

# STREET PASTORS PORTSMOUTH

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## NEWSLETTER 3 - PROGRESS and GOOD NEWS STORIES – January 2008

Larger teams were out over the festive period providing a positive presence on the streets, with few incidents, acting as a peaceful calming influence for Paramedics, Police - and door staff too!



28 Street Pastors from 13 churches have been doing great work in the centre of Portsmouth, Friday nights for 6 months now. Each of the 4 Teams work from 10-3am once every 4 weeks and have 15 regular prayer pastors coming to Oasis to support them. So far we have had contact with **1400** people mostly aged 18-25 and are seen as integral to the work of the Police who refer individuals to us.

Street Pastors engage people in a variety of ways:

- calming aggressive situations **41**
- getting people safely to taxis,
- cleaning people up with water/wet wipes **27**
- supporting people who are vulnerable **119**

Listening to numerous people who have personal issues/concerns, ask about faith issues and offer to pray when appropriate, providing information on agencies and churches:

- *Outside Liquid Nightclub at 2am two girls were very drunk and being sick. They were very appreciative of the water and wet wipes we gave them and guided them safely to a taxi.*
- *Saw incident in Guildhall Square where young man had been “bottled” and was bleeding, called the Police and helped to calm down 2 groups of people who were disturbed whilst waiting for Ambulance to arrive.*
- *Spoke with students outside Union who had seen us giving out flip flops to barefoot girls and remarked that Street Pastors were “immense”!*
- *Talked to young man who was more drawn to us than drinking as was having a difficult time so gave him a Street Pastors card with information on sources of help.*

### **Training and Launch for Saturday nights!**

Building on our success we held a recruitment event on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November at Oasis for more Street Pastors. They will start the 12 session training programme on Saturdays from the 26<sup>th</sup> January which includes excellent sessions on personal safety issues, drug and alcohol awareness, first aid, listening skills and clarifying roles and responsibilities with the police who support Street Pastors through Chief Inspector Carrie Pither on our Management Committee. We have 19 volunteers so far and still have a few places available.

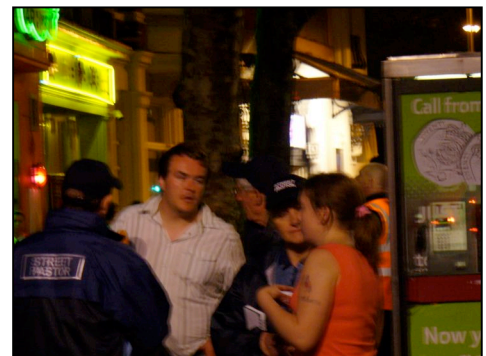
In future the Mgt Committee has decided to recruit annually in November for training in January.

**Official Launch** will take place 5pm on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April** before taking whole team out 8-10pm coinciding with **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April** which is ‘**National Street Pastors Day**’.

### **Publicity and Sponsor a Street Pastor!**

We have been blessed with a great deal of positive publicity showing “Churches in action” on the streets, with the local press, radio interviews and Meridian T.V are coming out with us again in January.

Street Pastors (Portsmouth) is a registered charity so in order to sustain this essential project costing £28,000 year, we welcome any donations from individuals, organisations or churches. It costs just £10 a month over 2 yrs to sponsor a Street Pastor, so just contact us for a Standing Order or Gift aid form or send any donations to the above address.



**~ Thanks to everyone for your support and donations for Street Pastors in 2007 ~**