



TUNBRIDGE WELLS STREET PASTORS



FEBRUARY 2020 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

GOODBYE TO VICKY DANIELL

At the end of January we said **'Goodbye'** to Vicky Daniell who had served as Street Pastor Coordinator since October 2013. She has given us a short message.



"It has been an absolute pleasure working as Street Pastor Co-ordinator over the past eight years and I have really enjoyed my part time role. I have loved working with the trustees and all our volunteers

and I will miss them. My favourite times have been meeting up with potential street pastors in coffee shops and getting to know them, the Commissioning Service. It's always so nice to see everyone and also driving and chatting with Doreen in the car to Kent Co-ordinator meetings.

I felt called by God to work in the street pastor ministry and now I feel he calls me elsewhere. I feel very blessed to have found full time work as a support worker for Crossways Community. I hope that our paths will cross again at some point. Lots of blessings to you all." Vicky

AND WELCOME TO.....



Katy Wright, who has taken over from Vicky as the new Street Pastor Coordinator.

Katy has been a Street Pastor since its inception in Tunbridge Wells back in January 2010 and is looking forward to getting stuck in further and learning the ropes of the coordinator position.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UPTO?

Since the start of the Pandemic, when restrictions allow, we have been out patrolling the town centre. In the Summer we were approached by the Council to be part of the Street Ambassadors Team which involved being around the Precinct and Royal Victoria Place making sure everyone was ok and adhering to social distancing.

On the few occasions we went out over the Summer and Autumn we went out from 9pm - 12am which is a shorter shift than normal. This was due to the regulations on pubs closing by Midnight. The Prayer Pastors were operating from their own homes and connecting via WhatsApp or Zoom but still very much covering the teams in prayer.

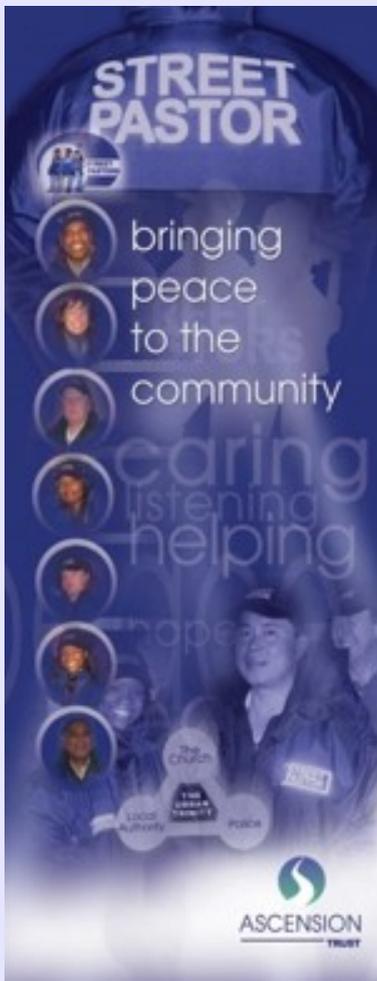
When we haven't been out we have very much still be beavering behind the scenes by keeping up connections with other initiatives in town, meetings with Ascension Trust (all via email, zoom meetings), and also the Council and Pubwatch. Also taking the time to sort paperwork and sorting out the Street Pastor cupboard!

Whilst we are itching to get back out we are very much taking guidance from the Government as to when areas will be opening up again and also we will be working with the Council to ensure safety for everyone.

To support the work of Street Pastors with a financial donation then visit the link below:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/9#!/DonationDetails>

If you would like **someone to talk at your Church or group about Street Pastors via zoom or a short video** then **please do get in contact** with Katy at **tunbridgewells@streetpastors.org.uk**



LOVE WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED

"Love with no strings attached." This was the theme of the Sunday morning service at 8am on Radio Kent on 14th February. Matt Bird was leading the service. How apt for the ministry of Prayer Pastors as we support the Street Pastors. And very apt for the date – Valentine's Day!



Lockdown seems to have been a big part of our lives for so long now, and as Prayer Pastors, our praying, and how we do it, has been very different. The Street Pastor teams haven't been patrolling since last summer and we have been unable to use Christ Church as we normally do for our base. **We** change, **circumstances** change, but the reason that Jesus came to earth **DOES NOT CHANGE**, and, therefore, the reason that we are **PRAYER** and **STREET PASTORS** remains the same.

So, technology has become the "new normal"! The prayer teams, obviously, are praying from home as the SP's are out, recently this has been between 9pm and midnight. Everyone on the team can see what's happening on the streets and praying often as events unfold. "WhatsApp", Zoom, and other platforms in some ways has brought us as SP's and PP's closer together as we are able to see each other and talk more than we have done, but, **IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE!** And we are looking forward to the time when we can meet "in person" again.

Countywide, Street and Prayer Pastor Coordinators are meeting more than prior to lockdown, via technology. Also, nationally, making it easier to "meet" rather than making long journeys that often involved staying in hotels, etc. for the duration of the conferences. Weekly prayer with Ascension Trust personnel and others has highlighted needs around the country and with Street and Prayer Pastors, School Pastors, Rail Pastors and other branches of Ascension Trust. Not forgetting our local Trustee/Management Team meetings.



Proverbs ch 4 has spoken to me recently, especially concerning the words **WISDOM**, **UNDERSTANDING** and **GUIDANCE**. If you take time to read the whole of this chapter, maybe you will see yourself there – I did! v20 says "pay attention to what I say". v25 "look straight ahead". v26 "make level paths for your feet".

Right now, we have no way of knowing how or when we will be able to patrol – but we **DO KNOW** that in this in-between time we can still pray for **WISDOM**, **UNDERSTANDING** and **GUIDANCE** knowing that God will show us what to do at the right time.

Finally, where might **YOU** fit into the "new normal"? **Could you be a Prayer Pastor?** For a few hours each month you could be part of supporting the Street Pastors and realising afresh the reason for Jesus coming to earth. **"Love with no strings attached"** for everyone in our town. We would **LOVE** to hear from you just email tunbridgewells@streetpastors.org.uk

Blessings Doreen Blackman, (Prayer Pastor Coordinator)

TW STREET PASTOR CONTACT DETAILS

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