

MARKET HARBOROUGH STREET PASTORS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

22 April 2013

from 7.15 pm

at

The Old Grammar School

Market Harborough

AGENDA

Welcome

Philip Jones

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of last meeting

3. Administrator's Report

Angela Zemplak

4. Financial Report

5. Prayer Support Leader's Report

Peter Arnold

6. Chair's Report

Philip Jones

7. Election of members of Management Board

8. Message from John Everett, Chair of HDC

Closing Prayer

MARKET HARBOROUGH STREET PASTORS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The last calendar year, 2012, has seen quite a few changes, but I am continually blessed by the support and encouragement of the Board, the Street Pastors and the Prayer Support Team.

The following is a brief summary of the events of 2012:

Training

We continued the comprehensive training programme that all Street Pastors must undertake. The modules completed in the last calendar year are the five mandatory courses for our new volunteers before they are allowed to go on Patrol:

- Roles and Responsibilities parts 1&2
- Sharing the Good News
- Understanding of Police Authority
- Listening Skills

While the following training was attended by our Street Pastors either for the first time or as a refresher:

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| ○ Sociology | ○ Mental health |
| ○ Counselling | ○ Emergency First Aid at Work |
| ○ Drug & Substance Abuse awareness | ○ Seniors' training |
| ○ Alcohol awareness | ○ Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults |
| ○ Probation | ○ Level 1/2 Safeguarding |
| ○ Youth Work - Services | ○ Suicide awareness |
| ○ Mentoring skills | |

I am very grateful to all our partner agencies who have given up their time to provide us with this training. By the end of 2012 we had twenty-one Street Pastors who had completed the core training and were patrolling on average once a month.

Patrols

- We went out on 50 of the 52 weeks that in 2012. We missed two weeks (one in February and one in August). The Street Pastors gave a total of 835 volunteer hours to the community during 2012. From the beginning of the year we started going out on alternate Friday and Saturday nights. We also attended Rock on the Rec and Late Night Shopping which are not so much a Patrol and a presence in the Town.
- We have had 2360 contacts with people during our Patrols with around 1735 conversations about who we are and what we do, about life in general and some in greater depth. Offering our business card enables those that want to, the ability to talk to someone again.
- We also provide practical assistance to those in need. This can be giving water to those impaired by alcohol or drugs, helping people get into a taxi, providing flip-flops to ladies who would otherwise struggle to get home safely in high heels, providing basic first aid, and calling for professional help for more serious cases.
- In 2012 we removed 577 potential weapons (bottles, glasses and broken glass) off the streets. We reported to the Council broken glass that we couldn't remove ourselves as well as park and street lighting that were not working. There were 60 people involved in incidents of anti-social behaviour which included us trying to calm aggressive people and helping those who were alcohol or drug impaired.
- The creation of the quarterly rotas still proves a challenge but I am grateful to the Street Pastors for their patience and co-operation.

Prayer Pastors

We have a team of ten Prayer Support people who have given at least 300 volunteer hours to our work in 2012. They are a vital part of the team supporting the Street Pastors with prayer and looking after the Street Pastors by making tea / coffee at the start of the evening and during the mid-evening break.

Commissioning Service

This was a tremendous evening in September, when our Chaplain, Rev James Shakespeare led a Commissioning Service. All the Street Pastors were invited to be commissioned or re-commissioned and for the first time we commissioned our Prayer Support Team.

Generally

- Our webpage promoting our work in Market Harborough is being kept up to date www.marketharborough.streetpastors.org.uk.
- The twice yearly Newsletter is well received and we now have several supporters giving regularly a total of £48 per month
- The collecting boxes we have placed in restaurants, hotels, pubs and fish and chip shops are generating around £50 per month.

MARKET HARBOROUGH STREET PASTORS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (continued)

- I put in hand a concert due in February 2013.
- I have continued to work closely with the Leicestershire SP Collaborative Group which has been a source of great support and inspiration. I am running the EM Collaborative training spreadsheet which is enabling more options for courses across the region
- I have attended several meetings regarding events due to take place in the Harborough area with Harborough District Council, police and other voluntary agencies.

PRAYER SUPPORT LEADER'S REPORT

The Prayer and Support team currently comprises of ten people from the various churches. There have been some additions since last year and the odd retirement. We have also been able to welcome some Street Pastors in training. As our numbers have increased over the year, we have been able to schedule two members each session since July including the additional shifts towards the end of 2012. Only the occasional last minute illness may have reduced this number to one attendee on the night. As there are ten of us we average one shift every five weeks. However, we must not be complacent. Ideally we need more volunteers from the churches to ensure we cover the more difficult holiday weeks and to enable the Street Pastor concept in Harborough to grow.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This is my fourth report to our AGM and I am pleased to be able to report that Market Harborough Street Pastors continue to thrive as a missional presence of God's love in the night time community of the town. I must first thank all of you for your efforts and dedication to the task we have set ourselves. Angela has given an overview of the activities we have been involved in and as in previous years we have moved forward in the extent of the work we have done and the operational structures we have in place to maintain the Initiative's progress. As in previous years we have gained and lost members, to those who have joined we wish a warm welcome and to those departed a fond farewell.

Street Pastors operate as part of the Urban Trinity of the Church, the Police and the Council. We have maintained to good working relationship with the Police both at Inspector level and with officers on the beat. However, this year we have been especially blest that the Initiative has been adopted by Cllr John Everett Chair of Harborough District Council as his charity of choice for his year in office. Not only has John supported us by personal attendance at functions and events we have organised, but also raised the profile of Street Pastors still further in the town and those areas of management which bear of our activities on the streets.

Your Management Board met 4 times during the year and I met with the Administrator on a regular basis. A number of management and operational issues were discussed and resolved which have been brought into effect. I would like to express my thanks to the board members for their continued hard work on behalf of us all.

We continue blest with support from individuals who have signed up to regular giving, with considerable support from the local churches, the police and from the Bowden's Trust which concludes its planned giving to the Initiative this year and without which we would not have been able to do all that we have over the last few years. We will be in receipt of funds from the efforts of Cllr John and our collection boxes are a steady source of income for us.

As important as the patrols is the prayer support and I thank Peter for co-ordinating this and for the volunteers who turn out to give welcome spiritual and practical refreshment every week. In this regard we are especially fortunate as other Initiative struggle to maintain prayer support, certainly to the level we have in Market Harborough.

I would like to express the thanks of all of us to Bower House for providing a venue to meet in readiness for patrol and for periods of prayer and refreshment during the night. The only drawback is the warmth and comfort makes it that much more difficult to return to the cold dark nights.

For the future I look to consolidation in our numbers; maintained and, where appropriate, extended patrols; a steady and sufficient income stream and a continued sense of community and achievement in the work we do for God in Market Harborough.