



# STREET PASTORS PORTSMOUTH

working together to support and care for young people around night-time venues

## Summer 2011 ~ NEWSLETTER No.12

### Portsmouth celebrates 4 years of Street Pastors

Street Pastors have been out on the streets in the city centre Guildhall Walk area for 4 years now supporting those in need by listening caring and offering practical help. We have been truly blessed by our biggest number of new recruits as 31 completed their 12 sessions of training from January to March. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioning event 2<sup>nd</sup> April was a wonderful celebration at our Oasis base with 200 guests from churches and agencies including Bishop Christopher Foster, Police Superintendent Nigel Hindle and Mayor Paula Riches. We also thanked our volunteers who have given 2+ years commitment so will be moving on to other ministries, and our 25 new Prayer Pastors who did some of the training were Commissioned too! Consequently with our growth to 70 Street Pastors we are trialling additional teams in Albert Rd on Friday nights to help reduce the fear of crime and bring a peaceful presence to this area from 10-12am, which will be reviewed in partnership with the Police in September. Major Mary Wolfe is kindly hosting these teams at the Salvation Army in Albert Rd and working with Rev. Matthew Holland from St Simons to co-ordinate this additional activity. In June we trained 25 Senior Street Pastors whose important job it is to support and facilitate the teams on the streets and some will be learning alongside those who are already have experience. We are also planning to have some Refresher training for all our volunteers on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, after a review of our current infrastructure to sustain our growth for the long term.

**Elly Mulvany - Area Co-ordinator**

**Making a difference** – We have now engaged with 16,475 people in Portsmouth city centre and have supported them by:

- ☘ Calming aggressive situations **376**
- ☘ Supporting people who are vulnerable **1460**
- ☘ Flip Flops given out **620**
- ☘ Bottles/glass **7700**

#### Safe Space

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May saw the final shift of Street Pastor supervisors and volunteers at Safe Space in the DIP offices, Guildhall Square. The last eight months were a huge success and provided a much needed facility in the city centre, not only for the good work it did with those who needed first aid, "tlc", an opportunity to 'sleep it off' and not to mention the odd opportunity for SPs to have a warm drink on a cold, wet winter night! Safe Space raised our profile with the police, ambulance service and door staff and all of us will benefit from this new relationship when out with our teams. Special

thanks must be made to acknowledge Pat's contribution in setting up Safe Space and co-ordinating the supervisors and volunteers – not always an easy task and plenty of red tape to be tied up in! Thank you Pat, enjoy having your weekends back!

Safe Space has not gone for good though, it is now being run by the ambulance service and has relocated to Hippodrome House; the entrance is the other side of the alley from Walkabout/Stadium. It is a much more user friendly facility – no dark steps to negotiate and a more central location. The opening hours are the same – 22.00 – 03.00 every Friday and Saturday night. If you would have taken 'casualties' to the SP Safe Space then please take them to the SCAS/NHS Safe Space. They have facilities for 'sleeping it off', first aid and tlc. Street Pastors are also welcome to pop in for their breaks and to use the loos, the only request is that you go through to the back room rather than 'loiter' in the reception area – by the time you receive this newsletter the building work should be nearly finished and there will be a comfy area with kitchen and loo facilities at the rear of the unit.

**Prayer Update** - As many of you know, Anita felt that it was the right time for her to move on to other work for the Lord so I start by recording our thanks to her for all she has done on developing the Prayer Support for Street Pastors. It has been a privilege to work with her and know she will continue to pray for our work as we will for her.

I recently attended the Street Pastor Prayer Coordinators' Conference in Birmingham and it was helpful to share ideas with representatives from other areas. Many, like us, need more Prayer Pastors to pray at base while the teams are out, so please pray that more may come forward for this important work, both in Portsmouth and nationally. There is now a National Prayer Coordinator who is involved in the development of a S P Prayer Handbook so if anyone has a prayer they would like to submit for inclusion do let me know. We shall be having our next Light Bearers' meeting on 21st October and the National week of Prayer for our Streets is from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

I close with a verse which will be a focus for the Prayer Week – Jeremiah ch 29 v 7 'Also seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have sent you: pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper'.

