

STREET PASTORS™

is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue. It began in London in January 2003 and has now grown to 111 projects across the country with another 70 in development. Each project is run by a local management team with support from the Ascension Trust, local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies.

Here in Preston and South Ribble, the project grew out of Hope 08, and started on the streets in December 12th 2008. We now have c.30 volunteers from c.20 different churches from across the area, and a management team made up of 5 people from different local churches. Already we are seeing fruit from our work, with relationships being built, trust established and a sense of a safer Preston developing within the community. But don't just listen to us—what do our volunteers say?

"The most striking impression for me has been the contrast between the street workers who are lost and hopeless, trapped and desperate, fearing a premature death. This is compared with a testimony from a past street worker who is now clean and free with a house and family of her own, pleased to have a better future."

"At the start, although I knew God was encouraging me I still felt apprehensive and expected nothing but abuse! I could not have been further from the truth, I felt very safe, everyone I have met has been supportive, and even 3 months on I meet people who still ask who we are and they are always friendly. There is an obvious need for us as there are many people who are in need of something, or someone to talk to, be it street workers, youths, drunks, drug users, or just passers-by. It is a privilege just to be there, for them all."

Are you interested in knowing more? Then why not contact us for more information

The closing date for applications from volunteers is **18th December 2009**, and applications should be submitted to the project's registered address below.

Why not become part of this amazing work of God within our city?



First night team photo

Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors
c/o Fulwood Free Methodist Church
Lightfoot Lane,
Fulwood, Preston,
PR2 3LT

