



STREET PASTORS BATH

Caring, listening, and helping

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Sept 08 Prayer Letter

Hello to all Volunteer Street Pastors who are in the process of training and also to all those of you who have kindly offered to be Prayer Partners for this *exciting initiative!*

My name is Deborah Keiller and I am Bath's 'Street Pastors' Prayer Coordinator. This is the **first** monthly **prayer e-letter** to mark the launch of Street Pastors here in Bath on *September 26th!* About 60 of us have been meeting together & training over the past few months ready to **'hit the streets'** just as the student population swells once again! It goes without saying that all SP volunteers are also Prayer Partners by default as *prayer underpins everything & needs to be central to everything we do.* In each e-letter I intend to update you with news, **prayer requests** & pointers to help you as you partner with us and hopefully to **encourage** you in your *own prayer life.*

We have a lot to be thankful for! We have had one of the largest uptakes of volunteers for SP anywhere in the country. In conversation today with one of the support staff i was asked **'what is happening in Bath'** to cause this & the only reasons i could give were the degree of **church unity** in the city & the church's willingness to extend **mercy & compassion** towards the vulnerable. *God is up to something here in Bath.* Let's thank God that He has prepared & positioned us for such a time as this!

Friday 26th September is **launch night** 7.30pm at Manvers St Baptist Church (please note new location to hold more people), when the project, all volunteers, no matter what stage of training, and prayer partners will be commissioned. A number of us won't yet have completed enough training sessions to actually patrol the streets by then so whilst the first SP's go out onto the streets of Bath from Manvers St on this occasion, the rest of us I am inviting to gather together as a large group **saturation the first night in prayer.** I would love for as many as can to stay after the commissioning to birth the whole thing in prayer....i.e. all SP's not yet qualified, friends & fellow church goers, church leaders etc. We have agreed with Manvers St. to stay up until 11:45, closing it to the public & then those Prayer Partners on duty continue at the Genesis Trust base until finish, around 3am.

Obviously prayer for the work of the team and volunteers is vital, underpinning everything we do so among other things this month we ask you to please pray for the following:

- For Paul Bright & the rest of the steering team as they co-ordinate this initiative; for **peace**, wisdom, encouragement & skill.
- That all administration & **organisation** goes according to plan leading up to the launch (26th September)
- For **safety** & protection for all SP Volunteers as they patrol the streets of central Bath between 10pm and 3am each Friday. (And not forgetting the Street Marshalls, Paramedics, Police, etc., too!)
- That the SP Volunteers share the **compassion** of Christ without partiality to all people.
- For continued financial **provision** for the project.
- For more prayer partners to commit to **pray** for this initiative from the beginning.

I have already heard from a few folk who want to specifically pray for Street Pastors, if you also feel called to pray for us I would love to hear from you! Please contact me via our coordinator Paul Bright on 07899 006 103 or email bath@streetpastors.org.uk (I hope to have my own email address soon!) Please could I also ask you to **tell your friends** & fellow church members about our request for more prayer partners. I find people are far more likely to respond to a *personal invitation* than an appeal on a notice board! Encourage them to contact either Paul Bright, Rob Trickey or myself if they are interested in committing to pray or want to **know more**.

That's all for this month, **God bless you all!** Deborah x

The following was adapted by a Tearfund worker from a prayer by St Francis of Assisi:

'May God bless us with discomfort... at easy answers and half truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger... at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears... to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them, and turn their pain into joy.

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Management Team: Rev Rob Trickey (Chair), Rev Martin Lloyd Williams, Peter Heywood, Dave Wiles, David Twine, Paul Solly (Hon Treasurer), Paul Bright (Co-ordinator).