



Being a trustee for St Helen's Street Pastors

The charity

There are over 250 towns and cities in the UK running Street Pastors using a framework set by the Ascension Trust, who define training and operating guidelines through a Licence Agreement. The local operation (St Helens Street Pastors) is a free standing Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Reg Charity No 1168199), constituted in June 2016, and is supported strongly by the local Police and St Helens Council. St Helens Street Pastors has its patrol base at Ormskirk Street United Reformed Church and a wide variety of local churches also offer support, both financially and in prayer.

A part-time Coordinator manages, promotes and develops the work of Saint Helens Street Pastors. Accountable to the trustees, the Coordinator is responsible for the recruitment, training and support of volunteers; the administration and smooth running of the charity; and working in partnership with local churches and other agencies to further the aims of St Helen's Street Pastors.

There are currently around 10 active volunteer Street Pastors from local churches who have been trained and commissioned. Collectively they offer patrols in St Helen's Town Centre on Friday or Saturday nights. Until recently there have been 2 or 3 patrols per month. Our aim is to recruit sufficient volunteers to enable weekly patrols as well as patrols at special events, such as local music festivals.

Since late March 2020, night-time patrols have been temporarily suspended for health & safety reasons. However, a daytime Street Pastor presence in the town centre is restarting in Autumn 2020, operating in accordance with government guidance and guidance from Ascension Trust on Covid-secure working practices.

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The trustee role

The Trustees are legally responsible for the charity and:

- Meet quarterly (usually at Ormskirk Street United Reformed Church, but since lockdown we have been meeting via Zoom)
- Consider the long-term direction of the service, its effectiveness and how to drive it forward.
- Hear the Coordinator's report on the 'health' of the service, progress made and any concerns.
- Agree how any concerns will be addressed and take action as required.
- Manage any issues relating to the employment, supervision, training and support of the Coordinator.
- Support the recruitment process for volunteers and agree their appointment.
- Monitor and manage the charity's finances, approving expenditure and overseeing fund-raising.
- Foster partnerships and maintain links with local churches in St Helens.
- Adopt and review the necessary policies and procedures.
- Manage aspects of general membership and arrangements for AGMs.
- Ensure Charity Commission, and other legal requirements are satisfied.

Trustees are unpaid and serve for a maximum term of 3 years (after which they must wait 1 year before they can reapply). They are not required to train or act as a Street Pastor, though they are encouraged to go out occasionally as an Observer for part of a patrol, to aid understanding of the work. Each trustee is encouraged to take on a particular area of oversight on behalf of the board. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are appointed from within the Trustees.

Two thirds of our trustees must be Christians in good standing with a local church and all must be in sympathy with the ethos of Street Pastors. In accordance with Charity Commission guidelines, all prospective trustees must complete a self-declaration to confirm that they are not disqualified from being a charitable trustee, and appointment is subject to satisfactory references and a criminal records check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

For more details, please contact chair.sainthelens@streetpastors.org.uk

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