Phone: 01772 861597

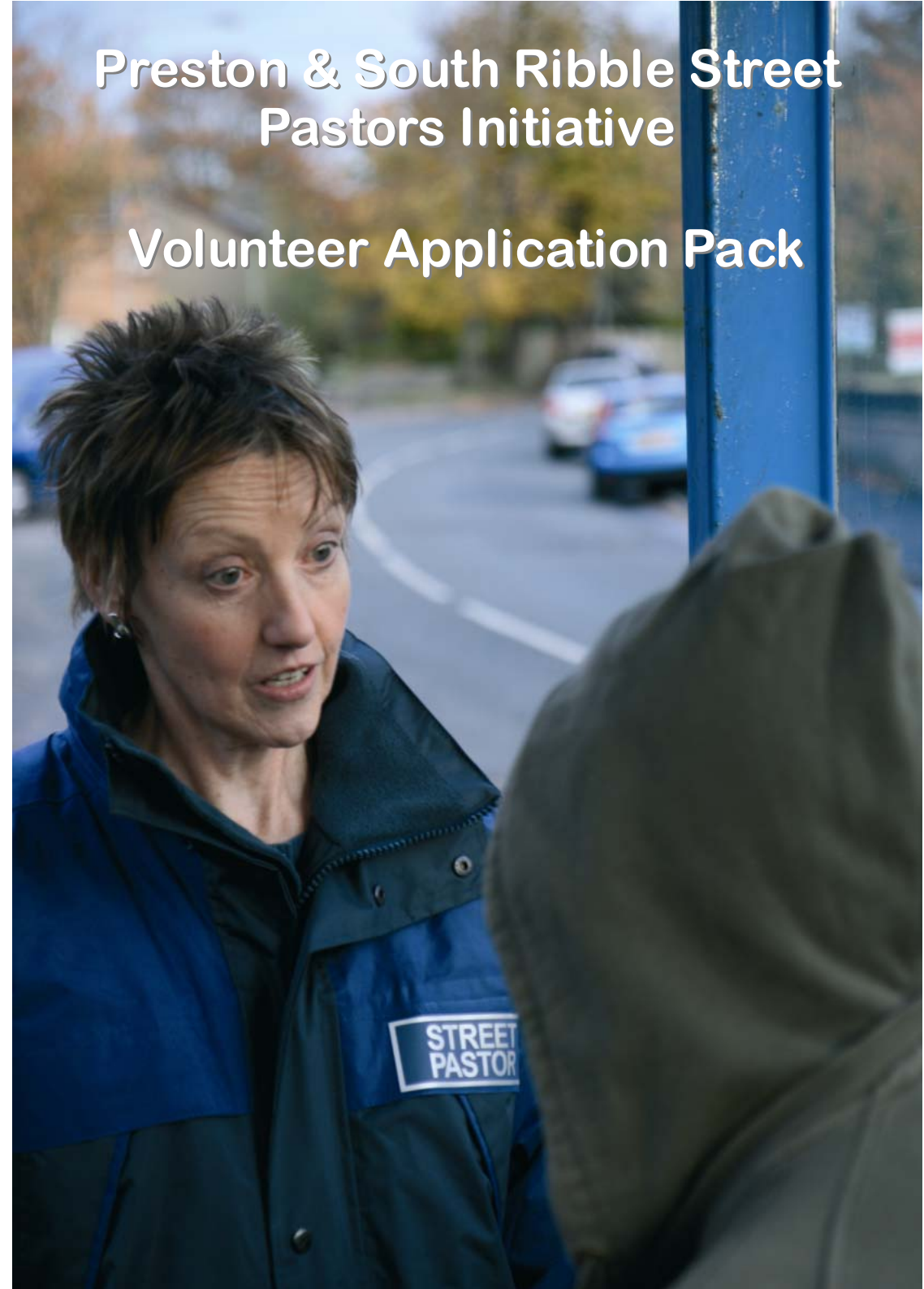
Email: preston@streetpastors.org.uk

Website: www.streetpastors.org



Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors Initiative

Volunteer Application Pack



Welcome to the Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors Project! Street Pastors projects are made up of volunteers like you and I who are interested in making a difference within our communities as a result of our faith in Christ and compassion for people. In today's world I am sure you will agree there is a great need for people to experience hope and a church that loves them just as much as God does.



Chris Drury
Chairman, Preston &
South Ribble Street
Pastors Project

Following requests by the Police, in partnership with them and Preston City Council, a Street Pastors Project began in the **St Georges and St Matthews** areas of Preston in December 2008. This area includes Fletcher Road, which is the red light district for Preston and we have been asked to specifically input into working with the sex workers in this area. It also includes Meadow Street, Ribbleton Lane and New Hall Lane and is just off of Church Street, all areas of the city with particular night time social problems (alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour).

Opposite is a copy of the article published in the LEP on 2nd February 2009 that gives you an example from Nina Woodfield, one of our volunteers and a member of our management team.

Following the successful start to the work, we are pleased to now be able to invite additional volunteers to join the project. We are looking to recruit additional volunteer Street Pastors for our Preston team and for a new team in the Kingsfold/Lostock Hall/Bamber Bridge area.

Would you be interested?

This pack is for volunteers and we hope will give you all the information you need to consider. It includes details of:

- Volunteer requirements
- Training requirements
- Volunteer application form
- Minister's reference form
- Confidential declaration form and notes

Why not consider joining our growing and exciting team? If you are interested, then please see the back page for details of an open evening we are hosting for you to find out more. We hope to hear from you soon.

The Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors Management Team





A Christian team of volunteers were introduced to the streets of Preston's in the battle to cut crime in hotspot areas. Crime Reporter STEF HALL speaks to Preston woman Nina Woodfield, one of the UK's first street pastors, six weeks into the scheme

For police vetting form, see attached document

ONE may wonder what drives a 54-year-old grandmother to take to Preston's red light district and anti-social hotspots in the early hours of the morning. But for Nina Woodfield the answer is simple. She says: "I think any small step will make a big difference in people's lives. Being a Christian gives you the strength and energy to do great things."

The pastors, from all denominations of churches across Preston, began their patrols of St Matthew's and St George's on December 12.

They are a visible presence on the streets to help anyone in need - from walking a drunken teenager to a bus stop or helping a vulnerable prostitute to get off the game and into a better life.

They have tried to help more than 100 troubled members of public, mostly 18 to 25.

Working in teams of six one night a week, they target those in need in streets like Meadow Street, Deepdale Road and Fletcher Road, which are affected by prostitution, drugs, and anti-social behaviour.

Nina, who has three sons and has been married to Bob for 32 years, previously worked in one of the UK's most crime-riddled estates in Longsight, Manchester.

She was forced to take a back seat when she was diagnosed with tongue cancer in December 2006 but the plucky mum battled the illness and was back helping people on the streets - this time in her home city - within a year of having gruelling radiotherapy treatment. She says: "The crime problems are different but there are still the same lowly people in Preston as there were in Longsight. There are the same feelings of hopelessness."

"In Longsight there was an attitude of accepting that young people were involved in gangs. In Preston there's not that mindset - people feel it's unacceptable to live like that." Amongst the pastors dealt with in their first few sessions were drunken teenagers and rowdy groups of youths.



