Summer/Autumn 2011 Newsletter No. 4

Isle of Wight STREET PASTORS

bringing peace to the community

15 New Street Pastors Hit the Streets

On June 3rd 15 new volunteers joined the Street Pastors family having completed 8 weeks of training. The training programme includes alcohol and drug awareness, child protection, first aid, listening skills, police protocols, spiritual awareness and lots of carefully designed role play exercises. Each Street Pastor has to complete a total of 50 hours of training to equip them for the role.

The service was held at a packed Holy Trinity Church in Ventnor and was led by Archdeacon Caroline Baston. Chairman of the Isle of Wight Council, David Williams; Vice-Chair, Susan Scoccia; High Sheriff Susie Sheldon and Ventnor Mayor Steve Stubbings supported the event.

As well as commissioning the new recruits 15 volunteers graduated as Street Pastors after a year's excellent service to the community. In total there are now 52 volunteer Street Pastors, and 50 Prayer Pastors supporting them, drawn from over 30 different local churches.

The Street Pastors Team at the Commissioning

Ventnor Becomes Third Street Pastor Town

Ventnor has become the third town on the Island to benefit from regular Street Pastors patrols. A dedicated team now goes out on a Friday night once a fortnight, caring for people on the streets of the town centre and seafront. The introduction of Street Pastors to the town followed requests from local people to help address issues on the streets, and Isle of Wight Street Pastors are pleased to have been able to start meeting the needs of the local community. We have been very well received by local people and pub & restaurant owners.

Local councillors wish Street Pastors well as they head out for the first night in Ventnor

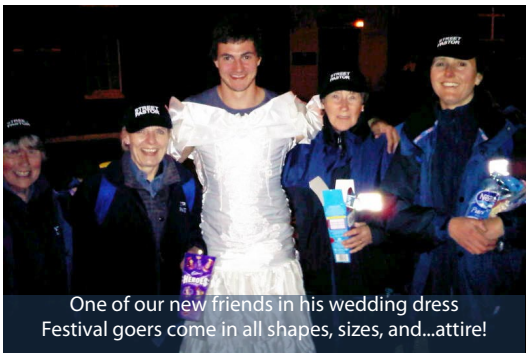
Teams continue to serve Newport and Ryde town centres every Friday night. A flexible team serves various Island towns one Saturday a month. In addition Street pastors can be found at various Island events including the Isle of Wight Festival, Cowes Week, Ryde Regatta and the annual scooter rally.

In just two years Street Pastors has grown from a scheme only operating in Ryde to regularly covering three Island towns – this growth has only been possible with the support of many dedicated volunteers and generous financial support from individuals and organisations.

Image courtesy of Lucy Gutteridge http://www.flickr.com/people/chimpasaurus/

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

Festival Fever



One of our new friends in his wedding dress
Festival goers come in all shapes, sizes, and...attire!

This year was the second time Street Pastors have been on duty during the Isle of Wight Festival. We were out on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, patrolling Fairlee Road and the town centre, and it certainly felt like we saw all 60,000 festival goers during the course of the weekend!

We had to deal with issues of alcohol abuse and aggression, reunite lost children with their parents and act as peace keepers in domestic disputes.

We gave away 700 bottles of water to rehydrate revellers and hundreds of chocolates to sweeten the evening and lighten the mood. One of the amazing things to watch was the way visitors warmed to us through the weekend, from initial suspicion to warm thanks and real appreciation of our work.

"I wish we had Street Pastors in our area"

Thanks for the Support

All the Street Pastors are volunteers, giving generously of their time to serve the local community, but there is still a significant cost to running Isle of Wight Street Pastors. We have been really blessed with a number of donations recently, including a generous donation from Churches together in West Wight, fundraising events including the Renaissance Choir and Bembridge coffee morning and the ongoing support of our regular givers. A huge thank you to all those who have donated or raised money on our behalf.

If you would like to support us you can donate via our website or sign up as a regular donor, giving £10 each month to keep Street Pastors out on the streets. More details on the website or just give David a ring.

Street Pastors Online

If you are online you can keep up to date with what we're up to, have a chat with us or let us know what you think of Street Pastors. We are on Twitter & Facebook and have our own website - all of which we try hard to keep up to date. We'd love to hear from you, so logon and say hello.

twitter.com/iowstreetpastor

facebook.com/iowstreetpastors

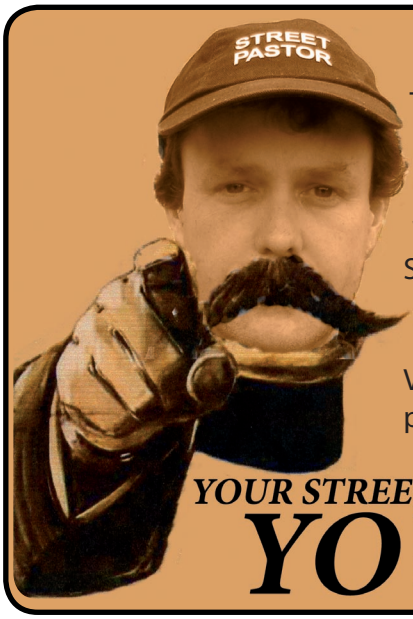
www.iowstreetpastors.org.uk

You can also find out about Street Pastors elsewhere in the UK and across the world at www.streetpastors.org.uk

Award from Police

We were delighted to receive a special award from the Hampshire Constabulary. The OCU Commander's congratulations were given to Isle of Wight Street Pastors:

"***in respect of your voluntary work on the Island which has led to a reduction in crime, a reduction in the fear of crime and the care of vulnerable people. Your work has prevented many people from becoming victims of crime or suffering from harm and has greatly assisted the Police on the Island.***"



The work Street Pastors do is clearly highly valued, and we get lots of requests to be out on the streets more often.

We are now recruiting for new volunteer Street Pastors to join us to enable us to start Saturday-night operations in Newport and Ryde and expand to every Friday night in Ventnor. If you would like to know more, please get in contact with David.

YOUR STREETS NEED YOU!

Supported by: Ascension Trust, Hampshire Constabulary, Isle of Wight Council

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