

# MARKET HARBOROUGH STREET PASTORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 April 2015

## Administrator's Report

The last calendar year, 2014, has been a busy time for me as Administrator. We have had illness and absence within the team of volunteers which has meant the cancellation of several Patrols and the shortage of trained Street Pastors has meant that I have focussed on spreading the word to the local churches in an effort to recruit new volunteers.

I am continuing to be encouraged by the support of the Board, the Street Pastors, the Prayer Pastors and the Churches in Harborough as we strive to maintain a weekly patrol. The following is a brief summary of the events of 2014:

### Training

We continued the comprehensive training programme that all Street Pastors must undertake. The modules attended by our Street Pastors during 2014 were:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ Refresher *                | ○ Police                |
| ○ Roles and Responsibilities | ○ Senior Training *     |
| ○ Sharing the Good News *    | ○ Mental Health         |
| ○ Probation                  | ○ Youth Culture         |
| ○ Drug Awareness             | ○ Education             |
| ○ Safeguarding *             | (* = organised by MHSP) |

From September 2014, there has been a revised training programme introduced by the Ascension Trust. There are now eight modules which are mandatory plus two other modules we can choose from a list of five. There is also the requirement to have two supervised patrols as part of the course.

#### Mandatory – Core (before joining patrol)

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Police
- Sharing the Good News
- Listening

#### Mandatory (after joining patrol)

- Knowing your Community
- Youth Work (youth culture)
- Safeguarding
- Drugs Awareness

#### Two modules from Five

- Mental Health
- Mentoring
- Education
- Probation
- Sociology

#### Other courses

- SP Refresher training (every 3 years)
- First Aid (optional)
- Visit to CCTV (optional)

I am very grateful to all our partner agencies who have given up their time to provide us with our 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 2014 we had eighteen Street Pastors who had completed the core training. Unfortunately, two of these were on Sabbatical and two others were only giving one shift a quarter so we were often down to three SPs per shift.

### Prayer Pastors

As at the end of 2014 we had a team of nine Prayer Pastors people who have given at least 258 volunteer hours to our work in 2014. As with the Street Pastors, we need to recruit new members to the team. Prayer Pastors are a vital part of the Initiative, supporting the team with prayer and looking after the Street Pastors by making tea / coffee at the start of the evening and during the mid-evening break. I am grateful to Peter Arnold who creates the rota for the Prayer Pastors.

### Promoting the work of / Recruiting Street Pastors

I completed the process of visiting every church within the Churches Together in Harborough group where a member of the team talked to the congregation during or after a morning service. As a result we had a number of prospective Street Pastors identified for training in 2015. (NB Five have completed the core modules prior to this AGM and another three are in training with a few more showing interest in starting the training later in 2015). 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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### 21 April 2015

#### Patrols

- We went out on 43 of the 52 weeks in 2014. We missed nine weeks mainly because of illness or work commitments. The Street Pastors gave a total of 588.5 volunteer hours to the community during 2014. We continued with alternative Fridays and Saturdays but this year have included Bank Holiday Sundays which have proved worthwhile. We also attended Rock on the Rec where we are not so much a Patrol as a presence.
- We have had 1522 contacts with people during our Patrols with around 1372 conversations about who we are and what we do, about life in general and some in greater depth. Offering our business card, with contact numbers of a variety of support agencies on the back, enables those that want to, the ability to talk to someone again.
- We also provide practical assistance to those in need: bottles of water (26) to those impaired by alcohol or drugs, directions or help finding a taxi (4), flip-flops to ladies (55) who would otherwise struggle to get home safely in high heels, basic first aid (9), foil blanket (1) for a person suffering from the cold and occasionally calling for professional help (police or paramedic) for more serious cases.
- In 2014 we removed 396 potential weapons (bottles, drinks 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 50 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

- The Ascension Trust had serious problems with the global SP website and we were without our sub-domain for most of last year. I eventually managed to create a new website which still needs some work.  
[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
- 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, as well as a Leicestershire Collaborative Uniform stock list
- 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

It is pleasing to report that we have been able to schedule two people on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the year. However we are now down to nine people on the prayer support rota which is lower than this time last year. Holiday periods have been difficult to schedule. We do need more people and also more who are willing to cover Saturday nights and the occasional Sunday. Any extra help would be welcome.

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**Chair's Report**

I am pleased to present this my fifth report as Chair of the Board of Management.

I am sure that all of us involved with the practical aspects of Street Pastoring in Market Harborough, be it in prayer support or out in the community, have known the presence of the spirit of God with us and in us as we have committed to work as God has called us.

In the last year we have seen public recognition continue to grow. Our engagement with the people we meet in all circumstances has proved to be of immense value to the people of the town and those who visit it. The value of our work is recognised by the Police and Council officials.

As in previous years we have said goodbye to some and welcomed others to the Initiative. Let us pray a blessing on those who have moved on and give thanks for those called to be with us. Your Board continues to pursue an active recruitment process for Pastors and Prayer Support.

Your Board met regularly through the year and has put into effect some new policies and actions. These have been highlighted in Angela's report. I have also met with Angela to ensure the right ordering of the management of the Initiative. Your Board will face new challenges as Ascension Trust make demands on Street Pastor Initiatives across the country to migrate to a particular Charitable Organisational protocol agreed with the Charity Commissioners.

Your Board has continued to maintain careful scrutiny of the finances and to ensure that funds are available to secure the continued provision of Street Pastor activity in Market Harborough. I would invite everyone to consider supporting the Initiative as every amount we receive is used wholeheartedly to proclaim God's message to His world.

I would like to give particular thanks to Angela, our administrator, who has continued to ensure the smooth operation of the Initiative, sometimes despite the obstacles we have put in her way. I would like to thank Peter Arnold for his continued good work in maintaining the Prayer Support. I am not sure if you realise how blessed we are to have the prayerful ministry of the team in Bower House. Other Initiatives around the country, with whom I have had conversations, have no such resolute prayer teams.

Thanks also to Andrea for her work as Treasurer. She has kept the books for some years now and has relinquished the role leaving the books in good order. I am pleased to be able to welcome Gary Pedler to the Board as our new Treasurer. Gary has a deal of experience and comes to the Board as a worshipping member of the Baptist Church here in Market Harborough.

As our Initiative is blessed with active and encouraging Prayer Support, so are we blessed with a wonderful venue to meet and prepare for patrol. Thanks must go to the Bower House for their continued support in this regard.

I believe that the Market Harborough Street Pastors Initiative remains in good heart and can move forward with confidence into the next year. I come to the end of my time on the Board and I do not seek re-election. I have been honoured to be a Board member for six years and Chair for that time. I wish and pray every blessing on us all.