



STREET NEWS

Hertford & Ware

No.2 January 2010

From the Coordinator

One cold Friday evening as we walked down Railway Street into Hertford we passed a couple who we greeted. A few seconds later I heard someone calling to us and turned around to see lady, who I would estimate to be in her 30's, running after us. She wanted to know what we were doing? When we explained that we were from local churches and were there to care listen and help she and her partner were clearly delighted. They thanked us profusely for doing what we were doing, and then continued on their way!

This is a pattern that has been repeated time and again since the Commissioning Service on the 2nd October saw Street Pastors venture out onto the streets of Hertford & Ware for the first time. We have generally gone out on a Friday Night - that represents 13 patrols and more than 225 volunteer hours! This included a Halloween Patrol too! We have an observer programme and were delighted that Linda Haysey, East Herts Councillor and Mark Prisk MP for Hertford and Stortford when they joined us early in December.



You too can join us as an observer. Please contact the Coordinator.



Looking ahead, we need to recruit more Street Pastor volunteers as we do not have enough to have teams of 4 out at least once every weekend. There are opportunities for service on Thursday and Saturday nights. One lady was particularly concerned about the children in Ware, who seem to congregate late afternoon and early evening.

None of this is possible without prayer. We have a prayer team that is faithful and growing slowly. You can support us without going on the streets.

Thank you too for the financial support, it is much appreciated.

Information Evening

If you are interested in

- Becoming a Volunteer Street Pastor
- Joining the prayer team
- Or anything else about Street Pastors

Please join us at 7:30 for coffee with an 8:00 pm start, on the 9th February 2010 at the United Reformed Church, Cowbridge, Hertford, SG14 1PG

Programme will end no later than 9 pm!

Please contact Rick on 07986 996 429 or email

hertfordandware@streetpastors.org.uk

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Street Pastors Inaugural Conference

The first Street Pastors conference was held in London in November 2009, and was attended by more than 500 Street Pastors from around the country. Among a range of high profile speakers, was Boris Johnson, Mayor of London. He praised the Street Pastors work in transforming the capital. The following is an extract from a news report on www.christianitytoday.com



He said: "We can't just transform the physical infrastructure because that's not what really counts. What counts is the human capital of London.

"It's the young people of London that we need to invest in if this city is to lengthen its lead as the greatest city on Earth. Street Pastors are already doing what you can and I think it is high time London knew more about what you did and the whole of London followed your example."

Mr Johnson admitted that red tape was making it "too difficult to do good" for many organisations, including Street Pastors, but said he had no difficulty with Christian organisations sharing their faith through their work. Faith groups who want to slip in the odd cogent message in favour of salvation, I have absolutely no problem with that. Why not!" he quipped. "That's one of the things I think has been going wrong in the last few years - we've got a slightly politically correct super-sensitivity to anything remotely cast as religious advocacy. I've got no difficulty with it whatsoever."

Street Pastors Diary

These are extracts from the Senior Street Pastors report on various nights over the past few months.

We were told us that a girl had been assaulted at the pub earlier; the doormen at the at the pub alluded to it when we spoke to them, but naturally played it down.

The main incident for us was around 01:00/01:15, when a doorman from the pub asked us to help a lady who was very much the worse for wear and rejecting his assistance. She turned out to be mid/late 20s, from a village about 12 miles away. We helped her whilst she was sick, and calmed her down enough to discover that she thought her friends had left her, but that she lived with her parents (possibly just mum?). Using the girls mobile we rang her mum, who wasn't particularly interested in coming out to get her, but led us to find out more about the party she was with, and the doorman was able to find a couple of girls from the group to come out. They had a taxi booked to take them all home at 02:00, and once she had straightened out a little one of the staff at the pub found somewhere inside where she could wait quietly, with a friend, in the warm. Once we were happy that she was OK and safe we left them to it, having previously been expecting to wait with her until the taxi arrived.

One young man asked for a pamphlet on cannabis, which he took away to read.

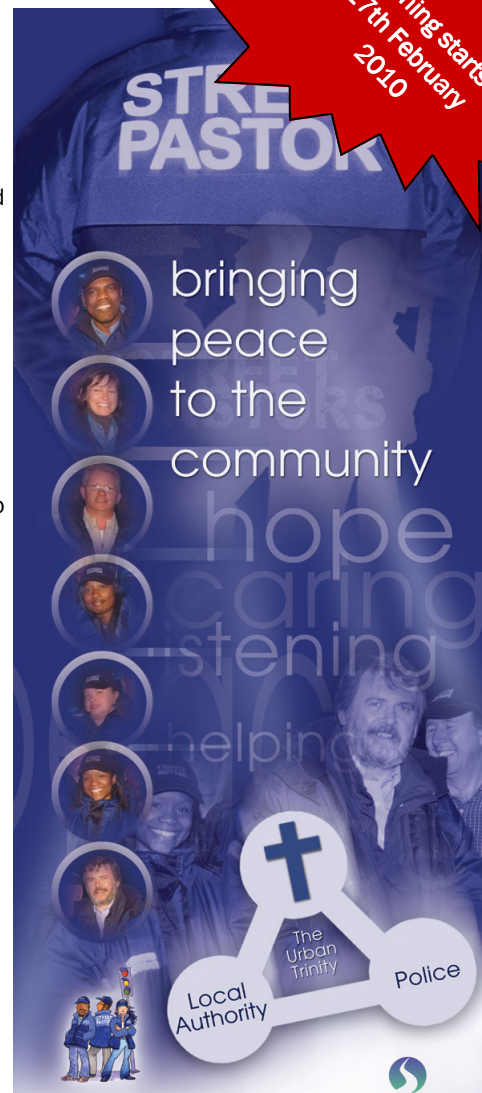
About 01:00 spoke with two girls, about 17 years who greeted us like long lost friends - relationships are growing. Chatted generally. Seemed to be part of a larger group of teenagers, which had split into smaller groups and were rather noisy around one of the intersections in town. Finally after a 30 minute walk we headed back to the car at about 1:45

to go home. As I drove past the crowd of teenagers (mentioned above) a fight broke out. I drove round the corner out of sight and called the police as I was alone and in my Street Pastor uniform I could not approach directly.

We spoke to two young girls, white c. 15/16 yrs who wanted a taxi and explained to them that they needed to phone a minicab company or go to the taxi rank, they couldn't try to get in a taxi unbooked. They were very sweet and grateful.

We encountered a young girl in real distress, obviously very much the worse for wear. She was being cared for by a friend, sensible, sober, who was calling her own Mum to come and pick them both up. We hung about until we were sure that contact had been made and were about to move on when a lad approached and set the girl off crying again. It turned out that she had somehow lost her shoes and was wearing some boy's shoes which the lad was trying to reclaim - a real opportunity for Jesus flip-flops! A Street Pastor did her Prince Charming act while quite a crowd gathered to watch, providing an opportunity for us to explain what we were about, but also attracting attention. While this was happening a Police van with three policemen came up and stopped to see what was going on. It was really encouraging that a 'thumbs-up' from the Street Pastors was enough to satisfy the police that the situation was under control and that they had no need to get involved.

Contact:
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Meet a Pastor...

Name:
Enid Bailey



Occupation:
Retired but busy ... parent, grandparent, Ware Local Councillor ... but most importantly trying to be His servant ... this is probably first.

Age:
73

Favourite 1-liner:
Oh what a to-do!

Most embarrassing moment:
I don't really get embarrassed - if I fall over I laugh ... unless it hurts...