



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 on Fridays and Saturdays. 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 our town, engaging people where they are - on the streets.

Street Pastors is an initiative of **ASCENSION**
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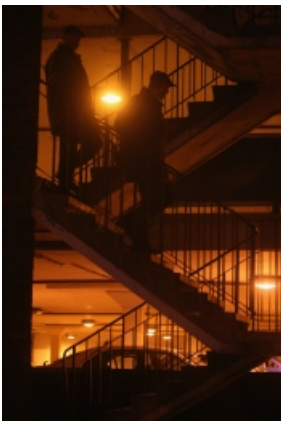
WHAT IS A STREET PASTOR?

A Street Pastor is someone from the Christian community who is willing to care, listen and help and who is 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 or recruiting people to come to church: it *is* about offering the love of Jesus 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. - Les Isaac

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



PRAYER PASTORS

We value the prayer support of many who, while themselves not Street Pastors, are a part of the team by their prayer support. Some pray through the night while Street Pastors are out on the streets. Others pray as they go to bed on Fridays and Saturdays. Prayer Pastors also gather for prayer on a monthly basis. We keep our Prayer Pastors well informed as to our work.

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TRAINING

Extensive 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, CRB administration and the core Street Pastors Uniform is currently £250. Volunteers and/or their sending Churches are expected to raise this amount.

Street Pastors Swindon only asks for these costs to be covered by those who successfully complete the course and are commissioned as Street Pastors.

Various options for paying this over a period of time can be discussed if necessary.

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, Director Micah Challenge

"Street Pastors are Volunteers who are out virtually every Friday and Saturday night and into the early hours of the morning. They have drive, determination and passion that the people of Swindon are helped and cared for, no matter what circumstances have led people to find themselves in crisis. Street Pastors ... has become an integral, important and much valued part of the workings of the Town Centre and our vibrant night time economy."



Supt K Pritchard - Wiltshire Police

"Street Pastors ... have been very instrumental in reducing the risks to young people during the hours of the night-time economy. Street Pastors offer an independent service, which does not have the label of "authority" and is therefore more acceptable to young people."

Richard Palusinski - Swindon
Community Safety Partnership



Supported by:



Home Office

STREET PASTORS SWINDON

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