Hope on the streets

But one of the biggest concerns of residents in the areas they patrol is prostitution - a hot topic at Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings. Nina revealed street sex workers in the city had already asked the pastors to patrol areas where they feel most vulnerable, particularly dark alleyways in the red light district. She explains: "A few girls have admitted they don't feel safe and that there are a few characters hanging around. Last week it was fairly mild for winter and a lot of sex workers were out. One 17-year-old girl asked us for advice in getting off the streets. Another girl we spoke to said she was pregnant. "As a mum you feel for them. You feel sorry for them because they are stood there and

they are cold. I gave them chocolate and gave them a hug. They have never had anything nice." She adds: "We don't pretend to have all the answers. But that one bit of kindness for a minute can make all the difference - and that's all we can do. "If you can engage with them it's easier to explain to them

up and down with her and tried to talk to her to find out where she was going. "We also visited an anti-social behaviour had been raised as a problem at one of the PACT meetings we go

'As a mum you feel for them. You feel sorry for them because they are stood there and they are cold. I gave them chocolate and gave them a hug. They have never had anything nice...'

- Street pastor Nina Woodfield

about how residents feel about their activities outside their homes and that is a double-edged sword." Street pastors are an inter-denominational church response to urban problems. The project began five years ago in London.

Under guidance from police, the council and the church, they will be deployed in areas where a Christian presence is considered useful.

Nina says: "The first night we went into pubs and shops because it was cold and that was where the people were. It was a matter of introducing ourselves. People did ask us what we were doing and were welcoming. Lanford's even offered us drinks. "One of the first jobs we came across was a young teenage girl wandering around very drunk. We walked

"There were around 15 young people in an argument but we managed to diffuse the situation. I think we have a calming influence. "Sometimes our role could be as simple as walking a drunken person safely to a bus stop, or try to find out where they are going."

She admits: "It is a challenge to make people understand our role. One woman at a meeting demanded to know why we were not catching a street worker outside her home at 4am."

"There are limitations to what we can do because of our resources. It would be wonderful to have street pastors every night but we can't do that at this stage."

However church leaders are hoping now the public have witnessed the pastors' work it will inspire more volunteers to come forward so the scheme can be implemented in other areas of the city.

previous stories

[For a free link](#)

- Pastors aim to tackle crime with the power of prayer
- Christians aim to help revellers



Volunteer Requirements

Volunteers must be the right people – we don't just take anyone who offers, but carefully select based on talent, skill, experience and motivation. It is of vital importance to the project that we are men and women of integrity and so as you consider applying to be part of the Street Pastors project in Preston, we would like to take a moment to outline what the requirements and expectations of volunteers are.

Street Pastors' minimum requirements are that volunteers must be over 18, attend a local church and have a positive reference from the leader of a church of which they have been committed to for at least one year.

For the Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors Initiative, we can also confirm that the requirements for volunteers are:

1. to commit a minimum of one evening per month (Friday or Saturday night) for a period of 3 years to the project
2. to complete and return the enclosed application form
3. to complete and return the enclosed security vetting form

The training cost for a Street Pastor is **£250 per person**. This includes the costs of training and both summer and winter uniforms, and we recommend that these payments are normally made through your local church to confirm both their support for you and to maximise gift aid benefits.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR COMPLETION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL DECLARATION FORM (overleaf)

Questions 1a and 1b:

Declare all convictions, cautions, warnings or reprimands. Posts where the person is working or coming into contact with children are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 so that all spent convictions must be declared.

Any technical motoring offences dealt with by fine do not need to be declared.

Question 1c:

Declare if you are at present under investigation by the police, social services or an employer.

Question 1d:

You must declare any finding of fact by a civil court that your actions have significantly harmed a child. Declare any court orders made on this basis.

Question 2a:

Make any statement you wish regarding any incident you wish to declare.

Question 2c:

Declare any allegations made against you, however long ago, that you have significantly harmed a child or young person. Any allegation must be declared which has been investigated by the police, social services, employer or voluntary body. Checks will be made with the relevant authorities.

Question 3:

All these matters will be checked with the relevant authorities.

Question 4:

Please declare in confidence any health problems that may affect your ability to work with children. This question is primarily intended to help you if you subsequently need to withdraw from work with children, for example because of a recurring health problem.

Some of the information requested on this form will be checked with the Criminal Records Bureau. All information received will be carefully assessed to decide whether it is relevant to the post applied for and will only be used for the purpose of protecting children or vulnerable adults.



How do you expect the applicant to benefit from the Street Pastor Ministry, and consequently your church and the local community?

