



**STREET
PASTORS**

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CHURCH RESPONSE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PROBLEMS;
ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE ON THE STREETS AND IN
NIGHT-TIME VENUES TO CARE, LISTEN AND DIALOGUE
AND OFFER PRACTICAL HELP

An initiative spearheaded by Ascension Trust

THE CHALLENGE

The 21st century has thrown up a challenge both to the church and to society, with a growth in anti-social behaviour at a local level, city wide and nationally.

The biggest challenge and surprise is the young age of those involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Some of the contributing factors are poverty, the breakdown of the family, the significant amount of children who grow up without either parent and the increased number of children excluded from school. The lack of provision and quality time given to those at high risk for young people are also contributing factors.

Crime and the perception of crime continue to increase. In the past year we have seen teenagers who possess knives/guns and use them against each other.

Commander Rod Jarman

Metropolitan Police Service

"I'm totally against initiatives that come and go. One of the reasons why we are so pleased to be working with the Ascension Trust on the Pastors programme is that this is building upon a long term approach of engagement with people and is a community led response. . .We are totally convinced that this is a good programme that is making a significant difference.

Councillor Steve O'Connell

Cabinet Member of Safety and Cohesion in Croydon, London Assembly Member for Croydon and Sutton & Member of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA)

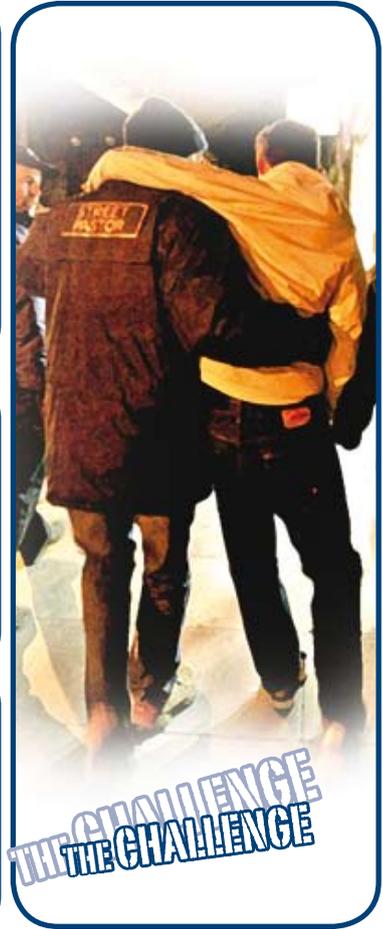
"This is really the most exciting initiative that I have seen...This is something that I believe will run and run, and get bigger and bigger."

Dr. Derrick Campbell

Chair of ACPO

N.I.A.G

"Street Pastors have proven to be a valuable asset and a necessary good in the fight against gun crime, for in a time of anxiety those in need have found a safe person to confide in."



LESSON LEARN'T



Revd Les Isaac visited Jamaica to see and find out how the Church was tackling, or seeking to engage the challenges of criminal behaviour; it was during an encounter with Revd Bobby Wilmot, Lorna Stanley and later Revd Bruce Fletcher that key insights were gained. We need to:

- 1. Understand the problem (social analysis)**
- 2. Have a long term strategy (10-15 years)**
- 3. Develop grass roots educational programmes**
- 4. Provide relevant training**
- 5. Prioritise employment**
- 6. Engage people in their social context**

He was informed by them that society on the whole had ignored the problem of the inner cities. Subsequently, a giant had developed, and they said, "we have not yet been able to slay the giant."

Taking this as both a warning and an example, in 2002, Ascension Trust launched a "Guns on our Streets" Tour, to:

- Raise Church awareness of the threat of gun crimes and a gun culture.
- Think about practical solutions and seeking to empower the Church to be a vehicle, along with other community agencies, to stem the tide of UK violence, before it reaches epidemic proportions.

Two urgent Messages that had to be communicated:

- We serve a living God who is able to intervene in people's lives.
- The importance of churches engaging, in unity, with other community groups to work together and effect change

Issues to address:

- Share the vision of community transformation with Pastors in troubled communities.
- The local Church should assess the critical needs of the young people and the cultural norms of their locality.
- Keep before the nation the critical need to address the urgency of the gun culture issues and knives.
- Mobilise the Church to pray for the nation as a whole.

THE URBAN

TRINITY

We hear much about gangs from the media but three of the biggest 'gangs' in any city are the Church, local government and the police. They all have the power, the influence and, to some extent, the resources to make a difference for the good of the city.