**Joan Mason - Prayer Co-ordinator**



### Fundraising Update

**A big Thank you to all the pubs/clubs who have helped us by Sponsoring a Street Pastor £300 this year, so far we have received from Eastney Cellars, Roast Bar, Liquid, Yates and the Trafalgar Wetherspoons to help sustain our work as a charity we have to raise all our own funds. We now have a fundraising team led by Lisa Toon on our Mgt Committee who are considering new ideas and we plan to have a Street pastors Sunday/month starting 2<sup>nd</sup> October to encourage other churches and individuals to support us. Huge thanks to Lisa, Lucy and Doc.**



On 17<sup>th</sup> May Lucy and Pete ran a second quiz night at the Trafalgar, wow, from 12 people turning up at the first quiz we went to over 80 and raised £185 – we had to spill over to the family room and the main bar. A big thank you to all of those people that attended our third SP Family and Friends Quiz Night at The Trafalgar on July 19<sup>th</sup>. A packed out room, with around 70 people enjoying fellowship whilst raising money for Portsmouth Street Pastors. Not only were there teams from SP, but two teams from the Police, a team of our friends at Faith and Football, and teams from different churches in the city. Many people took advantage of it being 'Steak Night', and enjoyed a meal together. We raised £160 on the night. **Our next Quiz night is Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>, and more details and tickets can be obtained from Lucy or Pete at [quizzicals@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:quizzicals@yahoo.co.uk).**

**We also took the opportunity to launch our new 'text donation' number, where people can donate to Portsmouth Street Pastors by simply sending a text. The way to do this is to text "PORT11 £" without the speech marks to 70070. You must leave a space before the pound sign, and put your amount after the pound sign. You can donate anything from £1 minimum to £10 maximum. This is a service provided to us by Justgiving.com, and all money goes to Portsmouth Street Pastors. You can also gift aid your donation.**

**In the meeting room at Oasis there is a pile of surveys requesting your ideas for fundraising, please take the time to complete and return it. Remember, we really want fund raising events to be a time of fellowship – get to know SPs in other teams. We are a big family please join in!**

**Thankyou for your support with any fundraising events to sustain our work this year.**

**Publicity Update** – We would love to come out to give testimony at your church or group so please contact Carole on 07809 627770 to arrange a convenient date, as we always have some exciting and moving stories to share.

**Next publicity training evening for Street/Prayer Pastors: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 – 7.30pm at Oasis.** SP Management have appointed Lucy Forde as our new publicity officer, her contact details are: [lucyforde@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucyforde@hotmail.co.uk)

I have been asking for your memories from the streets, funny, sad or inspirational, please send them to my email address or leave hard copy at Oasis marked STREET MEMORIES, Lucy. My thanks to **Helen Barrell SP5 -Team 4 Albert Road - My first night out was the evening of the royal wedding on 29<sup>th</sup> April in Albert Road.**

It will remain for me a very memorable evening, a real answer to prayer, how God put us in the right place at the right time. We went out following prayer and walked down, to the Goose at the V & A where we met a lone policeman, who immediately said "I am glad to see you guys." He was dealing with an incident where a man had been injured, his girlfriend was extremely distressed and he was trying to get witness statements and evidence of a possible assault. We were able to assist with the injured man and help to console his girlfriend, the girl told me she had had a really bad week her grandmother had died and her mother hated her and she was worried she would lose her boyfriend as he had hit his head. We stayed with them for a short while until they were both feeling better. We then continued along Albert Road and had many conversations with door staff, publicans and many people out and about who had enjoyed their day off. We picked up many bottles and cans.

Just before the end of our shift we met a couple standing in the bus shelter and stopped to chat, the man asked us who we were, he thought we may be something to do with the police, we explained who we were and what we were doing and that we were from various churches in Portsmouth. Although the man admitted he had had too much to drink he told us he had been a believer but had moved away from the Lord but knew he needed to get back because life had not been good since. We offered prayer at the end of a long conversation which he readily accepted. He then prayed for us and all Street Pastors and their work, and thanked God for bringing us to him.

**Helen Barrell**

**Many Thanks and Blessings to everyone involved or supporting this amazing Ministry!!**

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