

## FAIROAK & HORTON HEATH STREET PASTORS

### PRESS RELEASE

Pete Broom and Sheena Graham, co co-ordinators of Fair Oak and Horton Heath Street Pastors, are delighted to announce their area's second anniversary on 8th February 2010.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, 18 newly qualified Street Pastors hit the streets of Fair Oak and Horton Heath. A further 6 trainees qualified in October 2009 making a pool of 24 fully trained individuals covering Fair Oak and Horton Heath every Friday night, 8pm to 1am, come rain or shine, frost or snow. During the two years, two Street Pastors have retired, one due to ill health and one transferred to the Eastleigh initiative. We have 22 Street Pastors in our area.

The commitment of the Street Pastors to the work of helping to make the streets in our community a safer and kinder place to be, is reflected in the fact that a team were out both years on Christmas and New Years Eve.

Over the last two years Street Pastors have spoken to 4748 people with 104 tours of duty being completed and all by just 24 volunteers ranging in ages from 25 to 68 years old.

Over the last two years there has been a 37% drop in crime compared to the year prior to the Street Pastors being launched and this is partly attributed to the success of the “semi-rural” trinity which has been formed in the Fair Oak and Horton Heath area between the Parish Council, Police and the local Churches working together with the Youth Service. Chief Inspector Boyles says, “I have no doubt that this success is down to the joint working of all parties in the area, but I remain convinced that the Street Pastors have played a key role in this reduction. I am thankful for their continued commitment and support they show to the community.”

The news of new local areas coming on board brings with it great encouragement as the villages of West End, Hedge End, Botley, Chandler’s Ford and Bishopstoke will soon have teams of their own on the streets.

A new training session began on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 and 50 trainees selected from the above areas are attending the 12 week long course. All our trainees are asked to complete an in depth personal checking process and are selected from local churches. The gospel is behind everything we do but it is not at the forefront of what we say. For more information email Sheena and Pete at [fair oak@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:fair oak@streetpastors.org.uk) or phone 07970 543098.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Parish Council, the Police and the Youth Services for their valued input in to this efficient and effective partnership.