



STREET PASTORS SWINDON

*Caring, listening, helping
in the name of Jesus*

Street Pastors is a ministry to those in the pubs and nightclubs of our town, working to be a prayerful, listening and caring presence of Christians from local churches between 10pm and 4am. Street Pastors work in collaboration with local Churches, the Police and the Local Authority as an cross-denominational response to the night time economy of out town, engaging people where they are - on the streets.

Street Pastors is an initiative of **ASCENSION TRUST**
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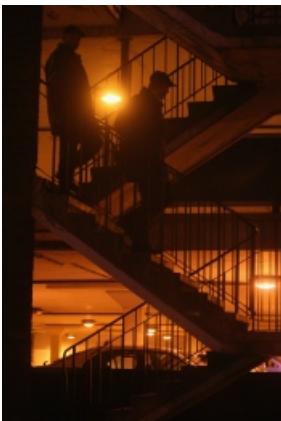


WHAT IS A STREET PASTOR?

A Street Pastor is someone from the Christian community who is willing to care, listen and help, particularly young people who have found themselves disenfranchised and/or marginalised from society, and who are willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (their perspective on life) and their location (where they hang out).

The Street Pastor is there to get to know the community, to build relationships and to be a listening ear, a helping hand and a prayerful presence - to listen, dialogue and offer practical help. It is not about preaching heaven and hell: it is about offering the love of Christ simply and practically to all who need. The Christian gospel is at the heart of all that we do, but not at the forefront of what we say.

Street Pastors work in teams of four, patrolling the streets in the vicinity of the pubs and clubs. Volunteers are expected to give a minimum of one night per month to the work, though many offer more.



BASE AND PRAYER SUPPORT

Other volunteers are needed to staff a local base for prayer, refreshments for the team and to manage an information base. Others are called to pray for the work and receive regular updates allowing their prayers to be well-informed.

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TRAINING

Training is given to all volunteers, including street safety, alcohol and drugs awareness, listening skills, knowledge of key statutory agencies and liaison with the Police. This training course is essential and volunteers will not be deployed until they are suitably trained.

WHO CAN BE A STREET PASTOR?

Street Pastors come from right across the Christian community without regard to denomination or churchmanship. A volunteer can be any Christian woman or man who:

- is 18 years old or over
- has been a committed part of a Christian Church or Christian Fellowship for more than a year
- obtains a positive reference from their Church Minister
- has successfully completed the Street Pastors training course
- has been checked by an enhanced CRB check by Street Pastors

NB COST: The cost of training, insurance, administration and the core Street Pastors Uniform is currently £250. Volunteers and/or their sending Churches are expected to raise this amount.



www.streetpastorsswindon.org.uk

"There are many young people who feel excluded by society. Street Pastors takes practical hope to the pavement for these individuals."

Revd J Edwards, General Director, Evangelical Alliance



"One of the reasons why we are so pleased to be working with the Ascension Trust on the Pastors programme is that this is building upon a long-term approach of engagement with people and is a community-led response ... We are totally convinced that this is a good programme that is making a significant difference."

Commander R Jarman, Metropolitan Police

"Because of the Police's role in law enforcement, people on a night out associate us with arresting people. Street Pastors is a more neutral presence. Ultimately it's about having another uniformed presence in the town."

Inspector I Bamber, Wiltshire Police



"Christians need to take responsibility for the community through prayer and be peacemakers on our streets."

Revd D Shoshanya, London Baptist Association



Supported by:



Home Office

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