

TUNBRIDGE WELLS STREET PASTORS



JANUARY 2023 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year

As we look forward 2023 I have spent a little time reflecting back on 2022. During 2022 was saw the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and then her funeral, 3 different Prime Ministers, England coming second in the Eurovision Song Contest, the England women's football team won the UEFA Championship and the first women winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

For Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors we had the opportunity to volunteer at the Lying in State Queue and also hand out orders of service and also lay a wreath at the Tunbridge Wells War Memorial at the Remembrance Day Parade.

We went out on A-Levels Results night and spent a lot of time talking to those who had received their results. Some were celebrating, others were not but we were there to talk with them and provide a listening ear as well as lolly pops and flip flops.

Following a request from the Council, our Thursday team adjusted their hours and went out from 9pm until midnight to cover the tail end of Jazz on the Pantiles and then meet those just coming out to the clubs

Each time we are out we do collect information of what has happened. The 2022 Stats Information is:





STREET PASTOR AFTERSCHOOL PATROLS

We are looking at widening the ministry of Street Pastors to provide an After-School Patrol at the end of the school day (2.45pm - 5pm) along St John's Road and down into the town centre area.

Along St John's Road we have five secondary schools, which have a combined total of approximately 7,500 11 - 18 year olds, all leaving school at around 3.30pm.

We are looking for new volunteers to help us in this ministry. There are two categories:

1) Street Pastor

- 1. a Christian and part of a local church
- 11. Have a heart for their local community especially young people
- ui. willing to engage with young people as they come out from school at the end of the school day and either head home or walk into town
- ιω. Be available from 2.45pm 5pm on a week day with minimum commitment of twice a term
- σ. happy to work in a team and in collaboration with both statutory & voluntary agencies and projects

2) Prayer Pastor

- 1. a Christian and part of a local church
- 11. have a heart for praying for young people and the community
- ии. Be available from 2.45pm 5pm on a week day with minimum commitment of twice a term

If you are interested in doing either of these roles and want to apply, or find out more, then please do get in contact with our SP coordinator, Katy Wright on tunbridgewells@streetpastors.org.uk

A FEW STORIES FROM THE STREETS IN 2022

Pauline talking to Luke, who told of his being in care with foster family. The Street Pastors helped him and contacted his family when he was in difficulty one night. At 18 he had to live on his own, and no support. He got a job, but then got into debt on credit cards, by the time he was 21 he was thousands in debt but now is out of the difficulty. Very encouraging because he has never forgotten the Street Pastors.

Had good conversation with the owners of Aura and found out more about how they came to TW to set up the club. Have heard of Street Pastors and much appreciative of work they do.





Arrived out Weatherspoons and had some great conversations. Lots asking who we are and what we do as they haven't seen them SPs before, new generation of young people since Covid. One of the party was in a bad way so we stayed with them as they were awaiting a taxi to come and collect all six of them.

A busy night chatting with various people. Handed out plenty of lolly pops which opens up conversations. Chatted to one girl, interested in what SPs do and one of the lads said 'We have SPs at our school' and he thought a lot of them. The school is of course Uplands.





If you would like to **DONATE TO THE WORK OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS STREET PASTORS** you can this online via bank transfer: Account Name: Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors; Sort Code: 40-52-40; Account No: 00020600 or CAF Online: https://www.cafonline.org/system/donate?dbid=ed047f35d8634601952d53c5aeadba57 Cheque: made payable to "TW Street Pastors" c/o Christ Church, High Street, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1UT