

[www.ascensiontrust.org.uk](http://www.ascensiontrust.org.uk)



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

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

Totnes Street Pastor Scheme is part of  
Caring Town



**Caring Town**



Newsletter editor Liz Waterson—01803 849345

# Totnes Street Pastors Winter Newsletter 2024

**Totnes Street Pastors will be 15 in 2024.**

We launched the scheme in May 2009 with the agreement of TTC, Totnes Churches and the Police who have given us a licence to be on the streets. Then Peter and Anne Dun recruited from all the Totnes churches. Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors were trained and insured according to Ascension Trust Guidelines and the first shift was in October 2009.

**Here's a report from one of recent shifts in December 2023:**

Busy in town, many people (from late teens/early twenties to much older) out celebrating the start of the Christmas break. Basketball court (adjacent to Skate Park): 5 lads late teens/early twenties playing penalty shout out, with 3 others sitting out at edge observing. Activities lit by overspill of tennis court floodlights. Heading up town, just before clock bridge: 5 lads early twenties very merry, heading up town and asked us to take their photo. Team artist, Pete obliged. M (up from Ermington and staying with an 'A) approached us and asked if we knew of any available Air BnB for the Christmas period. As it was so close to Christmas, finding somewhere would have been very difficult indeed. A pleasant exchange ensued and he was quite content that nothing else was needed from us. A regular rough sleeper, well know to the town, was settled in shop doorway under Butterwalk. Sarah greeted him and asked if he had somewhere to stay and if there was anything we could get him. Polite but curt refusal on both counts. The RSN regularly engages with him.

*Stopped for break at 22:40, resumed 23:40*



After break most people appeared to have dispersed.

Met B (settled with bedding opposite Barrel House) and Pete fell into conversation with him and learned that he had been provided with housing in Kingsbridge but that it didn't work for him preferring to be in his home town. He spoke well of his engagement with SHDC RSN to address his situation.

Barrel House: gig was still going strong but few people milling outside, all seemed good-natured and orderly. No security on door, as has been the situation for some months now. The BH is very courteous to its neighbours

Outside Nelson (after it had closed): large group ( 8 - 10) of young men believed to be the last of the Nelson clientele were still chatting exuberantly and looked set to end their evening in due course.

Totnes Grill: end of evening, young man waiting for lift home with friends engaged to chat and thanked us for the work of SPs.

While driving home from car park noticed that the Grill was closed and remaining stragglers were getting in taxis.

**With Cost of Living Crisis, even at busy times, the town is so much quieter than we started in 2009. There isn't the money around to spend on nights out and the restaurants and pubs are usually closed by 11.30.**



Please see the poster on our website. The Food Bank, now Food and Wellbeing has moved to St John's church. The poster has all the information about open hours and the help and support that is available.

## Totnes Street Pastors



### Annual Stats for 2023

**2 Friday nights per month rom 9.15pm to Midnight+**

**Street Pastor Volunteer hours: 153 + 8 hours at the Coronation**



**Prayer Pastor/Base Support hours: 108**

**Number of patrols: 19**

**People helped on the street: 14**



**Anti Social behaviour incidents calmed: 6**

**Bottles/Glasses/Cans binned: 30**

**Swept up several broken bottles, broken drinking glasses and returned glasses to pubs and bars**

**We gave out: Water, First Aid, spikeys, sign posting info and flip flops, socks food and lollies as the need arose**



Best of all we met the lovely people of Totnes

***Email contact for information anonymously given to help police enquiries:***

**[Totnes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Totnes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)**