

A night out:

“My first night as a Street Pastor opened my eyes to a Reading I knew nothing about. For the most part it was fine - people were friendly and enjoying themselves and the weather was good. It was sad to see a few folk bedding down for the night in shop doorways, or any other shelter they could find. We helped one young women who was very drunk and unable to walk to the taxi. One real surprise was to sing Country and Western songs with a busker on Friar Street! Overall a humbling experience, reminding me again that none of us have a say about which side of the tracks we are born and how easily the choices we make can have a big impact on our lives. “There but by the grace of God.” (Roy Bishop)



The Stats so far ... we continue to grow and make a difference:

- 18 people have committed to our “Be 1 of the 100” initiative by giving £10 a month. (if you would like to give contact Matt).
- 52 Amazing Trained Volunteers from 22 different churches from across the Reading Area are now involved in the initiative.
- 9 Committed Prayer Pastors - **WE NEED MORE!!**
- 26 Prayer Partners.
- Chatted with over 2800 people.
- Calmed over 75 aggressive situations.
- Supported over 175 vulnerable people.
- Picked up over 640 glass bottles.
- Dealt with over 10 First Aid incidents.
- Prevented hypothermia by handing out over 50 Safety Blankets.
- Protected more than 155 pairs of bare feet by giving away flip-flops.
- Handed out over 20,000 lollipops, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour by boosting sugar levels.
- Handed out 100s of widgets to prevent drinks being spiked.
- Enjoyed volunteering over 1700 hours by caring, listening & helping those in need.

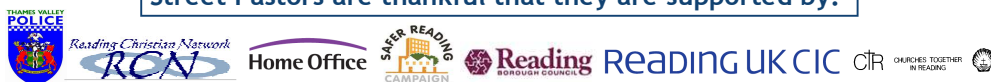


Contact Matt Hearn for more information:

Training begins in SEPTEMBER 2010

reading@streetpastors.org.uk | 0753 3325 504 | www.streetpastors.org.uk

Street Pastors are thankful that they are supported by:



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Street Pastors: Reading

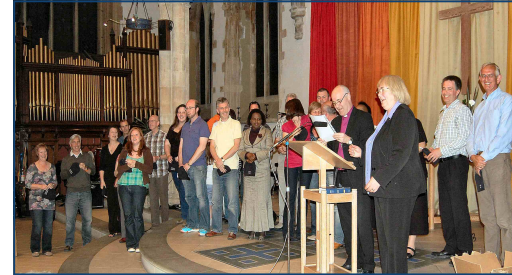
Summer Update 2010



CARING

LISTENING

HELPING



Welcome to our short update! Since the last we've trained another 25 volunteers, enabling us to cover Saturday nights. We've also been asked to get involved in other events: Youth parties, Reading Festival, Freshers' Week and being a part of various town Safety Forums ... all a testimony of how well the initiative is being received! Below are a few comments made by our partners.

Sgt Simon Wheeler says:

“Since the establishment of the Street Pastor scheme we've had exceptionally positive feedback regarding their work from both Police Staff, Door Supervisors and members of the community. The Street Pastors have become an integral part of the night-time economy in Reading Town Centre, and are seen as working partners who can be called upon by Police and Door Supervisors as and when situations arise where their presence is of benefit.

“Street Pastors have helped and had interactions with innumerable members of the public, having been able not only to offer their now famous lollipops and flip flops, but also First Aid and safe passage home to many whom they've met. I think it's highly commendable that Street Pastors are willing to give up their own time to help others in what can be a volatile environment in the small hours. I feel privileged to have been allowed to be part of the Street Pastors scheme's inception. Thames Valley Police will continue to offer its support to them and provide training for this most worthwhile scheme.”



BIDS Manager Guy Douglas says:

“Reading Street Pastors have added a gentle edge to the demanding process of managing the night-time economy of the town centre. During the passage of an evening their mature and compassionate presence gives reassurance to many young people. As BID Manager, I represent 400 businesses in Reading Business Improvement District. In order to sustain the economic success that Reading enjoys, it's important that the hospitality sector enjoys a positive perception. So by ensuring that people of all ages have safe and enjoyable experience of the town centre, Reading Street Pastors make a valuable contribution.”