

Borders Street Pastors



Listening Caring Helping

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Update: August 2019

Dear Presbytery

Well, the summer is proving to be a busy time for Borders Street Pastors with a number of additional events and patrols to support communities throughout the Borders.

Street Pastor Sunday on 9th June was well supported by a number of Churches, and we would like to thank Congregations who were able to invite team members to speak or supported us with prayer, it is very much appreciated. We have a quantity of bookmarks with prayer pointers on them and also a Borders Street Pastor leaflet which gives some basic information which are available if anyone would like some, please just drop me an email at borders@streetpastors.org.uk

An additional team supported Hawick at The Mare (Racecourse) during Hawick Common Riding at the beginning of June, and a further patrol assisted at the Burnfoot Carnival in Hawick in early July. We have been blessed with an additional team member in Hawick, and whilst it isn't quite enough for an extra patrol, I am hopeful that from August, with a bit of creative planning, we can bring in some extra support to make that second patrol happen. In addition to the Hawick patrols, there was an extra patrol in Galashiels for the Braw Lads Gathering and also, for the first time, a patrol in Kelso for their Civic Week. Our thanks to Rev. Anna Rodwell and the Congregation of Kelso North for the use of their building as a base that night.

In September we will be welcoming the Ascension Trust (Scotland) team down to the Borders when they will do a Quality Assurance visit. This is something that is done every few years and will be our first QA visit. I'm really looking forward to sharing all the good that has been happening in our towns, and taking them out on a patrol, which is likely to be in Galashiels.

Wherever possible, I like to share stories of what happens when we are out, and I've included below an incident that happened recently. I believe that it demonstrates many of the positive aspects of what Street Pastors is about, not just the practical help, but also the prayer support of our Prayer Pastors and also the listening part of our ministry.

During the later evening during our patrol at the Mare during Hawick Common Riding, we noticed two females in a corner near one of the big marquees. We approached them and realised that something was wrong. It turned out to be a mother and daughter, and the daughter had taken MDMA (ecstasy). The Police had already spoken to them, but as drugs were involved and the daughter was underage, the mother had assured them that everything was ok. However, the mother was willing to open up to us and it was clear things were certainly not ok. After initially talking about getting a taxi home, we agreed that the daughter needed medical attention and we called an ambulance. A number of ambulances had been coming and going and it took about 30 minutes for one to arrive. During this time, it was raining and starting to get cold. We covered mother and daughter up as best we could with foil blankets and woolly hats, but it was still very unpleasant for them. During this time, we were supported by our Prayer Pastor, Maria, who provided prayer for the situation.

An ambulance arrived and mother and daughter were taken to the BGH.

After this, we got into a conversation with a cousin of the daughter who opened up about issues in his life, and about how he was trying to change things. This was very encouraging.

Normally, this is as far as we hear about how things went; after an ambulance arrives, we hand over to the professionals and withdraw. However, a number of weeks later, we were at an event when a girl approached us while we were having a coffee. It turned out to be the young girl from the Mare and she was full of thanks for our assistance. More importantly, she said she had learned a big lesson and wasn't going to touch drugs again. We hope and pray that that continues to be true. We later met the girl with her mother and she was so full of gratitude. She

had nowhere and nobody to turn to at the Mare. God put us at the right place at the right time. We also me the girl's cousin and he again opened up about his life. We prayed for all three at the end of the evening.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and prayers, we couldn't do this ministry without it. Please remember, if you would like to receive our monthly Prayer Newsletter, if you contact our Prayer Coordinator, Maria Sprott at: mariaatseaside@btinternet.com and she will put you on the list.

Every blessing

Duncan Cameron
(Coordinator)