



Street Pastors Swindon
Ascension Trust
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Date: 23rd April 2010 Your ref: Our ref: KP/YEK

Reply contact name is **Superintendent Kier Pritchard**

To our dedicated Street Pastor Team,

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincere thanks to the members of the Street Pastors Team. It has been recognised and appreciated by many staff from Wiltshire Police, the time and commitment that the Street Pastors give to the Night Time Economy.

The scheme was initially set up in Swindon late 2007, to address urban problems, engage with people on the streets, to care, listen and talk. The partnership the Street Pastors have with Wiltshire Police is a very successful one, which is becoming stronger, but not to the detriment of their impartiality and their independence.

It has not gone unnoticed the type of work and assistance that each member of the Street Pastor provides that is demonstrated by the following examples:

1. Assisting a female who had been out celebrating her 20th birthday, she was distressed due to being intoxicated and having lost her friends. The Pastors arranged for the girl's parents to come and collect and waited with her until they arrived. The parents were exceptionally grateful for their assistance.
2. Allowing an intoxicated male with no credit on his phone to use a phone belonging to the Pastors, so that he could arrange to be picked up by his mother.
3. Upon finding a male asleep in a shop doorway, they were able to engage with him and encouraged him to attend a night shelter and helped him find his way. The male had been released from prison on Friday and already lost his room at Booth house but they encouraged him to try again and made contact with Booth House on his behalf to let them know he will be trying to get back in. They gave him details of the Christmas Care shelter and discussed unresolved issues he had with a recent bereavement, something he had not had an opportunity to do.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The timely and sensitive intervention by the Street Pastors could well have prevented all three of the above from becoming victims of crime. At a time when they had nobody else to turn to, the Street Pastors were there to assist in anyway that they could.

These examples are indicative of the work that the Pastors do, week in week out, which quite often happens behind the scenes, with no fuss, unnoticed by anyone other than those directly affected, but with a devotion to being there and helping people.

It is important to note that the Street Pastors are Volunteers who are out virtually every Friday and Saturday night and into the early hours of the morning. They have drive, determination and passion that the people of Swindon are help and cared for, no matter what circumstances have led people to find themselves in crisis. The Street Pastors are most welcomed by the Police and are seen as an asset by all organisations that work within the night time economy of Swindon.

Again I wish to place my thanks and the members of the organisations thanks for the time and dedication that the Street Pastors provide, it has become an integral, important and much valued part of the workings of the Town Centre and our vibrant night time economy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a dense, circular scribble followed by a long, thin horizontal line extending to the right.

Kier Pritchard
Superintendent Operations