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Doesn't time fly by.....



when you're having fun?

It just does not seem nearly three years since I first became interested in the amazing movement

we know as Street Pastors, or twelve months since we first launched ourselves on the streets of Bideford.

Since then, we have patrolled every Saturday night from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., some Friday nights and some special occasions (e.g., Bike Race, Reindeer Parade, Potwalloping).

Sometimes, deployment has seemed in the balance, usually due to a shortfall of Prayer Pastors, but we have not missed a single patrol.

The dedication of our Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors is astounding, quite a few of them doing more than they originally committed to.

We have seen our Lord at work in some beautiful ways in the lives of people we have met and in our volunteers too. (One's got married but we are not to blame for that!)

Overleaf you will find some statistics but they only tell part of the story; behind every one is a precious life who God loves and cares for.

We meet many people regularly and they have become friends we look for and who look out for us; sharing with us their joys and their woes.

We have been blessed prayerfully and financially as well, with organisations and individuals committing to support us and ensure that the work goes on.

What a team! And, in Jesus, what a team leader!

The Vision

My initial vision was for Street Pastors right along the Atlantic Coast. First came Ilfracombe then Bideford and Barnstaple.

Recently Bude and now Newquay started patrols.

Nearly there... just a few pockets of need to cover.

Watch this space.



Why?

Whether cleaning up broken glass, giving Flip Flops,

Lollipops, Water, First Aid, or offering friendly advice or a listening ear, it is all part of a service by which the Churches show God's love in a real and hurting world.

Caring, Listening and helping anyone who is vulnerable or in need.

The church on the streets because people matter.

Statistics - since June 2009

Street Pastor Hours	1834
Prayer Pastor Hours	1211
Calming Aggressive Situations	56
Supporting Vulnerable People	106
Anti-social Incidents Attended	58
Flip Flops given out	281
Water/Hot drinks	98
First Aid	27
Potential Weapons retrieved	2045
Faith Related conversations	238
Other significant conversations	1581
Recorded Contacts	2674

Street Pastor Commander

Major Martin Hill will be welcomed as Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army in the South West on 29 July. If you think that you recognise the name, that's because Martin helped set up the Aberdeen Street Pastors in 2007 (see the video on YouTube), and recently the new Street Pastors regional division in Scotland.

...and finally

"You're a legend" has become a common phrase heard on Bideford's Streets. Such sentiments and calls for "group hugs" are ways that the clubbers use to show Street Pastors an affection that we are delighted and humbled to receive.



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Crime Rates

Bideford Street Pastors continue to have a positive effect on reducing crime rates

Devon & Cornwall Police recently produced a report for the year ending 31 March 2010 referring specifically to the times we patrol and compared with the previous year:

All Crimes

Force Area -7.3% Bideford Town Centre -42.6%

Violence

Force Area -1.2% Bideford Town Centre -43.9%

Anti-Social Behaviour

Force Area -9.8% Bideford Town Centre -26.8%

Damage

Force Area -12.4% Bideford Town Centre -32.4%

The report continues: "It is important to stress that these police figures reflect only a part of the picture and do not show the increase in public reassurance..... They do not reflect the overwhelming appreciation from police officers, taxi drivers and licensees..... Nor do they reflect the personal impact on the lives of individuals...."

(Full report available from Duncan)



Bideford Street Pastors is a registered charity and run under licence from the Ascension Trust.

We need

Street Pastors to care, listen and help on the streets.

Prayer Pastors to look after the spiritual and physical needs of the Street Pastors whilst they work.

Friends to commit to pray and support the work from home.

Sponsors to help keep the funds flowing. Single donations and Standing Orders can be Gift Aided.

Please contact our Coordinator, Duncan Withall.