

SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS



Offering reassurance, safety and support through caring, listening and helping

Issue 31 - Summer/Autumn 2024



Street Pastors is a response of the local Christian community in Southampton to the needs of our city. As of now, **64 churches** are involved, and there are currently **125 volunteer Street Pastors**. We also have **22 Prayer Pastors**, who provide support and prayer while Street Pastors are on duty.

Our trained volunteers run regular patrols both **day and night**, in Southampton city centre, in the parks and in the suburbs. We have clocked up over **80,500 of volunteer hours** on patrol since 2009—offering a reassuring presence that is relied upon by door staff, police, paramedics, city officials and communities.

We partner with the Church, Southampton City Council, the Police, the Ambulance Service, GO! Southampton and other professional agencies.

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Supported by



Street Pastors is an initiative of Ascension Trust
We are a UK Registered Charity (no. 1137759)
and a Company Registered in England (no. 7292166)

WHAT WE DO

One of the joys of Street Pastoring, is that every patrol is different! We meet people in the moment, taking a non-judgmental approach.

As Street Pastors, we:

- Enhance community cohesion by linking people together.
- Calm emotional/aggressive situations, and reduce anti-social and predatory behaviour.
- Reduce vulnerability of people who are lost, alone or unwell.
- Supply local information and signpost to relevant local services.

TYPES OF PATROL



NIGHT-TIME PATROLS

- City Centre | Fridays and Saturdays
10:00pm - 4:00am

Volunteers give one night per month, to assist with lone or vulnerable people, to chat with people on a night out, to pray, share faith, hand out supplies, and respond on the radio to calls from the Police, CCTV and door staff.



EVENING COMMUNITY PATROLS

- Portswood | Saturdays | 6:00pm - 10:15pm
- Thornhill | Thursdays (two patrols per month)
3:00pm - 5:00pm or 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Volunteers give one evening each month, visiting the suburbs.



AFTERNOON PATROLS

- City Centre | Tues, Weds and Thurs
12:15pm - 3:00pm

Building relationships with the homeless community, and helping them on the road to recovery.

- Bassett and Upper Shirley | Wednesdays
2:30pm - 4:00pm

Connecting with adults and children in the local area.

IMPACT

Over 15 years, there have been **measurable improvements** as a result of the church working together with partners in the city. Since 2009, we have seen a 22% reduction in A&E admissions, and a reduction in violent crime during peak times at night. To recognise this, we were awarded the Southampton Police Commander's Certificate for Service to the City in 2019, and the Certificate of Congratulations for Victim Care in 2023.

NIGHT-TIME PATROLS - FACTS & FIGURES (Apr 2009 - July 2024)

- **65,816** volunteer hours.
- Calmed **1,275** situations that were getting aggressive and were a positive presence **1,392** times to stop anti-social behaviour.
- Cared for **4,369** people who were seriously intoxicated or drug affected and needed help, giving out **2,547** emergency blankets.
- Supported **3,978** distressed and upset, alone or vulnerable people, getting them to safety. Assisted on **285** occasions with mental health issues.
- Called an ambulance **385** times, and carried out First Aid and clean up **2,309** times.
- Called to help by police, officials or general public **2,292** times.
- Prevented predatory behaviour **351** times (counted from Jul 2019).
- Cared for **19,415** street/homeless people, and given food **1,581** times (since 2022).
- Cleared up **56,352** bottles and swept broken glass **5,717** times.
- Gave out **7,640** pairs of flip flops, **18,335** hot drinks and **6,204** bottles of water.

AFTERNOON/EVENING PATROLS - FACTS & FIGURES

(Feb 2012 - Nov 2023)

- **14,858** volunteer hours.
- **10,089** conversations with young people.
- Cared for **6,525** street/homeless people, given hot drinks **4,788** times, water **1,374** times and food **1,742** times (since 2022).
- **758** distressed and upset, alone or vulnerable people, getting them to safety.
- Assisted on **248** occasions with mental health issues.
- Provided a signposting directory to services, particularly to the homeless, **693** times.
- **1,529** times our positive presence helped to prevent anti-social behaviour or affirmed individuals, raising self esteem or confidence.



PRAYER TEAM

Every patrol is supported by one or two Prayer Pastors, who will pray over the variety of needs which arise. This is a critical component of Street Pastors, making sure our teams are well supported, and that God is always present in everything we do.

APPEAL - If you are someone that would like to be more involved in prayer ministry, either from home or from our base, and sense a need to pray more for the people of Southampton, then we would love to hear from you!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

What if every Christian gave up 3-6 hours a month to serve and bring God's presence to their community and city? With your help, imagine what the church could do in the next 10 years!

We offer comprehensive training and support, and you would always go out in a team. To apply to become a Street Pastor, Prayer Pastor, to observe, or ask for someone to give a talk, please get in touch with us or visit our website!

FUNDRAISING

Southampton Street Pastors is a UK registered charity with a 15 year track record. We have wonderful individuals and churches supporting us with regular donations, and we are always looking for funders who would like to give to us in some way. People also use easyfundraising.org.uk. You can nominate us as your chosen charity, so when you shop the retailers donate to us and **it costs you nothing!** If you wish, you can give online on our website.



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