The Church has thousands of members that could be harnessed and challenged to bringing positive changes to the community.

Local Government has the resources to mobilise and help people who are vulnerable, e.g. social services, housing, education etc.

As the church goes out, it is able to direct, encourage and challenge more people in their personal development.

The Police are not only here to arrest people who have offended, but to help prevent people from committing crime. More importantly, they aim to work with the Church and community to ensure peace, stability and to be involved in training, protocols and Street Pastors safety.

THE URBAN TRINITY IS ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.



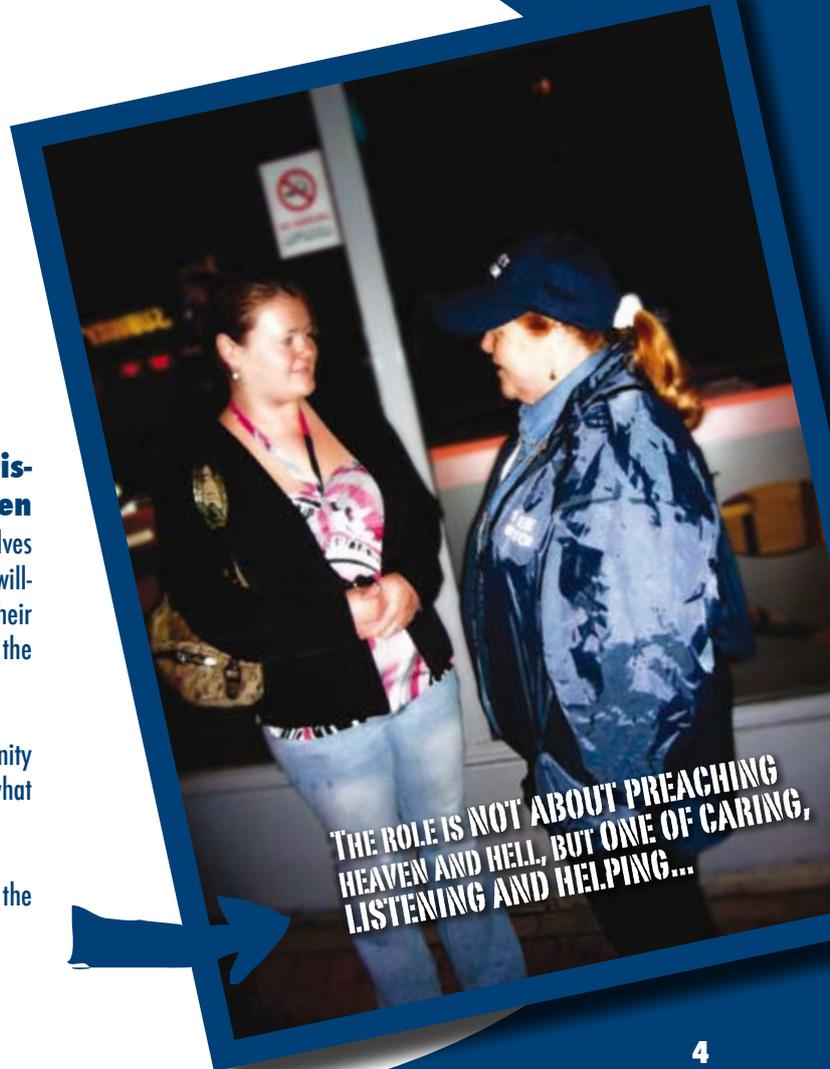
Working together in partnership...

WHAT IS A STREET PASTOR?

A Street Pastor is someone from the christian community who is willing to care, listen and help, particularly young people who have found themselves disenfranchised and/or marginalised from society and who are willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (their perspective of life) and location (where they hang out - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties).

The Street Pastor is there to get to know people in the community and to build relationships in order to find out their needs and what can be done to help.

Street Pastors must gain the credibility of the community, so that the community knows that the Church has come to them.



THE ROLE IS NOT ABOUT PREACHING HEAVEN AND HELL, BUT ONE OF CARING, LISTENING AND HELPING...



WHAT BEING A STREET PASTOR INVOLVES

A Street Pastor's main role is to make themselves available to care, listen, support and help vulnerable people, especially young individuals to move into positive endeavours

WHO CAN BE A STREET PASTOR?

