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**For more information please visit
our website:**

<https://streetpastors.org/locations/totnes>

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Totnes Street Pastor Scheme is part of
Caring Town



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Totnes Street Pastors Autumn Newsletter 2020

COVID 19 has seen our shifts change quite dramatically as Coronavirus has taken its toll. We now manage 1 patrol per month but keep a prayer vigil every Friday, taking it in turns to pray for an hour. These times of prayer have been very fruitful and blessed indeed. Our shifts have started and ended earlier and only those who feel safe to do so, take part in the shifts. We wear masks throughout the shift , carry sanitizer and maintain social distancing as much as possible. Our shifts have been quite busy, and we have helped calm a fight and given out give out first aid items when we were approached for help. We have taken care of someone who was assaulted until the police arrived and have generally sought to support the night time economy and help people stay safe on their evening out.

Totnes, it's the place to be!



Morrison's

During the pandemic Morrison's has been a great support to Totnes Connection Hub and Food Bank.

However, earlier this year, we were one of the many organisations along with Totnes Connection Hub, Councillors and individuals who wrote to oppose Morrison's application to sell alcohol at both the Petrol Station and Supermarket between 11pm and 5am in the morning.

SHDC turned down the application, but Morrison's is appealing the decision and SHDC is contesting the appeal. The appeal will be held in May 2021. Barristers will be involved.

I have written to our MP regarding this.

One of the big issues around dealing with the pandemic has been the way that alcohol has played a part in poor social distancing and the consequent spread of Coronavirus. On our shifts in Totnes, any issues around irresponsible behaviour, or need to give care, have been around alcohol misuse.

With greater restrictions on the opening hours of pubs, the thought that Morrison's would be allowed to sell alcohol with impunity is of great concern. We have already had clear evidence of people leaving the pubs and buying alcohol at Off Licences and Supermarkets in order to continue to drink and socialise with the consequent problems for our ability to control the pandemic.

It seems highly inappropriate for Morrison's, therefore to be seeking to extend the sale of alcohol in 2 premises (virtually next door to each other) throughout the night. Extended alcohol sales at a petrol station also raises eyebrows when the police, particularly over festive periods, will be seeking to educate the public with regard to drink driving.

On top of this, the pandemic is costing a great deal of money and it is concerning that SHDC will have to pay for a barrister to contest this appeal when money is needed for communities and individuals in need during this most difficult time.

