



ISSUE 7

OCTOBER 2013

STREETSIDE

Minehead Street Pastors

Festival time...

The Watchet Music Festival took place over 3 nights in August. Street Pastors attended on Friday and Saturday of the festival, the same team of 4 each time, with 2 different teams of 2 Prayer Pastors as support. This a wonderful opportunity to interact with local people. Musically we got to hear Showaddywaddy and others and we sampled Cornish pasties and coffee, thanks to Sue, a fellow Street Pastor volunteer who was working there! Lots of people young and older were met and talked to. We would like to share just a few highlights where we saw God at work in that place. We began our evenings with prayer in the Watchet Churches Prayer tent. The most frequent question was as to what we were doing and why? We met a man who had lost his son. The son, aged 17, has Aspergers Syndrome. The Dad was trying hard to not panic but was clearly distressed. Between us we informed police and security and also began to search. Two Street Pastors stayed with Dad. We also phoned for prayer support. After 30 minutes the son was found and reunited with a much relieved and very grateful Dad. On the Saturday, we were met soon after we arrived, by a lady security guard, who was also a Mum. She told us she was worried about an event taking place. We went around to look and saw a group of young people pretending to be zombies, complete with movements and make up. A crowd of children was watching and the atmosphere was very unpleasant. We stepped aside and prayed for the Lord to intervene. We asked for Prayer Pastor back up as well. Within 10 minutes it was raining, the music had been shut down, the crowd was gone and the atmosphere lifting. As we

came round on our next tour, we encountered the group making their way to their tents. We stood as they came towards us, and they had to part as the Red Sea, to pass us. As they hissed, we prayed and smiled. They left the site and we carried on, praising God for his answering prayer. Later we were able to tell the Mum what had happened. We then met a young man from Taunton who was a fervent Christian and shared his faith with us, surrounded by his friends. Towards the end of the evening we met 2 local young people. The young girl, had just completed basic training and was now learning to be a dog handler in the army. This will take her to Afghanistan in January. We had a very mature conversation about faith and courage. Then we asked if she would like us to pray for her. She said yes, and so we prayed for her there and

then. Wow, in the middle of a music festival a group of us praying out loud for a 21 year old female soldier. Her friend was in the navy. We then at his request repeated the process for him. What a lovely experience and opportunity to share God's love. What an inspiration and privilege to share with other Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors, and how wonderful it is also to see God in action today regardless of the place and time. **Kelth Balch**



Street Pasties at Watchet!

www.minehead.streetpastors.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PRAYER

So far we have shared and prayed with the Police, Town Mayor, a local Head Teacher and Home Start. We also continue to adopt streets for prayer in our efforts to cover the whole town.

Why not join us at our next evening on **MONDAY 11 NOV.**
at Minehead U.R.C at 7pm

STREET PASTORS SUNDAYS

On July 7th and 14th, we were delighted to be able to visit 6 churches as part of this initiative.

We received a warm welcome from all congregations, and hope that the visits, were mutually beneficial, as we continue to inform and update all who support us.

CCTV needs YOU

Since being with the Prayer

Pastor team, the Lord has opened my life for Him in a very special way. Before starting in May of this year, I always left the Street Pastors in my prayers, being convinced that 10 o'clock was generally bedtime on a Saturday night! The Lord told me otherwise at the 2nd birthday celebration when Les Isaac gave us a very challenging talk on the strength of the Lord against doing things in our own way. From that moment on, I knew where the Lord wanted me to be. It is a very precious thing to be in a small room in the Methodist church with 2 or 3 other Prayer Pastors, in the wee small hours of a Saturday morning supporting the Street Pastors in prayer. Through these prayers, the Lord covers them with His guiding eye. We have fun, laughter and tears as we listen to them and their stories when they come in for rest and refreshment, I wouldn't be anywhere else on a Saturday night as it is a great honour to serve the Lord in this way. Please consider prayerfully if it is for you, we really need some more volunteers for Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors.

Myra Smith

Who are Street Pastors ?

Street Pastors are Christian volunteers who provide care, support and practical help to people out on the streets of Minehead. Our teams patrol the town centre, and provide help and assistance to people who are suffering the effects of over consumption of alcohol, are at risk of violence, feel unsafe, are lonely, hurt and abused, or just value the extra feeling of safety that comes from having Street Pastors around. Our care is offered without judgement - regardless of the causes of pain, sickness or danger each of our beneficiaries is still a human being. **PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US WHEN THE NEXT TRAINING STARTS IN JANUARY!**

Like the Street Pastors, we here in the CCTV Office rely heavily on good people freely offering their time in an attempt to make Minehead a safer place, especially out on the streets in the early hours of the morning.

The 5 volunteers who staff the CCTV office are all volunteers under the Volunteers in Policing scheme. In the 3 years we have been operating under the scheme, the volunteers have amassed a staggering 2,400 hours duty, with one alone completing over 1000 hours. The CCTV has been staffed on every Saturday night, bar 4, since last September. Their dedication never ceases to amaze me. In their time they have not only provided live monitoring of the town centre area, but have prevented and detected crime, supported the police at public events, produced hard evidence to successfully support prosecutions and in general provided a service of support for a number of other organisations such as Shop Watch and Pub Watch. I am appealing to any readers who may be contemplating a local volunteering role to consider becoming a CCTV Volunteer. Details of the role can be found on the Avon & Somerset Constabulary website in the Recruiting section. Training needed is given by me in the Control Room in Minehead.

If you would like to know more about the role then please feel free to call me



on 01823 363521 (it looks like a Taunton number, but actually comes direct to the office in Minehead). If you leave your details I will get back to you as soon as I can. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from some of you.

Keith Wigglesworth

We are very grateful for the work of the CCTV team, without whom, our volunteers would be that bit more vulnerable.

Barbara



Recently, our Street team had a 'first' as they came across a young man who

had a concealed knife, and was happy to use it. Too much alcohol had fuelled his anger, and it became clear to the team, that he was potentially very dangerous. Having been refused entry in to one of the takeaway shops, he moved on up the Ave towards a crowded Wellington Square, vowing to use the knife if anyone got in his way. A call to the prayer team was made, whilst two of the volunteers tried to talk to the man to get him to hand over the weapon. At that critical moment, the Police arrived, and a very nasty incident was averted. The team was never sure who called the Police, but it was amazing how quickly they arrived AFTER the Prayer Pastors. has been phoned.

Over to YOU!

The Church has left the building!

We hope that you are as excited by Minehead Street Pastors as we are.

However, we need your

support to help us continue to work together to make a difference:

- **ESPECIALLY Street Pastors who actually patrol the streets**
- **Prayer Team members to look after the spiritual and physical needs of Street Pastors whilst they work**
- **If you are interested in receiving a short talk or presentation for your school, church or organisation, or an article for a magazine, please email or phone Barbara**

For more information please contact our Coordinator, Barbara Tunningley
Phone: 07581523421

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