



**& Taunton Street Pastors**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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9 November 2011.

## **A GRIEVING TOWN REMEMBERS**

A GRIEVING COMMUNITY will come together on Friday night for a vigil next to the scene of the M5 crash in which seven people were killed and dozens injured.

Relatives of people involved will be joined by Taunton residents, shoppers, members of the Police, Ambulance and Fire services, Church members and councillors exactly a week after the horrific accident.

The vigil, in Sainsbury's car park next to the motorway in Taunton, has been organised by Taunton Street Pastors after volunteers' met many people who spoke of their feelings in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy.

Street Pastors coordinator Adrian Prior-Sankey, said, "It was clear from the conversations with Street Pastors in the County town on Saturday that emotions were very raw and that people wanted to be able to do something to show their concern for all those affected.

"We are grateful to all the agencies and individuals who have helped put this community vigil together at short notice. The practical help and support being offered by so many statutory and voluntary bodies to ensure the safety and smooth running of the event is indicative of the depth of compassion generated by the tragedy which occurred on our doorstep last Friday."

Music will be provided by the South Western Divisional Youth Band of the Salvation Army and the vigil will include hymns, prayers and a time of reflection.

Archdeacon of Taunton Ven John Reed, the Revd Rod Corke, Vicar St Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton, and Councillor Steve Brooks, Mayor of Taunton Deane, will take part.

A period of silence will be kept at 8.25 pm in remembrance of those who lost their lives or have been affected by the incident exactly seven days before.

Archdeacon John Reed said: "We hope that this gathering will give the opportunity for compassion, comfort and love to be expressed and offered up in prayer."

Floral tributes will be laid on the bank next to the motorway.

The Street Pastor are very grateful to Sainsbury's for allowing the use of the car park and to 10 Radio for the loan of stage and studio facilities to ensure that everyone will clearly see and hear what is happening

More follows/

## **Notes to Editors**

Further details about Street Pastors locally and around the UK can be found at [www.streetpastors.co.uk](http://www.streetpastors.co.uk)

Further information is available from:

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- Taunton's Street Pastor scheme has over 60 volunteers involved directly and the backing of over 20 local churches from a broad spectrum of Christian faith and practice. Team members patrol the town on busy nights offering a listening ear, care and practical help without discrimination. There is no upper age limit and many of the older members are among those who young friends relate to best. For further details visit [www.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.streetpastors.org.uk)

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