

Saffron Walden Street Pastor Update - November 2014

- We currently have 17 trained Street Pastors. Each Street Pastor patrolling in town about once per month.
- We have 14 Prayer Pastors who support the work week by week - praying together each Friday evening while the SPs are out in town.
- We have 4 churches in town who have committed to support the Street Pastor project (SW Baptist, Salvation Army, URC, Gold St.)
- Street Pastors come from Baptist Church, Salvation Army, Gold St. and St.Mary's, Saffron Walden.
- We have been out every Friday night from 13th September 2013 and did an extra shift on Christmas Eve - a very busy night in Saffron Walden.
- We receive a warm welcome from people in the town Friday by Friday. People are happy to stop and have a chat. The young people, particularly enjoy engaging with us.
It has been good to get to know people in our community.
- We have got to know the staff working in the town's pubs, restaurants and shops. They are very welcoming and show an interest in our work.

Things we have assisted with:

- Walking young 2 young women (on separate occasions) home - they had become separated during the evening.
- We have given out several pairs of flip flops to women who find it difficult to walk in their shoes at the end of a night.
- We have given out foil blankets to people who are cold at the end of the night.
- We have given rain ponchos to those who have come out without coats.
- We regularly give out lollipops and fruit pastilles - these are popular with the youngsters and have been effective in helping calm down people.
- We have been instrumental in helping to disperse crowds leaving pubs following parties.
- We helped someone whose car had broken down.
- We helped an elderly gentleman who had just had his window smashed by a passing youth. We waited with the man until the police arrived, we made him a hot drink and boarded up his window. He was very appreciative.
- We witnessed a young man collapse as he left one of the pubs. We assisted him along with the local pub manager until the paramedics arrived - they had to work on him for over an hour before they took him to hospital.
- We were able to assist a group of youngsters as they left a party in town and gave them foil blankets to keep warm, bottles of water and sick bags!
- We have been able to spend time with people who simply just want to talk.
- Many parents have expressed gratitude that we are out on the streets for their children.

- The youngsters regularly express their thanks that we are out there for them - we frequently hear, 'We love you Street Pastors!'

It has been mentioned that we may work together with St. John's Ambulance on special event nights, such as, Fireworks, Christmas Eve, Christmas shopping evening etc. This maybe something we look into in 2015.

We are also now part of the Town Link scheme and have our own 2 way radio. This will enable us to keep in close contact with pubs + restaurants. They currently have our mobile phone number but as phone coverage is patchy in Saffron Walden the radios should be more effective.

Uttlesford District Council and the Police have asked whether Street Pastors will be setting up in other areas of Uttlesford but we have explained to them that it would need people in those areas to express an interest and set up their own Street Pastor team.

We are extremely grateful to the local Churches, Town and District Councils + the local Police who have been supportive and encouraging to us as Street Pastors. The local Town and District Councils continue to show an interest and Street Pastors have been invited to speak at community events. This is much appreciated.

This year we are looking to recruit more Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors from the local churches.

Saffron Walden Street Pastor Team