



# Gosport Street Pastors Newsletter



January 2009

issue no: 2

Dear Friends

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for the fantastic support, enthusiasm and encouragement you have all given over the last 11 Months or so.

Well! What an 11 Months we have had. From the initial introduction to Street Pastors in February 2008, we have now come to this: at this moment we are now operating 5 Teams of 5 People drawn from 8 different Churches in Gosport going out onto the busy night time streets in the Town Centre showing Love, Care and Understanding to those that they meet.

A Street Pastor Team has been out from the Hours of 10.00 p.m until 3.30 the next morning for the last 6 Weeks every Saturday.

Since our Recruitment meeting last June our Street Pastors have gone through a 12 Week Training Programme and have come out fully equipped and Knowledgeable to be able to do this work.

We are learning about Gosports' night time economy and each Team has been well received by all they have met. The Police have helped tremendously and have positively encouraged each Team. The Door Staff in the different Public Houses and Clubs have also shown encouragement and helpfulness. We have also been well received by the Public at large. As I have said before the Management Team of Gosport Street Pastors are very proud of all of them from the Youngest up to the Oldest. I know that each one of them is very glad to be on board and doing Gods' work in such a positive way directly into the community to people who are not so easy to reach. Just showing Jesus in such a special way, letting people know that we care about them and their welfare.

This last Month has been extremely testing in the cold nights but Tea and Coffee offered (and taken) by various Door Staff, Burger Van, and the Police have kept us warm and also I think our own enthusiasm have managed to keep out the cold.

Tom Young  
20 Years old



If you ask most 20 year old guys what they got up to Saturday night I doubt you will find anyone saying "I wandered around Gosport High street from 10:30pm-3:30am (without one ounce of alcohol in my bloodstream) looking after people, making sure they got to taxis safely, tried to talk them out of doing something they would later regret, and even praying for them", unless you ask me. Yes that's right, I'm a street pastor. I am one of hundreds of people around the country giving up my Saturday night (only one every month don't worry) to wander around the town centre for a good 5-6 hours. Now I don't think there is anyway of really talking about what street pastors is about without it sounding crazy, and stupid...I'm not quite sure if it's possible to make it sound enjoyable, but really, it is!

So what exactly do I do? Well I like to think that I'm doing what Jesus would do if He was on this Earth right now. I'm getting out to the places that need a change, the places where the hurt roam, and the drunkards stumble. On an average night we will speak to many different people just telling them who we are asking them how their night is going and just generally having a good old chatter, letting them know that we are there to help them. But we are always ready to talk to the people who really are hurting, the people who just need someone to listen to them and, if they want, to pray for them. We are there to free up police time so the police can break up any fights while we look after the upset girlfriend, offering them flip-flops when they break their heels. Sitting with people who have had a lot to much to drink until their taxi arrives, helping with basic first aid and even getting into big group hugs!

So does this even make a difference? When you live in a place as broken and dying a Gosport I think Street Pastors has got to make a difference. In every other place Street Pastors has been set up there has been a radical drop in crime, and I would be very surprised if this is not the case in Gosport. Street Pastors are going out once a week anointed with the power of God and the Peace of Christ, we has to make a difference, there is no way we can't make a difference if you ask me. We will be making Gosport feel more secure and safe for those out on a regular basis and also for those who don't venture out very often. Being a Street Pastor has made a difference in my life, I have learnt so many new things, found out things about myself I would have never known before, I have made new friends, I have stepped out of my comfort zone and loved every moment of it.

Just knowing that I am doing God's work gives me so much satisfaction, and the fact that it's making a difference in my own town is just such a blessing to be part of. So if you've been someone who wants Gosport to change for the better, who wants to help the hurting and be there for the broken then this is for you. It's time to stop talking and start acting. Lets get our hands dirty for Christ's Kingdom and Glory and lets make a difference, God chose to use us, so lets let Him use us.

The Church....  
in action on our  
Streets.....

Would you like to join us ?

All enquiries welcome

## Gosport Street Pastors Team 5

Joan Bickerton

Angie Petts

Bryan Mapleson

Kevin Ibbison



Team 5 ready for patrolling the streets



Team 5 on patrol

There are many ways in which you can support the work of

### Gosport Street Pastors

Please see the list of ways in which you might consider supporting the work we do:

Volunteer Street Pastors  
Volunteer Prayer Pastors  
Volunteer Home Prayers  
Volunteers to lead training sessions once or twice a year  
Friends of Gosport Street Pastors (£10.00 Yearly contribution and in return we send out Newsletters to keep you informed)  
Volunteers to run fund-raising events (it costs £300.00 to put a Street Pastor on the street)  
Business Sponsorship and/or funding Contributions (any amount would be greatly appreciated [please remember how much it costs to keep a Street Pastor on the streets]) and this can be made possible in two ways: Direct debit or One-off payments via Cheque/Cash or Bank Transfer  
Bank Details: Lloyds TSB Bank PLC  
Sort Code: 30 - 93 - 56  
Account Name: GOSPORT STREET PASTORS  
Account Number: 2244034

Phil Pollard



We were privileged to be part of the first team to go out on the streets of Gosport as Street Pastors. We are volunteers from local Churches who go out on the streets on Saturday Nights from 10 pm until 4 am. Our aim is to reduce Crime by talking to people and offering a listening ear, offering help and support to anyone who maybe on the streets at night. The training which consisted of 12 Saturdays equipped us well and also gave us the confidence to carry out our duties. Armed with backpacks containing Flip-Flops, Water, Wet Wipes and a First Aid kit it was with some trepidation we ventured out on our first night back in December 2008. Gosport High Street has "earned" a reputation of being one of the most violent streets in Southern England. We were pleasantly surprised with the reception we have received. People have been curious and after explaining to them

Irene Pollard



we have been greeted well. Security Staff at the various night time establishments have been most enthusiastic. Young Girls spilled out of various establishments scantily clad and walking barefoot (shoes hurting) and we offered them Flip Flops, which were accepted with great delight. Nationally where Street Pastors have been out and about there has been a remarkable drop in the Crime rates.

We are having another recruitment meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 at Jacobs Well Family Church in Bridgemary. It is an opportunity for you to come along in the Evening to find out more about Street Pastors and the plans we have for the future. Then if you want to get involved you can put your Name down and after your initial interview in March we hope to start the training programme in April. You should then be on the streets by June/July. Please remember we not only need Street Pastors, we need Prayer Pastors as well. We need a dedicated team of Prayer Pastors who will commit also to pray at Waterside while each team is out. Just once a Month. That's all we ask. It is a great opportunity to come aside to not only pray for those out on the streets working (maybe they are from your Church?). What better place is there than an empty Church (warm in this weather) from 10 pm till 2.30 am on a Friday or Saturday Evening to bring before the Lord the things that you need to. If we have enough Prayers taking part we could have not only Gosport, the whole World could be prayed for by the Christians from the many Churches right across our Borough. We all Pray in our own Churches regularly but this is a coming together in Prayer. Good Vision huh. I think so, can you give it a try? What a united start to 2009 that could be. God bless you all and a happy new year from the Management team of Gosport Street Pastors. Stuart (Co-ordinator)