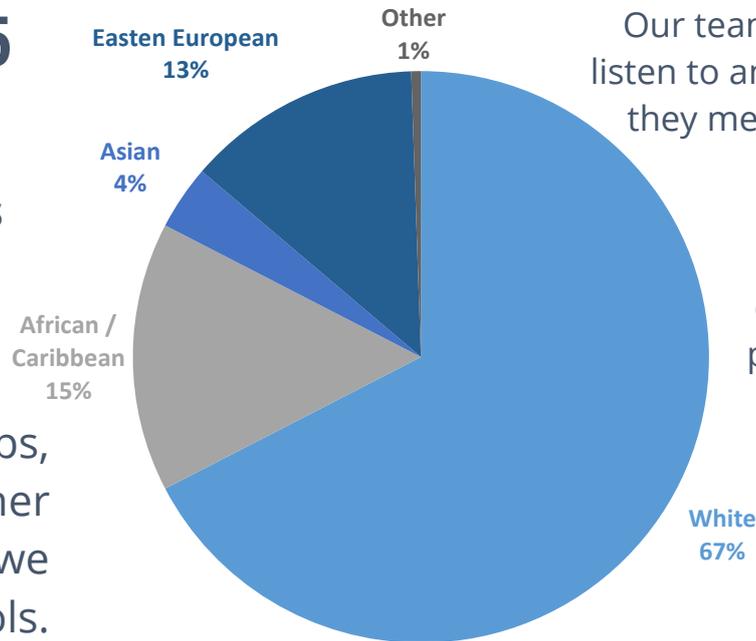
**51 pairs of flip flops**

**19 bottles of water**

**7 space blankets**

**72 hot meals**

...and countless lollipops, hot drinks and other items to help those we met on our patrols.



Our teams will care for, listen to and help anyone they meet while out on their patrols. This chart (left) shows the diversity Of the people we have worked with in 2015.

## We're recruiting!

In 2016 we are running a **recruitment and training** drive. So far, Ros has been busy visiting churches, promoting our work and encouraging people to volunteer with us. On **March 12<sup>th</sup>** we will be running **Roles and Responsibilities** training at Word of Faith (details TBC) and kicking off a full programme of training. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Street Pastor, please contact us on the details below for an application form or for more information.

Alternatively, if you want Ros to come and visit your church and tell your congregation more about what we've been up to and how they can get involved, please do get in touch.

## What does 2016 hold?

After such an exciting 2015, our trustees are looking to the year ahead with great anticipation. As already mentioned, we'll be focusing on **recruitment** and the launch of the '**safe space**' as well as many more team events we have in the pipeline.

### Please pray for us...

- For all who we meet on the streets of Luton, that we can show them the love of God and help them in their needs.
- As new volunteers sign up to join our team and be trained, that they would feel confident as they begin their patrols.
- As we continue applying for funding, so that our work can be sustainable and continue to grow.
- For our trustees, as they continue to guide and drive the work we do.

**May God bless you in all that you do.**

Jane Lipman (Chair), Nick Crago (Vice Chair), Hugh Beeley and Olivia Lamptey

Photos courtesy of A Thin Place and Abigail Lamptey

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