

Factfile

Preston Street Pastors began in December 2008 and are part of a national independent Christian initiative. Volunteers are ordinary men and women from churches of all traditions from across Preston.

8 new volunteers were recently commissioned, taking our volunteer team to 30 who go on to the streets of St Matthew's and St George's every Friday night to care, listen and dialogue with people.

All Street Pastors undergo a thorough training programme developed to respond to the local community issues.

Breaking News

We have recently begun piloting an expansion of the St Matthew's and St George's work into the Church Street and city centre from 11pm to 3am

11 new volunteers are beginning training this month and will form the basis of a second team working in the south of the city hopefully from Easter.

Contact Details

Preston & South Ribble SPI
c/o Fulwood Free Methodist Church
FREEPOST
Lightfoot Lane
Preston. PR2 3LT
01772 861597
preston@streetpastors.org.uk
www.streetpastors.org



STREET PASTORS™

Preston & South Ribble (North)

Issue 2



As the nights grow darker and colder, the Street Worker that we have been speaking to for the last 12 months is colder than we have ever seen her, desperation is etched on her face as she tells us she 'has to do

this, cos she owes money to a local drug dealer'. We hand her a much welcomed cup of coffee and a chocolate bar as she tells us that she didn't expect her life to turn out this way. As we chat with her she appreciates being spoken to with dignity and respect she tells us she is now attending the rehab organisation that we signposted her to some weeks ago...small steps. After a chat we say goodbye, she thanks us again for taking the time to talk with her.

We walk past a local public house and pop in to say hello to the landlady. Whilst we chat a lady comes in and asks if she can talk to us outside. We go outside and she starts to cry, telling us that nobody loves her, that she feels useless. We talk with her, and calm her down, eventually she gets to the real reason she is crying 'I'm being mentally abused by someone at my home' she tells us. 45 minutes (and a lot of tears) later she is calm and has a clearer view on how to handle things. The Street Pastors training on how to speak with people had kicked in. The Street Pastors had asked the right questions and as a result could advise the lady on various options. The lady thanks us for our time and goes on her way.

As Street Pastors continue to patrol the Streets of St Matthews and St Georges we have really seen a difference each month we walk. Over the last 12 months we have spoken to many people and have built up a good relationship with the local community. We have continued to signpost vulnerable people to agencies such as Street Link and Addaction...people are seeing that the church can be a valuable asset to the community!

“ The church can be a valuable asset to the community. ”

For example, in November 09 Celebrate Recovery was launched within the St Matthew's area by some of the churches involved in Street Pastors. Celebrate Recovery is a 12 step recovery programme for people with 'hurts, habits or hang-ups' and is a tried and tested success within the UK. It now runs every Thursday from 09:30 at Bethel Church off New Hall Lane.

As we engage with the local community it is becoming more and more obvious that we care, that we listen, and that we are willing to help. As Street Pastors have become a part of the St Matthew's and St George's community we have witnessed an increasing amount of people now approaching us and the feedback from the PACT meetings and the local Police is all positive.

Thank you for your support and interest, it means a lot to us.

Robin Maudsley

was until recently the Chairman of the St Georges PACT meeting, and together with his wife Pat was honoured by the National Association for Neighbourhood Management in November with the Volunteer of the Year award. He writes:



Robin & Pat with the Pr1me Focus Neighbourhood Management Team—Stan Mitchell and Marie Englishby

“We have lived in the Deepdale Community for 36 years and seen a great deal of changes At one of the PACT meetings in 2008 the Street Pastors team came along to introduce what they wanted to do for people in the St George’s and St Mathew’s Wards. With all the press reports in the LEP a lot of the local residents had put up an invisible barrier of what to expect. Although Ian explained at the PACT meeting what to expect, one resident was not happy in having the church patrol the streets late at night.

But when the Street Pastor were seen on the streets, residents opinions changed and at a later PACT the same resident who was somewhat aggressive at the idea had changed their attitude in as far as if he had the time he would have joined in to give some of his spare time to assist. The community has had the quiet work of the team and notice a change; for example, noise that was a constant issue on a typical Friday night is now reduced. And some of the reports I have seen show the effect Street Pastors have had on the community of Deepdale.

I have my nightly walk round on a Friday evening when I can, and have met and spoken to most of the teams. We have spoken of problems in the area and their “chocolate control program” in situations that could get out of hand is well known. For people to give up their free time at their expense shows a great commitment to helping Deepdale change. Crime figures have dropped drastically and the noise on Friday nights and other nights of the week have been improved.”

“ For people to give up their free time at their expense shows a great commitment. ”

Moving Forward

After seeing the results of having Street Pastors within the St Matthew’s & St George’s wards, Street Pastors were approached by the Police just before Christmas and were asked if we would consider supporting the City Centre. The Police run a ‘night safe’ operation every Friday & Saturday night and approached us to see if we could assist.



Jason Buckler, Area Coordinator

After meetings with the Police it was agreed that we are well placed to support this operation and as a result we are currently in the process of piloting this as an expansion of the current work. Street Pastors are now entering the City Centre from 11:30pm until 03:00am every Friday night. So far these pilots are proving successful and we are quickly finding a niche within this new area by helping vulnerable people get home safely and talking and sign posting the homeless within the city centre.

The South Ribble Police have for a long time been encouraging us to set up a team of Street Pastors to patrol hot spots within Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Penwortham. Following an autumn recruitment campaign, we are excited to have 11 new volunteers who are commencing their training mid January.

The plan is that together with some of the current volunteers who will move across having gained valuable experience over the last 12 months, we will expand the work to begin a second team working in these areas from Easter.

Watch this space for more breaking news!

Prayer Pointers

We value your support, and if you would like to pray for our work then we would welcome your prayers for:

- ✓ The continued safety & protection of our volunteers on the streets
- ✓ The development of the project into the city centre and South Ribble areas
- ✓ The people we come into contact with, that we would offer them real hope
- ✓ Continued good relationships with the other agencies working in the area

You can join our prayer support team—contact us for creative ideas and more information.

To Get Involved

Our volunteers go out in teams on to the streets of the city every Friday night between 8pm and 3am and we are always interested in welcoming more people to join the team.

For an application pack, or to find out more information on our work, please contact us at:



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