Street Pastors come from right across the Christian community, and can be anyone who:

- is 18 years old or over (No upper age limit)
- has been committed to a Christian Fellowship for more than a year
- obtains a positive reference from their Church leader/Minister
- Undergo a CRB check
- Has completed the 12 day Street Pastors Training Course

The commitment of men will be central to the success of the Street Pastors Initiative, given the lack of positive role models and mentors for young men from an early age.

TO DO THIS: - CRITERIA

- 1.** Applicants must attend the Street Pastors Training Course, run across twelve Saturdays from 9:30am - 3pm over a period of 7 months.
- 2.** After attendance on the first, introductory part of the course (comprising the first four Saturdays), Street Pastors will be grouped and roles established. If sufficient Street Pastors are recruited in a locality, a mid-week team will also be considered.
- 3.** Street Pastors will work in teams of twelve, divided into three groups of four.
- 4.** Each Street Pastors group of four will be expected to work from 10pm - 4am, a minimum of once per month.
- 5.** Street Pastors will be issued with a coat, shirt and cap, summer and winter uniform, which have "Street Pastor" written on them. These should only be worn by a Street Pastor whilst on duty. Street Pastors will also be given an introduction card and a Bible.
- 6.** Each on-duty Street Pastors team will patrol the streets and visit local pubs, night clubs and parties in their locality and seek to build a relationship with everyone, e.g: shop keepers, local schools, businesses, families, local police, youth clubs and their leaders etc. Street Pastors is about dialoguing with people, listening and gaining knowledge of local concerns.

WORKING TOGETHER

Local churches should work together to co-ordinate their local Street Pastors initiative. The participation of at least four different denominations must be secured. Together they should provide a base for the Street Pastors to meet, pray and work out of in the evenings. The same venue should ideally be the local contact point for enquiries. A contact phone number will be given on a Street Pastors introduction card.

5 CORE VALUES

- 1 THE SACREDNESS AND SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE
- 2 VALUING AND HONOURING THE COMMUNITY
- 3 BEING A PERSON OF INTEGRITY
- 4 TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
- 5 THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

These values not only underpin many community organisations, they are intrinsic to many cultures and are intuitively known by them. Combined with pragmatic action, they therefore create a platform and a gateway through which the church can engage in dialogue and work for the betterment of the community.



DOES IT WORK?

Yes! We have seen a reduction in street crime in areas where Street Pastors operate.

- **30% reduction in Lewisham within the first 13 weeks**
- **95% reduction in Camberwell**
- **74% reduction in Peckham**
- **7.5% reduction in Lincoln within the first 6 months**

This Pattern is reflected across the country, wherever partnership and prayer result in the presence of Street Pastors.

London

Street Pastors are in over 70% of the London boroughs and still continues to grow. Our vision is for London to have Street Pastors in all 33 boroughs

National

We are currently in over 80 locations up and down the country and poised for other major cities across the United Kingdom.

International

We have received enquiries from many countries including Europe, America, Africa and Australia and have launched Street Pastors in Antigua and Barbuda.

SETTING UP STREET PASTORS

IN YOUR AREA : EMAIL....newarea@streetpastors.org.uk

the Process

- VISIT AND TALK WITH ASCENSION TRUST
- A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ASCENSION TRUST WILL VISIT THE AREA AND TO TALK WITH CHURCH LEADERS
- COMMUNICATION WITH CHURCH LEADERS WITHIN YOUR AREA
- MEETING THE POLICE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- APPOINTMENT OF A CO-ORDINATOR
- A CIVIC RECEPTION TO LAUNCH THE STREET PASTORS INITIATIVE
- DELIVERING THE TRAINING
- OUT ON THE STREETS

**THIS PROCESS MUST
BE ADHERED TO!**

ABOUT US

Ascension Trust was established in 1993.

It has a desire to see Christians working effectively with their local churches, community and society.

The Trust

- Has links with many churches across the UK.
- Runs short term missions that include teaching, team building and social action in the community.
- Has links with churches in Germany, Norway, and France.
- Has working relationships with churches, communities and non-government organisations in Guyana, Jamaica and the USA.
- Has an office in Ghana, West Africa, opened in 2001 to facilitate its social action programme in the area of education training and community work.

The Trust believes that THE CHURCH BRINGS HONOUR to the Lord Jesus Christ by preaching the Gospel, caring for the poor and empowering individuals, by assisting them to develop new and existing skills and enabling them to live life to their fullest potential.

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TO APPLY...

...TO BECOME A STREET PASTOR, PLEASE
CONTACT ASCENSION TRUST:

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WORKING TOGETHER



CARING... LISTENING... HELPING...

Ascension Trust

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