



# Cambridge Street Pastors Quarterly Newsletter

Caring, listening, helping

January 2016

Dear Friends

A belated happy 2016! We have much to be grateful for from 2015 as shown by the statistics below. Please pray that we can continue to serve our Lord in this amazing, front-line role.

## Statistics

In 2015 Cambridge Street Pastors and NightLite

- provided more than 4000 volunteer hours between the patrols and NightLite (2014 approx 2700)
- picked up more than 8000 bottles (2014 6200)
- distributed 383 222 pairs of flipflops and 138 blankets (2014: 244 and 77)
- a problem unique to Cambridge – picked up 532 bikes (2014: 300). We might start recording just how many bike lights are switched off too!
- We recorded helping more than 445 people in some way or other towards getting home safely, from escorting them to a taxi to ensuring they had paramedic assistance and also recorded more than 1200 visitors to NightLite.

As we start 2016 we have 57 active volunteers across our 3 roles (Street Pastor, NightLite and prayer pastor). We are still short of volunteers on some nights due to people's availability or because at any time we have two or three people taking time out for all sorts of reasons, and we are very short of prayer pastors.

## Prayer Pastor role

Having a prayer pastor at the Street Pastor base at St A's is invaluable. I'd love to say 'indispensable' but unfortunately our prayer pastors are few and often the team goes out without this support. The basic role description is:

- In good health
- Able to stay up from 10pm to 4am and able to transport yourself to and from the city centre
- A Christian and regular church attendee (you will need a reference from your church leader)
- Willing to welcome the patrol back to base and help with refreshments

Every prayer pastor is very different. Some pray alone or in a couple; we would welcome small teams. One person will pray all night; others will pray as requested by the patrol when they call back in and use the time in between for their own work or reading. Each night is different. Some will only serve as prayer pastor, others will also serve as Street Pastors or NightLites. No training is necessary but prayer pastors are recommended to attend the basic Roles and Responsibilities course run by Ascension Trust and are welcome to attend any other training put on by CSP.

Could you advertise this need in your church notices? Suggested wording would be:

*Cambridge Street Pastors is seeking new prayer pastors to serve at our base in the city centre from 10pm to 4am. For more information, please contact [cambridge@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:cambridge@streetpastors.org.uk) 07588560090.*

## Awareness stall

We have a stall at ASDA at the Beehive Centre every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month for this year. If you'd like to help man this stall, please call Garry, or just drop by to say hello!

## Cash for the Community

We have been selected as one of the charities to benefit from the Cambridge Building Society's Cash for the Community £10,000 grant scheme. Tokens will appear in the Cambridge News from 15th February, so please encourage your church and friends to collect these for us. Every penny counts as we distribute more flipflops (£1 a pair) and blankets (£3.99 for two) as the years go by. Thank you!

## In the news at Christmas

Along with a positive time working with the 'Care Tent' – paramedics, St John's Ambulance, 254 Medical Regiment and the Police – over Christmas, we were in the news for a different reason as one of our street pastors was assaulted on New Year's Eve. Our volunteer is fine, still processing what happened. The assault was by someone well known to all the patrols as having a tendency to be verbally aggressive towards the Street Pastors; he was arrested and charged, and his bail conditions mean that he has been banned from the city centre until he appears in court. Despite this, he was in the city centre last Friday causing disruption and anxiety for the pastors on patrol. Fortunately incidents such as this are extremely rare, and the volunteers have been encouraged by the support they received from members of the public while the incident was happening.

### For Prayer:

- Please pray for man who carried out the assault on New Year's Eve who is currently awaiting his second court appearance. Pray for the police to have wisdom and consistency in dealing with this man when he breaks his bail conditions.
- Pray for diligence in the teams as they patrol, keep them together and watching out for each other.
- Give thanks for a positive and well attended seniors' meeting in January. One of the major issues for discussion were procedures regarding incidents such as that on New Year's Eve.
- Pray for a positive response to our appeal for more prayer pastors. Please consider putting a note into your church notices asking for volunteers - we can suggest wording if this would help. Please also continue to pray for opportunities to talk about our work across the city in any groups.
- Pray for Garry doing an assembly at University Technical College next Friday and give thanks for a positive reception at Netherhall (the students even laughed at Garry's jokes!). These talks raise awareness of what we do amongst those who may need our services.
- Pray for a positive 2016 for Cambridge Street Pastors – that we will send out patrols and provide NightLite as scheduled, will have healthy levels of recruitment, will continue to build a good reputation and relationship with the public and others working to keep the city safe, and will bring glory to God as we continue to serve Him every Friday and Saturday night.

Thank you for your support and prayers. We could not do this work without you.

Best wishes

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Cambridge Street Pastors

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