

STREET PASTOR

bringing
peace
to the
community

hope
caring
strengthening
helping



Hastings Street Pastors

News Letter September 2011

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Street/Prayer Pastors and management committee whose hard work and dedication are making a real difference in our town. Many of us have been aware over the last 6 months that God is calling us all to prayer. In response to that call, we have set up the Prayer Quinns: five or so members praying together once a month. The members pray for each other and the work of the Street pastors. God is bringing together and strengthening our team for the exciting work to come in Hastings. We value all your prayers for the team and our town as more and more Christians leave the safety of their churches to reach out to their community. The church has left the building!

God Bless.
Jacqui Cronin
Street Pastors Chairman



"I will never turn anyone away who comes to me" (John 6 v 37)"

Street pastors never preach, but LISTEN, CARE & HELP. Lives change as I surrender the comfort of my duvet, my opinions & time to God's heart to "love everyone" (John 3.16) & accept God's challenge to "do nothing out of selfish ambition... but in humility consider others better than yourselves".

78 Street/Prayer Pastors are humbly privileged to show someone cares for folk with practical compassion. Ordinary Christians from 26 local churches are stepping out as Jesus did, into the streets, and standing out like a beacon impacting many, & helping make our streets better, safer places for people to work, live and enjoy.

Volunteers pay for and train for this privilege, the annual £20k budget being met by the generosity of individual & church donations. Do contact hastings@streetpastors.org.uk or 07864 167870.

I'm available to give talks to any interested groups.
To God be the glory.

Martin,
Street Pastors Coordinator.



A Prayer Pastor tells of God's care of him:-

On 27th May I was on Prayer pastor duty & had used my electric scooter to get to Wellington Square Baptist Church. At 3.20 on Saturday morning I came out to find my scooter missing. After flagging down a passing police car the officers told me that they had the scooter & the lad who had vandalised it. To cut a long story short that night a police officer who clearly has a high regard for the work of Street Pastors visited me & wanted to pay for the damage. Over the next 10 days he gave me a gift which more than covered the cost. As thanks to The Lord I gave a tithe to the Street Pastor Fund.

The Gift of Feet



JOHN 10:14 “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

I have been thinking about all the many questions that we get asked as Street Pastors – some serious – some not so serious. Ranging from:

“What is a Street Pasty?”

to: “Are you the Police?”

to: “Do you get paid to do this?”

to: “Why do you do this?”

- and I think, for me, one of the most telling questions has been:

“What Church are you from?”

I guess after centuries of Church division, we shouldn’t be surprised to be regularly asked this.

We live in a town that presents many alternative denominations: – Roman Catholic – Anglican – Greek Orthodox – Baptist – Salvation Army – Pentecostal – United Reformed – Sonrise – Kings – and others. Just by trying to start a list, I realise that I run the risk of upsetting some Brother’s & Sister’s by forgetting to name their particular Church.

And how confusing this must be for anyone coming to faith from a non-Church background (and lets face it that is probably the majority these days). So isn’t it great to be involved in something, where we can

genuinely reply that we are representatives of all the Churches in the Town. In other words we are acting in love of our fellow men & women – our neighbours – as a band of Brothers & Sisters united by our love of Christ & our desire to follow his teaching.

I am so pleased that whenever asked this question, I never know the answer to which individual churches are attended by all of the team on any particular night. I have to stop & ask some of them to tell the person who asked the question.

I am so pleased to be with a group of true friends who recognise the importance of what unites us and are desperate for others to know the love of Christ.

And I do know that each & every Street & Prayer Pastor that I have been out with is my Brother or Sister and is a joy & a blessing to share that evening with. And we learn from each other and from the Lord every time we go out together.

I do know that everyone of them is someone whose feet I would be privileged to cleanse and who I am blessed to be able to

go out with to “wash the feet” of others that we meet – or at least protect their feet with a pair of blue Street Pastor Flip-Flops.

Nick

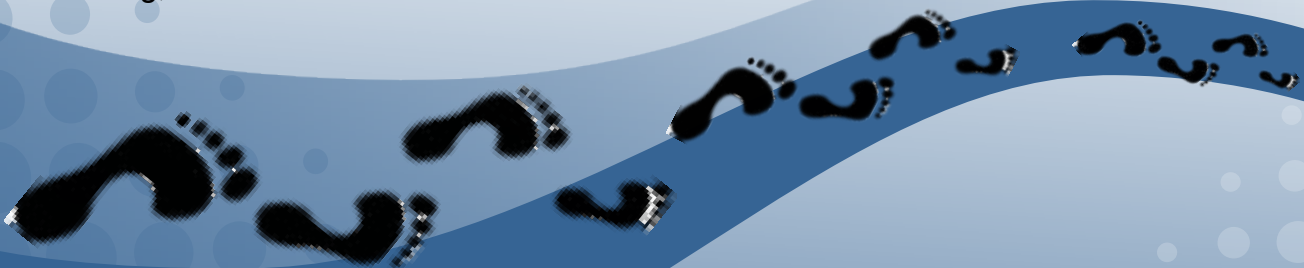
ISAIAH 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

EPHESIANS 6:14-15

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Hastings Street Pastors currently has over 160 feet serving the Lord & the people of Hastings & St Leonards.



HASTINGS



**Hastings Street
Pastor 100 Club is
YOUR opportunity to
support this work
without being up half
the night!**

We are looking for 100 people to commit to making a small regular financial donation to support the work and secure its long term future: just £5 or £10 or more a month.

Our annual cost of running is in the region of £20,000. We exist under the regulations of "Ascension Trust" Charity no. 1127204. Street Pastors have NO government funding.

