



STREETSIDE

Minehead Street Pastors

Out on the streets at last!

“A very special evening..” was just one of the many positive comments made following our first Commissioning Service held at the Avenue Methodist Church on Saturday March 26th. A process we started in 2009, finally came to realisation when Adrian Prior-Sankey, Taunton SPs Coordinator, commissioned 13 new Street Pastors, aged from 34 to 69 and drawn from the churches of Minehead. Messages of support and encouragement were given by Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon & Somerset Constabulary), Councillor Christine Lawrence (West Somerset District Council) and Town Mayor Ron Bridle.

Gideons representatives presented all the Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors with a New Testament and the clergy present joined in prayer for the teams, prayer partners and management. The service was followed by refreshments in the hall, where the celebratory atmosphere continued. After a period of prayer, all the SPs went out to introduce ourselves to the town, where we tried to visit every licensed premise, catering outlet and taxi driver, giving each of them a specially prepared card about Street Pastors and explaining what we are hoping to do. We were



asked the same questions many times: “what’s a Street Pastor?”, “What do you do?”, “Do you get paid?” and “why do you do it?” After explaining

what we do, people would look at us and say “that’s really nice”, “good luck”. People seemed genuinely grateful for our presence out there on the streets.

“when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me” Matt 25 v40. NIV

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Prayer Pastors playing their part: can you help?

We are very blessed to have a prayer team of over 12 people. Each week a team of 3 people come to the Avenue Methodist Church to pray for the Street Pastors as they are out on the streets. We also have a number of dedicated people who pray for us from home. This

prayer coverage is vital for us to be able to deal with difficult situations with love and grace. We are in contact with the prayer team all night via mobile phone. We do believe that so much of the success of this scheme is down to the immense prayer coverage that we have.



Could you join us — in prayer or on patrol?

What's it like to be a Street Pastor? Quotes from some of our Team...

Prayer Pastors

We pray together for the mission of the night: both ours and theirs and it is with a very real sense of responsibility and challenge to our praying that the street pastors go out into the night time economy: we know the way they are going and so we are enabled to pray their journey and to pray for each of them.

When the street pastors return they bring with them a positive impression of where they have been and they tell us who they have seen. [no names]

They have a drink and a rest [and a warm] and then out they go in another direction, looking for the lonely, the abandoned, the homeless: those in trouble and those just wanting to talk – sometimes of God.

Picking up cans and bottles, sweeping up broken glass handing out flip flops and bottles of water and lots of love and encouragement.....

The night is over: we can go home.

Thank you Lord for your protection and guidance this night.
Amen

I love being a SP - being there for people who may need a bit of help, while getting the opportunity to chat and have a laugh with people you'd not ordinarily meet. It's also helping me keep up to date with today's culture, which is useful as a mother of teenagers. Ella

It has really has changed my life. God has me connecting with people I would have shied away from. I am a completely different person when I'm out there, and I am in love with the work the Lord has me doing. Nichola

It's early days yet, but I am hoping that working as a Street Pastor will provide opportunities for reaching

people at a deeper level than is usually possible. Drink, youth and social interaction are a potent mix which create vulnerable soft spots - and I am hoping that God will enable me to take full advantage!! Caroline

Being a Street Pastor has certainly opened my eyes to how the other half live, I am mixing with people that I would not have the opportunity of doing if I had not been a Street Pastor I am not so judgemental, mainly because of the wonderful feedback I receive from the people that I have the privilege to meet. They lift my spirits and give me such encouragement when I am on the street. It fills me with love and well being

*which I am eager to share with other people.
Rosemary*

Being a Street Pastor can feel like being a 'loving parent'. We want to listen to the young people; to offer care and support; to clean up after them; but without judgement. Ian & Wendy

I found the experience of street pastoring brought me right to the edge of my comfort zone, but it was worthwhile, enlightening and fun and we made a difference to at least two young people, and gave away lots of sweets. (Ask me again after it's been pouring down all night!) Alan



CCTV is so important to Street Pastor patrols and the Minehead Town CCTV partnership which runs it is looking for community-minded volunteers to help operate the town centre CCTV cameras and help to reduce the potential for crime and disorder in our town. The partnership, which comprises Minehead Town Council, West Somerset Council and the Avon and Somerset Police, is looking for local people to become police volunteers to work in the CCTV office, which is based at the town Police Station. If you have time on your hands, are a good communicator, reliable and can work without supervision then

candidates will be subject to Police vetting and security procedures. After completing their training the Volunteers would normally be asked to work for periods of around four hours in the evenings during which time they will control the system, monitoring images captured by it. They will also liaise directly with the local Shop Patrol; Pub Watch schemes and the police, working with them when incidents occur. The full specifications for the post and applications forms can be found on the Avon & Somerset Police website at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk or by ringing 0845 4567000 and quoting reference VS0050/G.



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
- Friends who commit to pray and support the work from home
- Sponsors to help keep the funds flowing

For more information please contact our Coordinator, Barbara Tunningley: **Phone: 07531142592**
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