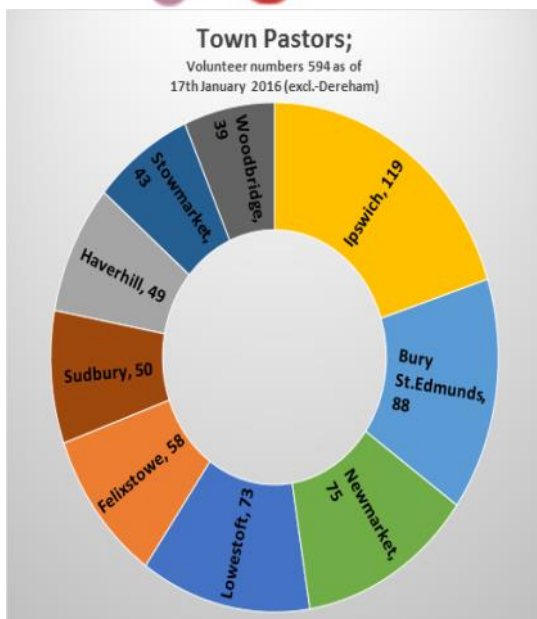


# Street Life

The newsletter of Town Pastors (TP); Issue 7, June 2016



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## 10 Years !

The ingredients were not propitious. A lady who had started Ipswich in Prayer, a police sergeant who was an atheist and a brand new vicar. Well it

was that lady that prayed. She found herself on the crime reduction panel where the sergeant was the police rep. They were very suspicious of each other, but over time the relationship grew. Then the sergeant was tasked with reducing alcohol based crime in the town centre of Ipswich for Christmas 2005 and he had the bright idea of trying to get these 'do gooding' Christians to do the soft Street Pastor thing that he had seen on TV in Southend. He didn't expect much at all, as he thought the hard policing would make the difference.



Town Pastors pilot team, Ipswich, Christmas 2005. Liz Beaton, centre.

The lady went to her new vicar wondering what on earth to do. The vicar, being daft, sensed it had to be done, and done it was for two weekends in the run up to Christmas. The sergeant helped find some money for uniforms, radios and helped with a little bit of training, a caravan was used as a base, and the results blew everyone away. Crime plummeted.

Liz the lady and Paul the vicar knew they needed to get a full blown scheme going and drew a talented team together. Over the next few months they worked hard, looking at different options, visiting Southend and then settled on doing our own thing, and Town Pastors was born, going live in June 2006 with the first batch of Town Pastors. Neil the sergeant helped in the training and often monitored the Town Pastors, chivvying them along from the CCTV control room!

A second batch were trained in September and so there were a good number of Town Pastors by December 2006 when the Ipswich murders were being discovered. Town Pastors were then out every night for two weeks effectively providing a presence in the town centre as there were no police available. They also patrolled the red light district at weekends discouraging the girls from plying their trade and putting themselves at risk. The Town Pastor scheme had arrived.

Since then nine other schemes have joined the Town Pastor scheme in widely different places; Bury St Edmunds and Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Lowestoft, Stowmarket and Sudbury, Newmarket and Haverhill joining Ipswich.

Then this year Dereham in Norfolk joined the family. Putting all the schemes together there are approximately 600 volunteers, half as Town Pastors and half in the prayer teams. Currently the cost is around £100,000 per annum to run all these schemes.



Team leader John Gillet & team, Sat. 19th December 2015

## Home Pray-ers:

- Every night when the Town Pastors are out on the streets, members of the prayer team are also busy between 10pm and 4am working on a rota to pray for one hour each throughout the night.
- "I feel very privileged to play a small part in the Town Pastors team as I pray regularly from home. I physically could not be out on the streets or up all night but I can support those who do that in prayer"
- — Maureen —

## • Why not join the team?

The Town Pastor schemes are highly respected in Suffolk and have helped the Church engage in a real area of need witnessing by love and friendliness to Christ's love for all who receive their help and Freddo bars!



## Wally found in Newmarket!

Inspired by some images of 'random finds' from John Borda in Newmarket, we'd love to be sent any appropriate pictures (permission required) of Town Pastor 'random finds' for use on future editions of Streetlife.

Discovered by the lovely Selena Borda, a Wally in Newmarket.

