

Winchester Street Pastors

Do you want to join a friendly
organisation dedicated to helping the
local community?

Are you a team player?

A good listener?

A member of a church?

Maybe this is for you.



*Click above to view this video extract from BBC1 Songs of Praise that features our very own
Breda talking about Street Pastors, in the Pastoral Centre*

also, Search and view 'Knights of Winchester' on YouTube



Street Pastors & Prayer Pastors

Did you know – The Pastoral Centre is used by the **Prayer Pastors** to pray for the city of Winchester and its people every Friday and Saturday night of the year; also, for the **Street Pastors** who are patrolling the streets.

How wonderful it is that our Church is involved in this way.

The Street Pastor initiative is an interdenominational network of Christian charities operating worldwide, and in the UK there are around 300 groups in operation. Here in Winchester, Street Pastors have been operating for over 10 years. In the past number of years our base has been St. Peter's Pastoral Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester. The membership is drawn from a wide range of local churches, and we currently have around 80 volunteers. Our local group is an independent charity, under the umbrella of the Ascension Trust, and we work closely with the local police, Winchester BID ('Business Improvement District') and Winchester City Council.

As Street Pastors we come across the hidden side of Winchester: rough sleepers, beggars and people who are the worse for wear and find themselves in difficulty. During the evening the Street Pastor teams provide practical help and support including: provision of hot drinks, handing out flip-flops to women no longer able to wear their high heels, and picking up broken glass to prevent injury. Lollypops, of course, remain the most warmly received. Equally important, we also provide emotional support, we listen to all those who want to talk about a wide range of personal and religious issues. Every night we find our presence welcomed by nearly everyone we come across and we are thanked by the people we help and their friends. We have many wonderful conversations with the people we meet. We believe this is more important than ever given the challenging times of the past two years. However, we do not preach, rather we spread the gospel through our actions – we like to say that Street Pastors are THE church on the streets.

Street Pastors engage with people on the streets of Winchester on Friday and Saturday evenings, with teams covering 10pm to around 3am the following morning. We also operate on Friday in parks and other non-city centre areas from 6pm to 8pm. All Street Pastors must be a practicing member of a church in or around the Winchester area and be over 18 years old. All members receive thorough training lasting six days spread over three weekends, before joining one of our operational teams. Each team consists of between three and six individuals, and always includes a mix of men and women. When operating each team forms itself into two parts, one group being present on the streets of Winchester and the other remaining at base (being St. Peter's Pastoral Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester) as Prayer Pastors, praying for the team, the city and all that is happening that evening.

Although we already have around 80 volunteers in Winchester, we are always looking for more Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors to help us in our mission to support the local community.

If you would like to join us, we offer potential members the opportunity to join a working team as an 'observer' to see up close how the team works and if it would suit. As included at the start of this We also have videos you can watch at home to get a flavour of what we do – see Songs of Praise video - and YouTube: search 'Knights of Winchester'. Recruits have the option to work with a team that operates either Friday or Saturday evening.

If you would like to know more, learn how you can support us, or would like to volunteer please contact:

Parish Contact: Breda Mahony. Contact via St Peter's Parish Office.

Winchester Street Pastor Co-ordinator: Mark Hibbert-Hingston at email:

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Website: www.streetpastors.org/locations/winchester

Facebook: Winchester Street Pastors