

MARKET HARBOROUGH STREET PASTORS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The last calendar year, 2013, has seen several Street Pastors step down from the work for a variety of reasons, some permanently but some just taking a sabbatical, but I am encouraged by the support and encouragement of the Board, the Street Pastors, the Prayer Support Team and the churches in Harborough as we strive to maintain a weekly patrol. The following is a brief summary of the events of 2013:

**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 (full day)
- Sharing the Good News
- Understanding of Police Authority
- Listening Skills

All Street Pastors are expected to attend a full day Refresher training after about 3 years and most of the eligible SPs have now attended this course.

Ascension Trust have changed their modules slightly, so we no longer have to do a Counselling course (replaced by Listening Skills), the Drug, Substance and Alcohol awareness have been merged into one course and Safeguarding has been added as a mandatory course rather than an optional course.

The following training was attended by our Street Pastors either for the first time or as a refresher during 2013:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| ○ Social Services            | ○ Mentoring  |
| ○ Probation                  | ○ Education  |
| ○ Knowing your Community     | ○ Alcohol awareness                                |
| ○ Youth Work (youth culture) | ○ Basic First Aid / First Aid Refresher (optional) |
| ○ Listening                  | ○ SP Refresher training (every 3 years)            |

I am very grateful to all our partner agencies who have given up their time to provide us with this training. I am also grateful to the churches who have provided a venue for our training sessions and the Bower House who provide us with a convenient, warm and friendly environment for our patrol base. By the end of 2013 we had seventeen Street Pastors who had completed the core training and were patrolling on average once a month.

**Prayer Pastors**

We have a team of nine Prayer Support people who have given at least 300 volunteer hours to our work in 2013. 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.

**Recruiting / Promoting Street Pastors**

I arranged a visit to every church in Market Harborough where a member of the team talked to the congregation during or after a morning service. As a result we have three trainees and one or two others who have expressed an interest in becoming either a Street Pastor or a member of the Prayer Support team in the future. It was also good just to inform the different congregations about our work and thank them for their prayers and support.

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### Patrols

- We went out on 48 of the 52 weeks that in 2013. We missed four weeks (two in January, one in July and one in December). The Street Pastors gave a total of 689 volunteer hours to the community during 2013. We continued with alternative Fridays and Saturdays. We also attended Rock on the Rec where are not so much a Patrol as a presence.
- We have had 1545 contacts with people during our Patrols with around 1390 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 2013 we removed 423 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 58 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.

### Generally

- I keep the website promoting our work in Market Harborough up to date on a fairly regular basis [www.marketharborough.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.marketharborough.streetpastors.org.uk)
- The twice yearly Newsletter is still being distributed by email
- The collecting boxes we have placed in restaurants, hotels, pubs and fish and chip shops are still generating an average of £50 per month
- The concert by Great Bowden Recital Trust resulted in £1,300 being generated for Street Pastor funds
- 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, Pubwatch and other voluntary agencies

### PRAYER SUPPORT LEADER'S REPORT

We currently have nine people on the rota supplemented by three Street Pastors in Training. This has enabled us to have two support members on the rota for each duty in the last year. It is anticipated that the three SPs in training will all be qualified by July so we may struggle to rota two people each week during the holidays unless we can get more volunteers. I would like to thank them all for their support along with those who are no longer on the rota, for volunteering throughout the last year.

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**CHAIR'S REPORT**

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Chair of Market Harborough Street Pastors. The Street Pastor Initiative continues to be a significant presence in the night time environment of the town and we continue to receive the support of the Police, Local Authority and the general public for the work that we do. I believe we are an active and purposive expression of God's spirit and presence in the town giving comfort and support where needed.

As in past years we have gained members and had to say goodbye to those who have moved on. I wish to say welcome to the new arrivals and blessings on all those who have had to leave us. However, I would like to pay especial thanks to Linda Lake who was instrumental in bringing Street Pastors to Market Harborough, was a beacon of prayerful support and guidance to the teams and the Board and a stalwart member until family commitments meant that she could no longer give her time as she would wish.

Angela in her report has given detail for the operation of the Initiative and the various new strategies we have adopted or trialled during the year. These have proved to be largely successful and further operational matters are being considered by the Board following the preparation of the Development Plan for the next three years.

Your Management Board, to which we welcomed Liz Howe, met 4 times during the year and I would like to express my thanks to all of them for the work they do to ensure the success of our Initiative. I have met with Angela, our Administrator on a regular basis. Street Pastors have been represented at Welland Park College assemblies and I have given talks to WIs, church groups and others during the year. Every church in the town had had a promotional talk from a Street Pastor.

I would like to thank Peter Arnold for his help in co-ordinating the prayer support team and the team itself for its support. I have said in previous reports that we are blessed in having such volunteers who turn out to give prayer practical refreshment to us. It is the bedrock of what we do.

As important as anything else is a sound base from which to operate and in this regard I thank the Bower House for their continued support in providing a venue for us to meet and prepare for patrol and to return for prayer and refreshment during the night.

This year we have consolidated our income streams and the accounts are looking reasonably healthy. The Board continues to be watchful regarding funding. The possibility of taking the street pastor movement into places such as Lutterworth and Fleckney is being considered and the need to replenish membership is an on-going issue which I hope every member looks to address in talking about Street Pastors with the church friends.

For the future I am quietly optimistic and I am confident that we can continue to walk as God would want us to, delivering his message of grace to all that we meet. We can be a visible sign of God's love for everyone whoever and wherever they may be in their life's journey.