

Cullompton Street Pastors - to Listen, care and Help.

2 years of operations!

Since June 2014, Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors have given over 4,500 “people hours” of service in Cullompton: 3 or 4 on the streets, and 2 or 3 praying back at ‘base’, at the Baptist church. We’ve made over 3,000 contacts with people, about 400 of which could be said to be “in depth” conversations with people; we’ve picked up abandoned glasses and bottles – some broken and hazardous; we’ve litter-picked (!in quieter moments!), and contributed to a 14.3% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour calls to the Police during the hours we’re on the streets. Calls to police and ambulance have been avoided by us being around, meaning more time for other emergencies.



Street Pastors are well received and people genuinely want to talk to us. We have been able to help in many situations where folk have been vulnerable and some examples include:-

- a man using alcohol because he was depressed about his job – Street Pastors listened and helped him through
- A lad abandoned by his “mates” was too drunk to stand so 2 Street Pastors escorted him home
- several fights interrupted – the Prayer team’s influence is amazing – the Lord seems to respond particularly to their prayers
- preventing complications of a young girl’s panic attack
- very drunk girl escorted to safety
- drunken lad lying in the street – we cleaned him up and stood him up, while he recovered
- attending a man who had smashed a window with his head!
- Listening to a man who had been bereaved
- Attending pubwatch meetings



We are a reminder to people that God loves each one of them and has the power to change lives.

Street & Prayer Pastors come from all Christian denominations, working together. We will need a recommendation from a church leader, but, if you’re interested in this challenging adventure in faith, please call Martin Smith 01884 32315, or Elaine Manktelow 07914 848070

Cullompton Street Pastors - to Listen, care and Help. 2 years of operations



Reflecting a little on the last year, we've had opportunities to fulfil the promises we made when we were commissioned in 2014.

YES: we have been showing love and care

YES: we've had a faithful, regular group of prayer pastors and we know we've been a prayerful presence on Cullompton's streets

YES: we have definitely found ourselves working well with the police and local hostelry proprietors!!

I have been continually made aware that God provides and is in control. I have been amazed that we have managed to cover every Saturday night through the Summer – we are a small group and generally have only just enough members at present to cover each weekend of a month, leaving no space for sickness or holidays! There were 2 weekends in July and August that looked distinctly lacking in cover but God provided- even last minute on one of those occasions!! This also reminds me that HE is even more interested in this work than we are.

There have been many occasions where it has been our SP men who have had the opportunity to listen whilst another man – usually 'under the influence' – has poured out his heart – even crying, on occasions.

You can see that it is very worthwhile to be out in Cully on a Saturday night, surrounded by people who have made very different life choices to us. They are usually drunk, smoking or 'high'. We, on the other hand, are usually a bit cold and fighting off tiredness at 1am – both the SPs and the PPs back at base. It is a privilege and hugely rewarding to feel that you are making a difference

for someone – a difference that pleases God’s heart more than even your own.
Please feel free to join us!!

Cullompton Street Pastors - to Listen, care and Help. 2 years of operations



Another year of hard work and of really positive attitudes from a small but effective team. I am amazed that, with only 15 Street Pastors and 12 Prayer Pastors to work 4 weeks a month – sometimes 5 – we have still managed almost 100% presence on a Saturday night. It is sacrificial, to be out until 2.30am some weeks, and then to still manage to fulfil duties at church the next morning.

There has never been a week where someone has phoned at 7pm on a Saturday to say they couldn’t fulfil their duty that night. There is a willingness by some team members to step in and serve at short notice, which is really great.

If I had to highlight what I see as the next ‘challenge’ for Cullompton Street Pastors, it would have to be around Mental Health. These issues are a growing concern in our nation and we are seeing more evidence of this when we’re out and about on Saturday nights. Did you know that 1 in 3 people will experience mental health difficulties in their life? A team member has spoken to me recently about their concerns on this subject and they used the phrase: “part of our bread and butter” about it, meaning it is now a regular, expected part of Street Pastor service. We need to extend our understanding about mental health problems and to remind ourselves that these folk also need our non-judgemental love and helpful understanding.

It’s also been another year of making a difference to the crime figures! Comments from Adrian Legg, our present police *Neighbourhood Beat Manager* for Willand, Halberton & Cannonsleigh, Upper & Lower Culm, Cullompton Town and Outer Cullompton & Bradninch.

We all appreciate your efforts in keeping people safe, reducing crime and disorder and I fully realise that you often have a calming influence on revellers. Your efforts save the police and other services a lot of work and I wouldn’t want that to change. At present I’m confident that your discretion is correctly used and that you call us when it’s needed, and the product of the effort is a reduction in recorded crime/disorder.

...That’s a lot to be thankful for!