Hastings Street Pastors have now been serving the people on our town centre streets for over a year, and have established their place in the community. We have good working relationships with the police, and many others involved in our weekend night time economy.

If you would like a brochure about this please contact Martin West the Coordinator on 07964 167870. To date we have 24 members- Could you be the next to join and help us toward 100 ?

What do Street Pastors do in Hastings ?

A Few Facts:

In the last 6 months
242 pairs of feet have trodden the streets, on 52 duties. That's about 1210 hours of sleep given up !
49 Aggressive situations calmed.
95 vulnerable people supported.
202 pairs of Flip flops given out for blistered feet.
102 bottles of water, - usually to those who have had too much alcohol.
44 hot drinks to the homeless.
16 occasions to give first aid.
20 Foil blankets to the cold & wet homeless. 39 people helped into transport home, or walked home.
487 lollipops to build friendship..
Well over 1500 glass bottles & cans picked up, glass swept up & rubbish removed.
Referrals to help for the homeless, alcoholics & faith related requests.

Meanwhile, back in the prayer rooms or at home Prayer Pastors unite in prayer "Your Kingdom Come on earth as it is in heaven..." For God loves Hastings...

Jo's Jottings

When praying recently we have had a strong sense that as God is breaking through more and more in Hastings, the enemy is not happy, and we are aware of the battle. We are of course on the winning side but would really value your prayers for the protection of Street and Prayer Pastors and their families.

We also feel a great compassion for the police at this time as they are being told that numbers are being cut, they are to be made to retire and with the riots they were expected to risk life and limb and there were so many complaints. First they had not been tough enough and then they had been too tough. We feel they need and deserve our prayers at this difficult time.

We would be delighted if you would join us in thanking God for all the discoveries of cannabis farms in the area and the subsequent arrests of the drug dealers. Join us in praying that all that is evil & harmful to young & old in our town will be driven away. Pray God's blessing on the town that all that is wholesome & good will flourish.

We thank God for each one of you and would assure you no prayer however short is wasted. God bless you all richly as you add your prayers to ours.

(Jo Howkins is Prayer Coordinator for Hastings Street Pastors)

SPECIAL OFFER

Ohana Photography will give 25% of profits on any photographic work to Hastings Street Pastors if you quote code: SP25 .

Contact: 01424 436898 web: www.ohanaphotography.co.uk

Run by professional photographer David Standen

Letters

From the street..

"The other night I was out and I was soo glad to see you. I had some massive high heels on, that by the way were only a fiver, BARGIN, and they killed my feet so to be given Flip Flops by two women from your association was lovely."

And...

"To all the wonderful people at street pastors, I just want to thank you so much for taking care of me and ensuring I was safe on May Day. Your selfless kindness gives me so much faith & I shall never forget."

A Street Pastor says:

One of my most exciting encounters on duty was the incident at St Clements Church. I was out with N and we came across a man in the church doorway who was in deep trouble as he was extremely cold and for a while could not be roused. We discussed the situation between us and persisted until we eventually got some response and gave him a space blanket and a hot drink. We then returned following our break with some food for him, to find he had warmed up and was feeling better. He was very grateful for the hot-cross buns. We were relieved, as it could have been a bad ending for him. Praise God we found him in time!

Carol

Hastings Street Pastor Coordinator : Martin West
Enquiries : 07964 167870
Email: hastings@streetpastors.org.uk
Web: <http://www.streetpastors.co.uk>

Bexhill !! (NO surely not?) Street Pastors?! in BEXHILL??

That was my thought, but a year and a half ago, when I was woken up with a deep sense of Gods love for Bexhill, and a need to pray. Two other men were also woken up to pray for Bexhill with a deep urgency . If I am truthful,- I left it on the shelf.

To me this was massive. Could I lead this? There is so much to be done! Would my leaders see the calling?... How do you start?

Hastings and Bexhill are so different, but yet in their own way are just as in need of street pastors. At the moment we are at the very beginning: we have our start pack and are speaking to leaders of churches. The coordinators are nearly in place, but a secretary and treasurer (key positions) are still needed. We have to have four different denominations on the committee (daunting in itself). We have no finances to even begin to take other steps. Wow! I still sense God is in control . Amazing God! I need to say though that the leaders of my church are fully supportive, and Jacqui with her experience of Hastings Street Pastors, has been tremendous.

This is all for Jesus. That is what keeps me believing that the Lord can do all things. Nothing is impossible with God. If anybody wants to contact me relating to acts of help, or to be involved please contact me on 01424-819483, Blessings. Steve Leabon.

Street Pastors in Bexhill?

YES! -In Bexhill!!!

Merchandise for sale- Proceeds to Street Pastors

Please contact Martin our Coordinator if you would like to purchase any of the following.



Payment is needed in advance. Once a number of people have ordered we will send for it, as otherwise we would have to pass on considerable postage to you. Please arrange with Martin how you will pick up the goods from him.
hastings@streetpastors.org.uk
07964 167870

Street Pastor lanyards £3
SP full colour mugs £6.50
Smart business pen £4
SP Fun pen £3
SP badge £1
SP car sticker £2
Glow in dark wrist band £2
Prayer P. one colour mug £6
SP Cotton Shopper bag £5.50

Martin also goes to boot sales and is happy to sell quality saleable stuff in aid of Street Pastors.

Adopt a Street

An exciting development in prayer for Street and Prayer Pastors is that we are meeting in small groups monthly to pray blessing on town centre Streets. If you would like to adopt a street please contact

Jill Robson 07940 830535

Email: jill.robson@gmail.com

Competition Time!

The best name for this Quarterly News Sheet wins a small prize. Entries in to Martin West by 31/10/11