

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

EDITION

14

### Street Pastors are life savers!

At around 2am on a very cold Saturday night patrol in Newport earlier in the year, with the temperature around freezing, one of the Street Pastors caught a glimpse of a person almost hidden by bushes down by the river.

The team found a young woman who had slipped down the bank in her high heels and was slumped on the ground and completely unresponsive, probably due to the amount of alcohol or possibly other substances she had taken. She was only wearing a small, thin dress and was very cold.

The team kept her warm until an ambulance arrived and a relative was contacted after examining a mobile phone found further up the bank. The young woman was now safe, but if the team had not found her, it is unlikely anyone else would have seen her, hypothermia could have set in and she might not have survived.



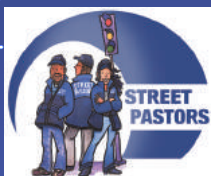
### Introducing Sarah



We're delighted to welcome Sarah Fifield to the staff team. Sarah, a former primary teacher, took on the role of School Pastors' Coordinator at the beginning of August, working with Medina, Carisbrooke and Ryde to continue developing the School Pastors initiative, building on the great work of Rebecca, Dan and Karen before her.

### Ten Years

We're ten this year, flip over to the back page for more about the amazing work of Street Pastors and School Pastors over the last decade, our birthday celebrations earlier in the year and how you can be part of what's next.



*love the Lord your God....love your neighbour as yourself (The Bible)*



**Celebrating 10 years**



This year we celebrated 10 years of Street and School Pastors serving the Isle of Wight. Our very first patrol went out on Friday 22nd May in Ryde, following a special service commissioning the first Street Pastors. Since that time, we've expanded into Newport and launched School Pastors, now serving Medina College, Carisbrooke College and Ryde Academy. We've had over 3,500 meaningful conversations over those years and dealt with over 1,000 tense/difficult situations which could easily have turned to violence without our interventions. The trustees would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone who has volunteered for, worked for, donated to and supported Isle of Wight Street Pastors. Above all we thank God for the opportunity to show his love on our streets and in our schools each week. We're looking forward to the next ten years!

Above: The first Isle of Wight Street Pastors were commissioned in May 2009

Right: Street and School Pastors and friends from the last decade gather to celebrate



## 3 WAYS TO HELP

**1 VOLUNTEER**

**2 PRAY 3 GIVE**

Our work only happens thanks to the support of many people who give time or money to ensure Street and School Pastors continue. If you can support us please get in touch or visit the website for more details. We're always looking for volunteer Street, School, and Prayer Pastors and currently for trustees and a treasurer too. We're also firm believers in the power of prayer and hope you can join us in praying for our volunteers and the people they help.

## Anniversary Year Blessings

Early in 2019 we learnt we weren't going to receive funding from a source we have relied on for several years. This meant the very real prospect of cutting back what we do if we couldn't secure alternative funding. This challenge was committed to much prayer. An appeal was made and very quickly several individuals, churches and other organisations made donations, including, most helpfully, some increases to regular giving. Within a few months we discovered that the 'funding gap' had all but been filled. We have since also secured new grant funding. With the grant and our dedicated regular donors, we can keep going financially into 2020. We still need to find more donors and funding in order to keep the level of service at least as it is, and even hopefully to increase it. The experience of 2019 has shown us that we can rely on God to provide for the work He has commissioned.



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[www.iowstreetpastors.org.uk](http://www.iowstreetpastors.org.uk)

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