



STREETSIDE

Minehead Street Pastors

www.minehead.streetpastors.org.uk

A busy year...

It's hard to believe that Minehead Street Pastors are now approaching their 3rd birthday! I am sure that many people were probably sceptical about how long this new initiative would last, or indeed whether it would achieve anything worthwhile.

However, I am delighted to say that on both counts, we are able to dismiss those fears!

Following our launch service on March 26 2011, a team of just 11 went out for an initial patrol. This was the very minimum that we could have worked with, bearing in mind that we need a team of 3 or 4 every Saturday night. The objective therefore, was to try to boost our numbers ASAP. With a steady drip of publicity at every opportunity, we began to see our numbers grow, and so now 3 years on, we have 22 Street Pastors and 15 Prayer pastors. What a wonderful encouragement!

So what have we done this last year? Our volunteers have offered reassurance, safety, support, listening, caring and help.

We are on duty...

...Either as a street pastor or prayer pastor
 ...Once a month
 ...Once we have done some training
 ...In a team
 ...Covered by prayer
 ...with a vision to see our town loved, safe and 'a good place to grow up in and a good place to grow old in' – Zech 8:4,5 (The Message)
 ...knowing 11,000 other Street Pastors are also making a difference!

When are we out and praying...

Every Saturday from 10pm to 3 am, working alongside the Police and CCTV office.

What have we done since March 2013...

Given over 800 volunteer hours, distributed 120 pairs of flip flops to those with sore feet, calmed 20 aggressive situations, helped or observed 32 people

to safety, collected broken bottles and cans and swept up broken glass over 800 times, dealt with an incident involving an offensive weapon that required Police support and prayed for our community on regular basis at our Neighbourhood Prayer evenings.

What we want to do...

Like many communities, Minehead, is facing some difficult and uncertain times, with cuts in services, e.g. youth services, drinking / drug problems particularly at weekends, welfare reforms - debt and hardship, housing issues and employment issues and break down in communities, leading to isolation for many.

What our churches can do...

- We want to respond and be part of a solution
- What if we all gave a few hours a month to volunteer and/or pray? Just imagine...
- We can show the love of Jesus by practically caring and being present in our

community. We need to keep our finances in good shape, so that we can train volunteers to the high standard set by Ascension Trust and get them out on our streets. This process costs us approximately £300 per volunteer. At the moment, we are only able to cover Saturday nights, but our prayer and vision is to be able to do Friday nights as well. Without volunteers and funds we cannot realise this.

What can you do?

- Volunteer as a Street pastor
- Volunteer as a Prayer pastor
- Be a Friend of Street Pastors / support us financially in any way
- Pray for us

At the latest CTIM meeting on February 26th, those present were happy to agree to a retiring collection for Street Pastors at services on Sunday July 6th, so on behalf of us all, a huge thank you for your support, both financial and spiritual.

Thank you for listening!

Normally, that's something we do...

The Church
in action...
on the streets

3 ways to help

**PRAY
VOLUNTEER
HELP**

Our work only happens thanks to the support of many people who give time or money to ensure Street Pastors continue.

If you can support us please get in touch ...

NEWS

We are delighted to welcome our two newest volunteers to the team this month—Steve and Adam have now completed their training — so welcome aboard!

Please watch out for our next NEIGHBOURHOOD PRAYER evening in MAY

&

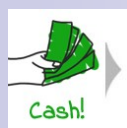
PASTORS, PUDS & PRAISE in JUNE

"There are a number of challenges we face as a society today, however, I believe they are solvable when people come together to talk and think through the issues"

Rev. Les Isaac, CEO of Ascension Trust & founder of Street Pastors

This is the thinking behind the Practitioners Conference which I will be attending with hundreds of other Street Pastors at Manchester Cathedral in May. The aim is to help us all find practical solutions to strengthen our communities, build local partnerships and develop a national perspective on good practice. As well as a fantastic program of speakers, ranging from Police & Crime Commissioners to politicians, and Christian leaders, there will be some excellent evening worship led by Graham Kendrick. I hope to report back in the next edition of the newsletter. **Barbara**

Lord we praise you and lift you up in this place, we desire that in Minehead your name will be treated with honour and Godly fear and not seen as something to be despised. May praises rise from the streets of Minehead, the new song of those coming to know you for the first time, and the new song from those who are already yours but whose hearts have been stirred and refreshed....



Please can you let us have your unwanted CLOTHES so that we can turn them in to CASH !

We can take clothes in good, CLEAN condition, including men's clothes, women's clothes, kids' clothes and baby clothes—incl. shoes. In return, we then sell the clothes on, and add to our stretched funds for training and supplies etc. If you can help, please pass on your items of clothing in black bags or carrier bags to any of our volunteer Street or Prayer Pastors Alternatively, you can drop them off in the porch of 11 Alexandra Road, Minehead.

THANK YOU

2013 was the year of 20th birthday of Ascension Trust, and the 10th birthday of the Street Pastor movement. Ascension Trust was founded in 1993 with the aim of giving individuals and churches the tools for participation in 21st century society. With the rise of gun crime in inner cities in the UK, Ascension Trust found itself being used as an intermediary between church and society, as to how to respond to problems in our cities. In the following years the Trust became a trusted partner to many inner city initiatives, and in 2002 they joined the Metropolitan Police's Trident unit in a' Guns on our streets' roadshow in London, Manchester and Birmingham. The shootings in Birmingham on New Years Day 2003, led directly to the launch of Street Pastors. There are now over 11000 Street Pastors in over 250 locations across the UK. Street Pastors can also be found in Australia, Ireland, United States, Gibraltar, as well as countries in the Caribbean, and in parts of Africa. On November 30th 2013 a

service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held in Southwark Cathedral. The cathedral is close to the London borough where the first Street Pastor patrol started. The cathedral was full with representatives from many Street Pastor schemes across the UK. Among the speakers were an MP, a senior commander from the Metropolitan Police Service, with the keynote address given by the Bishop of Southwark. The Bishop said that Street Pastors were meeting a special urgent need, bringing together Christians from all traditions in the Lord's service. He described Street Pastors as being a sign of hope for our community. He emphasised that the work of Street Pastors is undergirded by deep prayer. He reminded us of the centrality of Jesus in everything we do. During the service some 80 new Street

Pastors from the London area were welcomed and commissioned into the movement. It was a very joyful occasion, with a great feeling of fellowship amongst all of us who were there. **Ian Candy**



"Met a man who had fallen and hit his head. Police had called for medical assistance. We gave him water and a blanket, and helped his friend keep him awake." (Patrol log)
"Long conversation with person who asked why we did what we did. We explained it was because we cared. He said "what, even about me?" We said yes." (Patrol log)
"Would like to say thank you to the Street Pastors who provided me and my friend with flip flops to walk home with last night after walking bare foot towards broken glass, you do such an amazing job, keep it up.

Over to YOU!



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 SPs 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
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