



## WINCHESTER STREET PASTORS

Street Pastors is one of the ways in which the Churches Together in Winchester are responding to the problems of late-night drunkenness and disorder in the city. We offer reassurance, safety and support to all people working in or enjoying our city's night time economy by caring, listening and providing practical assistance. We are an independent charity, under the Ascension Trust, and work closely with the local Police, Winchester BID and Winchester City Council. Nationally, there are almost 300 Street Pastor initiatives and a handful overseas. Thankfully, Winchester isn't very wild at night, but our teams lower tensions and have wonderful conversations with the people we meet!

Our volunteers from 15 churches in and around Winchester receive full training before joining one of eight teams of between three and six Street Pastors. Teams take out



flasks of hot water and sachets of soup and hot chocolate for anyone in need of a hot drink. We also give out flip flops for those whose high heels are 'killing' them, and lollies for anyone who says 'please'. We also look after those who are the worse for wear, and help if people have lost their wallet or phone, or missed the last train. Two dedicated Prayer Pastors remain at the base, praying for the team, the city and all

that is happening that evening. Our base is the wonderful Pastoral Centre at St Peter's Church. Thank you all – we appreciate you hugely!

Late teams (in non-Covid times) patrol between 10 pm and around 3.30 the following morning. In the lighter months each year we also patrol the parks and gardens outside the city centre on Friday evenings in pairs, aiming to meet the under 18s.

We like to say that Street Pastors are **THE** church on the streets. We draw our volunteers from across the denominational spectrum and patrolling with people from churches other than one's own is a real joy, as we each bring something different to the 'mix'.



We are always looking for new volunteer Street and Prayer Pastors. If you would like to know more, learn how you can support us, or would like to volunteer with us, contact:

**Parish contact: Don West. Or contact the Co-ordinator,**

**Mark Hibbert-Hingston [winchester@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:winchester@streetpastors.org.uk) or 07740 288654**

[streetpastors.org/locations/winchester](http://streetpastors.org/locations/winchester) or social media under 'Winchester Street Pastors'