Please comment on the applicant's strengths, weaknesses, ability to work as part of a team as well as on their own initiative together with any other information which you feel would be helpful

Would you be happy if any or all of the above information was shared with the applicant?
Yes/ no

Please return the completed form directly to:
Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors Initiative,
FREEPOST,
Fulwood Free Methodist Church,
Lightfoot Lane,
Fulwood.
Preston,
Lancs. PR2 3LT

We also ask all volunteers to attend 12 training sessions in the first year, details for which are included in our training brochure. The first block of this training, which must be completed before being allowed to start work on the streets, is confirmed for 4 consecutive Saturdays beginning on 20th June 2009.

In deciding whether a volunteer will be accepted as a Street Pastor, the following points will be taken into account. This is not an exhaustive list and is included as a basis for discussion. The aim of the process is to find God's will and this cannot be accomplished by a simple checklist. However, we would expect volunteers to demonstrate:

- commitment to the training process, making efforts to be present and participating fully.
- commitment to the ethos of Street Pastors, including a commitment to the service of others in the name of Jesus, with the gospel at the heart of what we do and why we do it, but not at the forefront of what we say
- an effort to raising the funds for training, uniform etc. There is no need for that effort to be 100% successful, but it should be demonstrable
- ability to work as part of a team, following the directions of the Senior Street Pastor
- sufficient 'street understanding' to be cogniscent of danger and not to be easily offended.
- a non-judgmental attitude
- a sense of understanding of the need to be dependent on God's Holy Spirit and an awareness of spiritual issues.
- sufficient physical fitness to be able to withstand the demands of the ministry without compromising the safety of the team
- a commitment to a Christian lifestyle, including
 - i) No use of illegal drugs
 - ii) No excessive use of alcohol
 - iii) No problems with gambling

We trust that this helps to give you a clear understanding of what is involved in being a volunteer with Street Pastors, and if you wish to apply we would be very pleased to receive and consider your application as detailed above.

Volunteer Application Pack

The following pages contain the forms that we require for you to complete to be considered as a volunteer for the Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors project

Application Form

Please detach, and return the completed form to the specified address with a passport photo (or equivalent) by

15th May 2009

Minister's Reference Form

Please detach, and ask your minister to return the completed form in confidence directly to the specified address by

15th May 2009

Confidential Declaration Form

Please detach, and return the completed form to the specified address with the requested proofs of identity by

15th May 2009

This will then be processed by Preston Police prior to your acceptance onto the project as a volunteer



PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT ALL DETAILS IN BLACK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS

APPLICANT NAME

Surname _____

First names _____

Date _____

CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE FORM

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Telephone numbers: _____ Mobile _____

E-Mail _____

What is your relationship to the applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How long has the applicant been attending your church? _____

Please comment briefly on his/her spiritual growth and development

Do you recommend the applicant for the Street Pastor ministry? Please explain why



Street Pastors Application Form

Please stick your PHOTO HERE



PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT ALL DETAILS IN BLACK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS

PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname _____
First names _____
Address _____

Post Code _____
E-Mail _____

Telephone numbers:
Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____
Date of birth _____ Marital Status Single / Married / Divorced
Nationality _____ Profession _____

I am interested in being a Street Pastor in the: (please tick as appropriate)

- St Georges/St Matthews Team
- Kingsfold/Bamber Bridge/Lostock Hall Team
- Leyland Team
- I would be happy to serve in any of the above teams

Do you have a driving license? Yes / No Do you have use of a vehicle? Yes / No

CHURCH DETAILS

Church _____
Minister's name _____
Main church contact _____
Address _____

Post code _____
Telephone number _____
E-mail address _____

CHRISTIAN HISTORY (please use a separate sheet if/as necessary)

How long have you been a Christian? _____
Give a brief account of your conversion

Give a brief account of your spiritual growth and development since conversion

Describe your relationship with your Pastor/Vicar/Leader and your church

Are you involved in any form of ministry within your church or in some other Christian organisation e.g. children/youth work, teaching, leading, worship, administration, community work, hospitality, etc. If yes, please state clearly what this involves:

Please state your reasons for wanting to be a Street Pastor

What are your expectations from the Street Pastors Course?

Are you able to fully finance this course? Yes / no

If no, how do you plan to raise the finance?



YOUR SKILLS

What are your hobbies / interests?

Are you skilled in any performing arts? (Singing, dancing, acting, music other)

Do you have an up-to-date First Aid Certificate? Yes / No

Do you possess any skills not mentioned above which you feel would be useful as a Street Pastor?

YOUR HEALTH

Do you suffer from any medical condition we need to be aware of? Yes / No

If yes, please specify _____

Are you currently on medication? Yes / No

If yes, please specify _____

Are you subject to any dietary restrictions? Yes / No

If yes, please specify _____

Please return the completed form to:
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Lancs. PR2 3LT