## Bury Town Pastors

Bury Town Pastors was the second Town Pastor scheme to be set up in Suffolk and Town Pastors were out on the streets of Bury St Edmunds for the first time on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008. Town Pastors are out on most Friday and Saturday nights from 10.00pm until 4.00am, patrolling mainly in the club/bar area of the town centre.

Town Pastors are now very well known in Bury St Edmunds and they often hear cries of 'it's the Freddo people', 'can I have a Freddo?' or 'have you got a bottle of water?' as they walk down the street! Or there's a radio call from the CCTV Control Room, police or door-staff requesting that the Town Pastors come and help someone who is distressed, vulnerable, alone or suffering the effects of their night out!

## Town Pastors:

- Working in pairs, wearing bright distinctive jackets and headgear, are Christian volunteers from local churches who are out in the town hotspots most Friday and / or Saturday nights being a positive influence on the streets and providing help and support to vulnerable people.
- "I really felt the presence of God in our interactions on the street" - Louise -
- "We were asked three times in one night if our caps were available to purchase or for sale on eBay. Everyone was fascinated to know the significance of the 'fish' logo - not merely a fashion statement but the ageless street symbol of Christians!" - Steve -

## • Why not join the team?

Town Pastors are supported in prayer by a fantastic Prayer Team who pray at our base and in their own homes while the Town Pastors walk the streets. A Prayer Team member recently said: *'Being in the Prayer Base is one of the greatest joys in the Lord's service I have ever had the opportunity to be part of. The training is wonderful, devotional and spiritually deepening'.*

It has been a particular honour for the Co-ordinator of Bury Town Pastors to receive a British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours list 2015 for 'services to policing and community safety in Bury St Edmunds'.

Town Pastors in Bury St Edmunds often care for and support people who are highly intoxicated. A Town Pastor writes:



A young girl told us that there was a man collapsed on the ground, just round the corner. Sure enough Ed (not his real name) was laying on the pavement, with his very two worried friends. He was extremely drunk and not very responsive. After a considerable time, lots of vomit, a bottle of water and monitoring his condition, he gradually sobered up enough to move. We were then able to help Ed's friends to walk him home.

I was on duty again the following weekend. Two lads ran to greet us. It was Ed's friend wanting to show us 'Ed when he's sober'! Ed was so grateful for the help he had received the previous weekend, and so was his friend!

Ed is just one example of the many people who have benefited from some help when their night out didn't go according to plan. Town Pastors are often thanked for help on a specific occasion or because people feel safer when the Town Pastors are on duty. People really appreciate knowing that Town Pastors are available to help if needed

It is such a privilege to be out as a Town Pastors or to be part of the Prayer Team, supporting the Town Pastors in prayer while they are out in Bury St Edmunds on Friday and Saturday nights.

### Prayer Point

"When I pray for another person, I am praying for God to open my eyes so that I can see that person as God does, and then enter the stream of love that God already directs toward that person." - Philip Yancey



### Dereham 'Pink Panthers'—First Patrol Report!

Following their commissioning service in April, we're delighted to report that Dereham Town Pastors are now out and about on Friday afternoons 3-5pm and 7-9pm.

"We went out yesterday afternoon and I had the privilege of being part of the prayer team. We were given a

word "the sower sowing the seeds" which was repeated throughout the session. It was such a positive experience and the patrol team in their bright pink jackets were well received by school children, shoppers, business owners and market traders. The patrol had several encounters, including helping an old lady who fell down in the street, being asked to pray with a man who suf-



Jo Copsey BEM,  
Coordinator—Bury  
Town Pastors

fers from OCD and was very troubled and good conversations with school pupils. They received some cheeky comments about "pink pasties" and they heard the "pink panther" theme song quite a lot, but all in all everyone was good natured.

We are all much encouraged - God is good!!"

Tricia Waller

Secretary/Administrator, Dereham Town Pastors

### Town Pastors; What others say?

"Your work sets an example to the whole of the United Kingdom, and I am well aware of the enormous difference you make to the lives of the vulnerable, and the well-being of our towns, here in Suffolk" Clare, Countess of Euston, H.M. Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk

"Town Pastors provide a tangible benefit to the communities of Suffolk, the interaction they have with so many people, including the vulnerable, is so important to preventing people becoming victims of crime and disorder" Gareth Wilson, Chief Constable, Suffolk Police.

