



# Call 2 Pray

## Stirling Street Pastors

*Caring, Listening and Helping*

*Scottish Charity No SC042163*

June /July 2017

There was a real buzz in Fubar last month when our Volunteers gathered with friends, family and Prayer Partners for our Commissioning Service. Thank you for your prayers. It was a joyful occasion and quite moving to witness 7 of our 8 new volunteers standing in a row to make their vows. A representative from their churches then stood behind each of them for the prayer of Commissioning. They have now been allocated to their teams and are bringing new energy and enthusiasm to our work.

Before that, at the end of April, another special event took place in the Co-op at Causewayhead when our Coordinator and two volunteers were presented with a cheque for £1,636.32 from the Co-op Community Fund. Thank you to those who contributed. We have also recently been notified of a substantial donation coming our way soon.

We are grateful for the way the Lord provides for our needs, sometimes in surprising ways. We would, however love to see more people committing to support us on a regular basis through our 'Be One of the Hundred' programme. *(See back page for details.)*

As mentioned in our last 'Call2Pray', our Management Committee are currently investigating ways to develop our governance structure to better serve our growing organisation and to conform to current Charity regulations. Our Secretary and Treasurer have both indicated that they wish to stand down at our AGM in October. We would particularly like to identify a new Treasurer soon so that there can be a smooth transition between Treasurers.

As well as new folk joining our group, we are saying farewell to some of our student volunteers who will be leaving Stirling this summer. We are also losing Stuart Davidson who is moving to Paisley. Stuart was involved with the launch of Stirling Street Pastors; was a team leader from the beginning, and our first Chair. We will miss each of these folk but are delighted that some are already making plans to join other Street Pastor Initiatives.

### Give thanks for:

- a truly joyful Commissioning Service
- the generous donation from the Co-op, the promise of a large donation, and all the other gifts we've received, large and small
- Stuart's contribution as a founder member, team leader, chair and spiritual adviser
- the opportunity we have to serve our Lord on the Streets of Stirling and the many folk who appreciate our presence
- good relations with the police, CCTV staff and door staff

### Pray for:

- our patrols - that we will continue to faithfully represent Christ on our streets and have many opportunities to share His love
- our new volunteers settling into their teams - that teams will gel and work well together, supporting and encouraging each other
- our new volunteers inviting folk to be their Prayer Partners - each volunteer is required to have at least 2 Prayer Partners
- more people to 'Be One of the Hundred'
- wisdom, energy and patience for the Management Committee as they develop and strengthen our governance structures
- a new Treasurer and a new Secretary to be identified soon
- Murdo, our Coordinator, as he deals with the administrative side of his role and especially as he seeks to draw up new rotas with folk joining, others leaving and others on holiday
- those SPs moving on - that they will find new areas of service, with other Street Pastor initiatives or elsewhere, and be able to continue to use and develop the training and skills learned in Stirling Street Pastors

*If you received this letter through your church and would like to receive a personal copy by email in future, please contact*

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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 March 31.** *Contrasting scenes! We were a team of 4 so worked as two pairs. On one side of Friar Street 2 of us listened as a middle aged man, Jim, shared about his family circumstances and how his faith helps him cope with changes that have brought him sadness. They then prayed for him. Meanwhile, across the street the other 2 sat on a wall watching and praying for their colleagues. They had some banter with a group of friends on a night out. When the group moved on the Street Pastors emptied a bottle they'd left and put it in the bin. They were a bit embarrassed when one of the group came back looking for it! Fortunately he took it with good humour!*

**Fri April 7.** We met Kevin and his son Declan in Friar Street and they were pleased to accept coffee and shortbread (thanks to Groundhouse). We also gave them a space blanket as they were planning to sleep out.

**Fri April 28.** We had a good conversation with Richard who had been in the city centre on a work outing and was waiting for his wife to pick him up. He was curious about who we are and how SPs operated. We also talked to Bhavin who was visiting Scotland from Mumbai and Ekram,, an accountancy student from Palestine, who came up to us outside Dusk to ask who we were.

**Sat May 6.** While one of our team was chatting with a young woman who had accepted a cup of coffee from us, William approached us. He clearly wanted to tell us his story. His girlfriend had left him 6 months ago and he was up on the Wallace Monument that afternoon, trying to take his own life. We listened to him and prayed for him.

??? Could YOU ???

## 'Be One of the Hundred'

We are looking for 100 people to commit to giving £10 a month to support the work of Stirling Street Pastors.

Download a form from our website or contact our Coordinator who can post one to you

Contact details opposite.

**Fri May 19.** *It started raining after midnight and the umbrellas were well used! We met Bashar outside Dusk at 1.40am. He is a Muslim student from Kuwait who was very upset about the situation in the Middle East. We spoke to him for some time and then prayed with him and he prayed in Arabic!! Later we met him coming out of Dusk - again very emotional. We eventually persuaded him to get back to the Uni. and walked with him to the ATM and then the Taxi rank where he was fortunately reunited with some friends.*

**Fri May 26.** We're not the only folk showing care on our streets! Jack, one of our regular rough sleepers, looked miserable when we first saw him but perked up later and gave Mohammed, the flower seller, £1 to encourage him on his way! (He didn't want a rose!) We also spent a long time with a Polish farm worker who had been put off Edinburgh - Perth train for drinking and was planning to sleep rough. We got a jacket from our base that had been donated (a perfect fit!) and escorted him to bus station on the advice of one of the doorman who reckoned that was a safe place for him overnight.

**Sat May 27.** *At about 3am we had a very interesting talk with Alex, who believed that Christianity and its laws were important to improve society, but Jesus or a relationship with Him was outside his understanding. His daughter attends the homework club that one of the Volunteers in the Team helps with so there may be the opportunity to have further conversations with him.*

For further Information about Stirling Street Pastors contact: Murdo Murchison (Coordinator)

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