



ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

STREETSIDE

Minehead Street Pastors

Happy Birthday to us!

What a lot has happened in 12 months! It is true to say that this time last year, we were all excited but apprehensive, as we prepared to launch the Minehead scheme.

Now as we reflect on our first year's activities, it is interesting to see the changes that have occurred in Minehead each Saturday evening patrol. We NEVER initiate faith related conversations, just offer love, care, flip flops, water and a shoulder to lean on as well as trying to steer people away from trouble! However, as relationships have been built on the streets, we have found that the questions we are being asked, and the depth of the questions, has changed. There is

still the usual banter after a couple of drinks, but often they get straight to the point, to ask us about more theological questions. The people we meet are not the least bit interested in which denomination we come from. They just want to follow up their own latent interest in spirituality or Christianity out there on the street. You can forget your own church at this point, you just answer their queries and a Street Pastor could quite easily be involved for 20 minutes, in a conversation which is deep and real and involved. Prayer is also figuring higher than in the early days with people asking us to regularly pray with them, and for them. Ours is a very different role from the

difficult one which the Police have, but in our own way, we hope that we are playing our part, along with them and the Council, in making Minehead streets that bit safer and friendlier at night for everyone.

So what has God got in mind for us in our second year? Well we don't know, BUT we can be sure that He has it all in hand!

Barbara, Coordinator



"when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me"

Matthew 25:40



Church and Community Benefits

- Local churches work together at both leadership and congregational levels
- Because Street Pastors are volunteers we can assure continuity
- We can offer a long term sustainable programme
- Local churches have greater credibility with local communities, local government and Police.
- We regularly have the opportunity to share our faith, usually when people ask about God and Christianity
- The lives of individuals and the community in which they live, are improved.
- Individuals and the community benefit from having an extra resource on the ground

Prayer

Recruitment □

That we will recruit more team members for training later in the year. This will take the pressure off rotas and enable us to cover some Friday evenings and special events as well

Relationships □

that we will be able to work well with other agencies and the Police on the streets.

Streets □

That the team will be given strength for the late and long hours and that they will be given the grace to know how to respond to situations and individuals. That the team will know God equipping them for service.

Thank you for your support and prayers...
Barbara, Coordinator

The Church has left the building!

Minehead Street Pastors are committed to 5 core values:

- the sacredness and sanctity of human life
- valuing and honouring the community
- being a person of integrity
- taking personal responsibility
- growth and development of the individual to their fullest potential

What do we do? Audrey King, our newest Prayer Pastor, shares her thoughts...

A Saturday night In a little room in the Avenue Methodist Church—wow! 10 pm Fellowship, Friendship and Prayer, prior to the Street Pastors going out. After that, the Prayer Pastors are praying on and off and always when they get a phone call from the Street Pastors regarding any incidents on the streets. We also supply hot drinks for the street team when they come in for a break.
It is exciting, a privilege, thrilling, and a buzz etc. to be used in the Lord's work and for Minehead on a Saturday night.

Come and see, perhaps just as an Observer to begin with, as I did. You could well be captured as I was! See you in that little room soon, I hope!

Below are just a few of those we have prayed for over the past year:

For a lady still getting over the tragic death of her husband

For the rough sleeper, hoping to be helped over the weekend by local agencies

For young man who wants God to be revealed to him

For the lone people waiting for buses home

For the young man overcome by bereavement

For the young lad who had argued with his Mum and had walked out with nowhere to go

For the homeless that we encounter each week

A prayer for the young child with inebriated and aggressive parents

We have had many requests for prayers, and we are blessed with a large group of people who regularly pray for the Street Pastors and those with whom we have come into contact, on our journeys on Saturday evenings.

STREET PASTORS™

We need 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 organization, please email or phone Barbara

For more information please contact our Coordinator, Barbara Tunningley:
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www.streetpastors.co.uk



April 2011 – March 2012

Patrol Hours Volunteers: 225
Street Contacts: Hundreds!
Supporting the vulnerable: 48
Faith related conversations: 62
Flip – Flops: 131 pairs
Bottles & Glass: 406+