



Plymouth Street Pastors

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Official Launch

On Thursday 20th December Plymouth Street Pastors became official. A launch took place within the Chambers of the Council House. *60 guests* attended from a variety of backgrounds, these included local councillors, Church leaders, agencies and community groups. The **Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress** were present to open the meeting. Special guests **Chief Superintendent Jim Webster** and **Council Leader Vivien Pengelly**, both gave their endorsement by expressing in their own words their feelings towards the scheme and their commitment to support it in Plymouth.

This was followed by a very charismatic presentation by **Rev Les Isaac, Director of Ascension Trust** who oversee Street Pastors nationally. As always, Les was able to inspire vision and re assure people about what the scheme is and isn't whilst at the same time highlighting the Churches involvement. It was a wonderful time and in such a poignant place. The feedback from those who attended has been very positive, particularly from organisations and agencies, with many expressing their desire to get involved and/or be kept in touch.



Evening Celebration

An open meeting was held that same evening to give opportunity for churches across Plymouth to come together and celebrate the launch of Plymouth Street Pastors. About *45-50 people* chose to put down their Christmas shopping and venture out on a cold winter's evening to St. Matthias Church. There was worship led by **Plymouth Vineyard**, an outline of the scheme in Plymouth with stories of a visit by two of the management group to Weston Super Mare's Street Pastors.

Several people were interviewed about becoming a Street Pastor together with a short presentation of the different ways people could get involved. We were extremely grateful to have **Rev Les Isaac** stay for the evening. Preaching from the story of the Good Samaritan he envisioned us as Christians to actively care for individuals and our community. A call was made to those wishing to become Street Pastors with **25 people responding**.

A big thank you to all who came and joined us for both of these meetings. We believe they truly are a milestone in the history of Plymouth.

Media

The media have been extremely supportive of the project to date and we aim to build these links and relationships for the future. You can see some of the media publicity by visiting the following websites;

1. **BBC Southwest** (website) - http://www.bbc.co.uk/devon/content/articles/2007/12/19/street_pastors_feature.shtml
2. **Official Launch** (The Herald) - <http://www.eveningherald.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=133188&command=displayContent&sourceNode=133171&contentPK=19401019&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch> (The comments at the end of the article make for interesting reading)
3. **Interview with Stu Clarke** (The Freeman Interview) - <http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=134800&command=displayContent&sourceNode=134787&contentPK=19377621&folderPk=78136&pNodeId=231187>

Becoming a Street Pastor

A Street Pastor is a Church member with a concern for society (in particular young people who feel themselves to be excluded and marginalized) and who is willing to engage with people where they are, in terms of their thinking (i.e. their perspective of life) and location (i.e. where they hand out – be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc).

Street Pastors must be **over 18** (no upper limit), **a church member** and able to commit to a **12 session training course** in three groups of four Saturdays over a year. The course includes subjects such as counselling skills, drugs awareness, sociology, knowing your community, role and responsibility, and street safety. Each Street Pastor team consists of at least three groups of four, each of which will work a minimum of one night a month, usually from 10pm to 4am (*Booklet available electronically via email – please request*).

The recruitment of Street Pastors is by application. **Application packs are now available.** The five documents included in the pack are attached for your information (feel free to pass on to others who may be interested). This is followed up with an interview and is subject to satisfactory references, CRB disclosure and training. A person is only a Street Pastor upon satisfactory completion of all the previously mentioned. There is also a fee of £300 which includes training and uniform. For more details see the attached initial covering letter and payment policy.

If you are interested and want to apply, please read through the application pack carefully first and speak to your Church leader. Completed applications should be returned to the address as on the application and covering letter **by 5pm Friday 25th January**. These can be posted or dropped in the Mutley Baptist Church reception for the attention of 'Plymouth Street Pastors'. If you have already sent us an application someone from the management team will be in contact with you shortly.

Recruitment posters are attached. Feel free to put up one up in your Church. A space is provided for details of training: **'Starting 11th February'** and Contact information: **'01752 827818'** and **'plymouth@streetpastors.org.uk'**.

Interviews

All applicants will have to attend an interview with a member of the management team. An interview day has been organised for **Saturday 2nd February, between 10am-2pm at Mutley Baptist Church**. It is therefore important that people return their completed applications at the above date so that we can contact you and arrange a suitable time. Where this is not possible we shall do our utmost to find an alternative date. Only those who have returned an application and attended an interview will be able to commence training.

Training

The first block of training **begins Monday 11th February, 6.30-9.30pm at Methodist Central Hall**. Street Pastors will have to complete the first eight sessions before going out onto the streets. This will raise awareness of issues that may be encountered on the streets thereby enabling them to be more effective. Training runs in blocks of four. These will usually run on a Saturday but there may also be the occasional evening session. Dates, venues and times will be given in advance. Some sessions are still being organised and therefore need to be confirmed. We aim to confirm dates etc as soon as possible with all applicants.

Prayer Support

To date there has been no incident of assault on a Street Pastor anywhere in the UK. This shows God's protection to his children. However, being out on the streets is no easy thing and shouldn't be taken for granted. Prayer is integral to Street Pastors, its success as well as protection of its volunteers. Street Pastors will spend some of their time praying at the base whilst other members of their team are out on the streets. What a comfort to know that whilst on the streets people are praying for you and the people you meet.

We understand that not everyone is able to go out on the streets with Street Pastors but we know that everyone can pray. If this side of the ministry interests you and you would like to be part of this vital part of the team then please complete the following and post it to the above address marked for the attention of **Fran Wilmot, Prayer Co-ordinator** or email her at Fran@fireflyuk.net.



Street Pastors - Prayer Support

I am interested in being part of the following:
(tick all that apply)

- Street Pastors Prayer Chain
- Praying "On site" overnight for the Teams
- Starting up a Prayer Group for Street Pastors

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Financial Support

Plymouth Street Pastors is a charitable project. We need to employ a part-time Co-ordinator who will be responsible for overseeing teams of Street Pastors, liaising with the Police, Local Authority and other service providers and moving the initiative forward. If you or your church would like to support Plymouth Street Pastors in this way by regular or occasional donation, please let us know. We can send you a standing order form. Gift aid forms are also available. If you are already giving to another Christian project we thank you and encourage you to continue doing so. Cheques can be made out to **'Mutley Greenbank Trust'** *(This will be held as restricted funds)*.

Community support

Whether going on the streets, praying or supporting in another way, I would like to encourage all readers to get to know your local Police Neighbourhood Team. In the last year, each neighbourhood up and down the country has started **PACT meetings** (Partners and Communities Together). These are public meetings organised by the Police to identify residents priorities in a given area. They work in partnership with other service providers for the betterment of the area. A great way to get involved in your local community. To find out more contact your local neighbourhood team. Contact details available from <http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/v3/about/neighpol/plymouth/index.htm>



Future updates

We aim to send out regular updates so that people are kept informed of what is happening, prayer points and stories. This is currently in development but the hope is for it to become bi-monthly.

More Information & Comments

If you have any questions or comments about any of the information you have received in this email or wish to discuss anything further, please contact Plymouth Street Pastors and we will do our best to help you.

Blessings,

Louise Baxter

Acting Co-ordinator, Plymouth Street Pastors

www.streetpastors.org.uk

Supported by :



Mutley Greenbank Trust