Random find#2: Walking on water (Latitude)



### Festival Time Prayers

Please pray for preparations of Latitude Festival this year 14th-17th July at Henham Park, Blythburgh, all those attending, the running of the Festival Pastors marquee, and those on patrol. Too late for this year due advance security vetting, but if you'd like to work at Latitude as a Festival Pastor next year in the Café or on patrol, please email [contact@townpastors.org.uk](mailto:contact@townpastors.org.uk)

Also for Felixstowe Carnival, 23rd and 24th July 2016 where we still would love to see volunteers from other schemes to man the carnival—please contact [peter@felixstowetownpastors.org.uk](mailto:peter@felixstowetownpastors.org.uk) if you'd be free to patrol!

We also pray for the 10th Anniversary event at BT Adastral on the 18th June, that the day is a blessing to all, for our hosts BT, guests, and all helping and participating in this event.



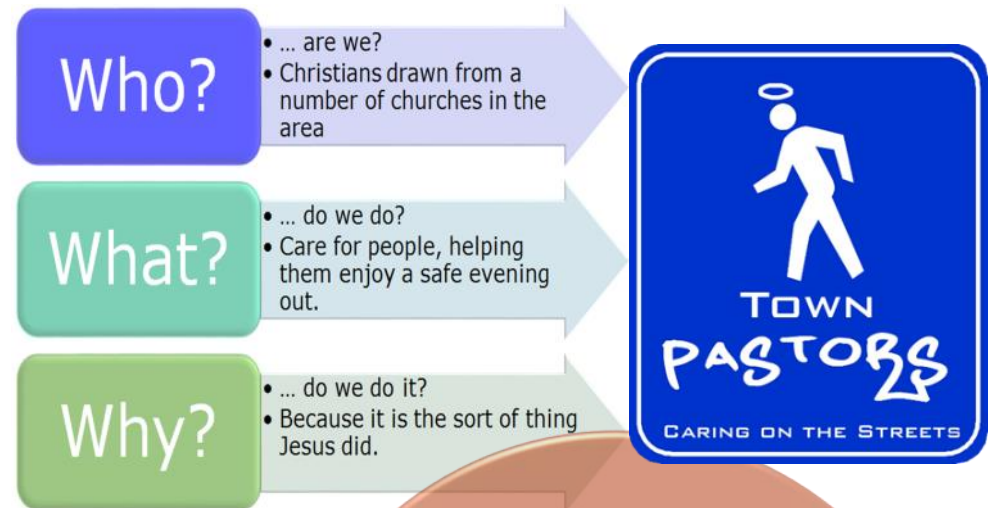
Please pray for these incredible opportunities to share the love of Jesus and to serve those he calls us to.

### Town Pastor Central; Update

As many of you will know, Town Pastors created an umbrella organisation in 2014 to help handle the growth of the initiative, and we are delighted in this edition of 'Street Life' to welcome Dereham to the growing family of Town Pastor schemes, and pray God's blessing upon them. Please pray also for Leiston as they also prepare start-up.

Thanks to all the schemes reporting in, we are also able to feedback our activities to sponsors such as the Police and Crime Commissioner in order to gain financial support for the schemes.

So below, here's what we've all been doing for the year ended 31st March 2016, and also as of January 2016 (pre-Dereham), on the front cover you can see how many Town Pastor volunteers there are, and where!



### Base Prayer-ers:

- Meet at the Town Pastor base near the town centre to pray throughout the entire night and supply Town Pastors with much appreciated tea, coffee, and toast on their occasional breaks. - We really need more base prayer-ers!

• "I have made lots of new friends by being part of the team at prayer base and we have also seen some amazing answers to prayer ... we don't pray all the time, only as issues arise. There is plenty of time left for eating cake and putting the world to rights!" - Ann -

### • Why not join the team?

Editor; Peter Livey

If you'd like to share something for the next issue, please email ;  
[the.liveys@ntlworld.com](mailto:the.liveys@ntlworld.com)

Want to join Town Pastors as a Base-Prayer, Home-Prayer or Town Pastor, or set up a scheme in your town?

We'd love to hear from you!

Please email [contact@townpastors.org.uk](mailto:contact@townpastors.org.uk)

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find us on Facebook, at [www.townpastors.org.uk](http://www.townpastors.org.uk), or send an email to [contact@townpastors.org.uk](mailto:contact@townpastors.org.uk)