



Call 2 Pray

Stirling Street Pastors

Caring, Listening and Helping

Scottish Charity No SC042163

April/May 2017

We are coming to the end of our current training course and are delighted that we can look forward to 7 new volunteers joining our teams very soon. This is the largest number to have joined in one year since the original group in 2009. We are now looking forward to their Commissioning on 12th May. (See *back page for details*.) Thank you to all of you who prayed for our Recruitment Programme. We are excited to see the way God has answered.

These 7 bring us closer to our target of 32 active volunteers and will allow us to return to a full rota of 8 teams of 3 or 4 covering every Friday and Saturday in a 4 weekly cycle. However, a few of our volunteers are having to take time out for medical or other reasons, and some will be moving away from Stirling over coming months so we need to begin to think and pray about our next Recruitment Drive in the autumn!

Each team is led by a 'Senior' or Team Leader. We need a minimum of 8, but ideally would like to have a few other folk who would be willing to be reserves. Currently a few of our volunteers are considering accepting this responsibility.

In February we mentioned that we needed to develop relationships with new personnel in both Stirling Council and the Police. Recently Anne, our Chair, and Murdo, our Coordinator, had a very encouraging meeting with the new police Area Commander, Lynn Ratcliff. We haven't yet managed a similar meeting with a representative of Stirling Council, but hope to achieve that soon.

Our Management Away Day in March was a good time to deepen friendships and consider the way we function as a group. Some new ideas were sparked which we hope to develop in coming months.

Easter reminds us of the extent of God's love for His world, and that includes the people of Stirling. Please continue to pray for us as, in His name and on behalf of the churches of Stirling, we seek to share God's love with those we meet when on patrol.

Give thanks for:

- our 7 new volunteers
- the recent training course which they all attended so faithfully and found so helpful
- an excellent meeting with Lynn Ratcliff, the Police Area Commander – she is so positive and appreciative of the work of SPs
- the many words of appreciation we receive when on patrol – from those on a night out, taxi drivers, door staff, police and CCTV staff
- our Prayer Partners – each volunteer is required to have at least two so we should have 14 new folk praying with us soon 😊
- those who support us financially

Pray for:

- our teams to adjust and work well together as new volunteers are added
- God to use our patrols to be a blessing to many in our city as we 'Care, Listen and Help'
- our volunteers struggling with health issues personally and in their families
- opportunities to speak about our faith and for sensitivity to know when to offer to pray with someone
- our long term goal of 32 active volunteers and 10 or more Seniors, including reserves
- plans for our Commissioning event – that this will be a huge encouragement to our new volunteers, their friends and those from their churches who come along to support them
- strong links with our local churches - leading to new folk praying for us, giving through 'Be One of the Hundred' or considering training
- wisdom as we seek new sources of income
- a meeting to be set up with a representative of Stirling Council soon so that we can once again have a close partnership with the Council

For further Information about Stirling Street Pastors contact: Murdo Murchison (Co-ordinator)

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Snapshots from the Streets

All names have been changed. When we pray, the Lord will know who we are praying for!

Fri Feb 3. We met Roy at the bus station. He was recovering from serious drug addiction, now in a programme, and very appreciative of the network of support including the Forth Valley Community Programme. We prayed with him and gave him a New Testament.

(Recently it was suggested we carry a New Testament in our pocket and pray for the opportunity to give it away! ☺)

Fri Feb 3. At 3.00am we got a call from CCTV about a young man near the railway station who was barely able to walk and was hanging over the barrier above the dual carriageway. We found him and two of the team went to help him while the other two stayed across the road watching and praying. Ben was incoherent, floppy and maybe having hallucinations. It took a while but gradually his condition improved. He made contact with a friend and we walked him to Murray Place where they met up. The CCTV operator was convinced he was a "tragedy about to happen" and grateful we kept him safe.

Sat Feb 4. We were called by one of the pubs to a young man leaning on the corner. He looked drunk, but it turned out he had left his mobile in the taxi on the way into town and was afraid to go back home to face his mum! The two friends who had come with him into town had abandoned him. It took us over an hour to convince him to take a taxi home and phone the police in the morning.

Fri March 3. When the clubs closed, the crowd dispersed peacefully then we found Iona on a seat in Friar Street very upset as she had lost her coat with her flat keys. We tried to persuade her to phone someone to help her but she insisted that there was no-one. She ran off at a fast pace but we caught her up. We then phoned the police to see if they could help her get into her flat. A police car arrived very quickly and the Sergeant was a neighbour of her mother so knew Iona and she immediately calmed down. As we were walking back another police car stopped which was the one that had been called!! God was definitely in that situation.

Sat March 4. We had some interesting conversations outside Dusk. One was with a young Polish couple who were very concerned for their daughter, Wendy, who was going for heart surgery the following week. The parents were really pleased to be have somebody to talk to about their anxieties.

Fri March 10. It was late when we found Rose sitting on some steps with an older guy, her cousin. She was in a terrible state because she'd lost her pal, Ruth, and she had Ruth's phone. She'd phoned Ruth's home and her Mum was raging at her that they'd got separated. We asked CCTV to look for a girl on her own and spoke to the police. Rose kept frantically texting various friends looking for Ruth. Eventually we persuaded Rose and her cousin that they weren't achieving anything by sitting out in the cold. The best thing was to go home. The police advised that if Ruth didn't make contact in the morning her Mum would need to report her as a missing person. They headed off to the taxi rank and we headed back to base at just after 4am.

Commissioning Event

Friday 12th May at 7.30 for 8.00pm

in Fubar

Murray Place, Stirling

Speaker: Rev Sandy Gunn

on behalf of Ascension Trust, Scotland

Everyone Welcome!

If you received 'Call2Pray' through your church and would like to receive a personal copy by email in future, please contact: Susan Rushton, Prayer Co-ordinator: johnsusannrushton@gmail.com

Our Annual Review 2015-16 is now available on our website under 'Reports'.

'Be One of the Hundred' forms can be downloaded from our website under 'Support us'.

stirling.streetpastors.org.uk