

PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE STREET PASTORS PROJECT

Chris Drury – Chairman & Preston Co-ordinator



Born in Kent, Chris is recently engaged to Dawn, but was previously married to his childhood sweetheart Linda for 15-years until her death from breast cancer in 2007 left him as a single dad to 4-kids. Having being diagnosed Christmas 2002 whilst pregnant, facing chemotherapy during pregnancy they learnt that trusting God is not just a nice idea, it is something very real, very powerful and a place of real hope. As they faced her cancer together, their prayer was that her death might not be in vain, but might be a means of people finding hope and faith in God. It was when Chris came back off bereavement leave that this prayer began to be answered. He was approached by the Police and asked to work with them on behalf of the church in Preston, as part of Hope 08. This began a relationship that has led to us being able to launch Street Pastors in Preston today, and as Chris discovers fresh hope in his life personally, his prayer is that this might be something that others come to find for themselves too.

Chris works as Pastoral-Evangelist on staff at Fulwood Free Methodist Church, Preston.

Ian Higginbotham – Treasurer and Volunteer Street Pastor



Born in Stockport and married to Val, they have two grown up sons, both married, plus a grand-daughter. Ian came to Preston in 1993 to head up HSBC Bank locally and retired in 2004. He had a clear sense that the rest of his life would be made up of 4 C's. (1) Church work, where he is now actively involved at Fulwood Free Methodists serving on the speaking team, and helping support the national leadership, (2) Commercial Work, where he is involved in consultancy particularly to professional practices, (3) Charity Work, where he has been Treasurer to Victim Support for the last three years and (4) Community Work, where he serves as a Governor at Myerscough College. Perhaps it wasn't a surprise when he was asked to be Treasurer, but Ian says he will never get involved as Treasurer if he won't get involved with the project. So, Ian is also joining the team of volunteers on the street, whilst also looking after the finances and trying to seek funding to extend Street Pastors work.

Pete Goulding – Training Co-ordinator



Pete came to faith in Christ in his mid-teens at a small Pentecostal church in Bolton. At 21 he took over the youth leadership at the church. Five years later he was offered a position in Mid Wales where for the next 4-5 years he worked as a Youth Pastor for a local church and Area Schools Evangelist for a series of High Schools within the Powys area.

In 1993 he took over as National Director of Youth Alive Ministries and travelled the width & breadth of the UK as well as Europe, Canada and Hong Kong, teaching and developing youth workers & youth ministry.

In 1997 he came to Preston and became involved with the local church. In 2003 God powerfully spoke to him regarding planting a church in the East side of Preston. Pete planted Full Life Church in January 2004 and continues as its Senior Pastor

Ron Farrington – South Ribble Co-ordinator



Born and bred in Lancashire, Ron is married to Christine and they have 4 children, Paul, Kathryn, Ben and Stephen. In 1995 Ron felt God directing him to plant a church in Longton. A small group of committed families began to meet in each others homes and Longton Community Church was born. In addition to running the family farming business, Ron served as an elder of the church until September 2008 when he became employed as a full time pastor. Ron has a passion for people. He constantly strives to help them find restoration and to live full, complete God centred lives. Ron coordinates Street Pastors in the South Ribble area and works closely with the Police, social services, councils and local churches.

Nina Woodfield – Volunteer Co-ordinator & Street Pastor



Nina was born and brought up in Preston, is married to Bob, and has three sons, Ben, Alex (now married themselves) and Gareth, who still lives at home. Recent additions to the family include grandchildren Neve and Joshua. Nina first became interested in Street Pastors in the summer of 2005 whilst watching a news bulletin on North West Tonight which featured Street Pastors in Manchester. This led ultimately to becoming a volunteer Street Pastor on the Longsight Team for 18 months. Diagnosis of cancer put a temporary stop to this and her dream of Street Pastors coming to Preston. However, the unfolding events of 2008 have been an answer to prayer in more ways than one. When not creating documents and organising things for Preston Street Pastors, she works three days a week for a local company, enjoys taking her grandchildren clothes shopping (whether they want to go or not), likes skiing, and drinking coffee with friends. She is also trying to get to grips with putting photos on Facebook which could be a lifetime's work!

Contact Details for the Preston & South Ribble Project:

Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors
c/o Fulwood Free Methodist Church
Lightfoot Lane,
Fulwood, Preston,
Lancs. PR2 3LT
Phone: 01772 861597

Email: preston@streetpastors.org.uk

Project 1: St Georges & St Matthews area of Preston

Senior Street Pastors:

Maureen Brennan
Gavin Kenworthy
Ian Richardson
Nina Woodfield

Total team: 24 volunteers from 10 different churches going out every Friday night in teams of 6

Commissioning Service held Sunday 7th Dec 2008
Went live on the streets of Preston Friday 12th December 2008

Background to the project:

A note from the chairman:

"When I came back from bereavement leave in 2007, my wife and my prayer was ringing in my ears; 'God, let her death not be in vain.' But as a single dad to 4 kids, and working full-time as a pastor in a busy church, I simply prayed that God would organise my diary to lead me to the appointments he wanted me to have now that my time was restructured around my family. Almost immediately on returning to work, I had a meeting with Preston police who asked me, as part of the Preston Hope 08 leadership team, to represent the church in Preston to them. So began a journey that has led to the launch of Street Pastors in Preston.

There is a huge resource in our cities called the church. Here in Preston I simply asked the police and the city's neighbourhood management teams 'How can we serve?' Open hands and an open heart. The police, and the city council, all came back to us with a request for Street Pastors to work in a particular area of the city, just off the city centre, where there is a mix of residential properties, a thriving night-time economy, a large Asian and Muslim community with 3 mosques, and a growing problem of prostitution that has grabbed the headlines over recent months. The police and the city council simply said 'We know we can't solve this on our own, and having the early intervention in the community, from the community, that this Street Pastors project offers is something that fits within our city's strategy to make it a safer place to live.'"

Press Links:

Street Pastors projects:

[God's Cops Plan For City - Lancashire Evening Post](#)

[God Squad Patrol for Preston – Preston Citizen](#)

Pastors Hit Streets in Battle Against Crime – Preston Reporter (see attached pdf file)

Press Background: St Georges/St Matthews Area Profile:

[6th May 2008](#)

[26th August](#)

[15th September](#)

[1st October 2008](#)

Future Developments

As a Preston & South Ribble Project, following the launch of the first Preston project we are currently in discussion with South Ribble Police and the Preston force with a view to in 2009:

1. Securing funding to employ a development worker
2. Expanding Preston to 2 nights per week (Friday and Saturday)
3. Launching new projects across South Ribble areas
4. Assisting churches in Chorley and Skelmersdale with the development of projects