



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 5 June 2020

From Linda:

The management team is keeping to our schedule of meetings to continue the business of *GSP* and to plan ahead. We thank God for His provision to us: for the wellbeing of the team and their willingness to serve; for our Team Leaders and teams who support one another in many ways; and that we have received some financial support. All of this allows our efforts to direct what we are doing now and to equip us for the future. I hope that we will continue to encourage one another as we move step by step as an organisation together: God with us.

Our SCIO application, as discussed on the In Day in January, has been submitted to OSCR. We have had contact to say that our application is being processed. I will keep you updated as things progress.

We have discussed the importance of having the skills and experience needed on the MT and at this time that is even more important. The MT is delighted to welcome Karen Anderson as a co-opted member of the team. Karen will join the finance group bringing her expertise in this area. Thank you, Karen for your willingness to serve.



Regular giving: continued thanks to all who give to *GSP* on a monthly basis or as one-off gifts. Our finances are only being used just now to cover our financial commitments; it is important that we maintain this. As with other charities, our donations have gone down. If you are in a position to give to *GSP*, that would help as we move forward. This can be set up easily: bank details and gift aid information are available from Willie.

(willie.henry@gsp.scot)

God bless you as you to stay at home, work in your own setting and continue to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

My thanks to you all for all you do for *GSP*.

And from Stuart

- Police Scotland report very little footfall in the city centre. The city centre plan (normal weekend policing arrangements which GSP is a part of) has been suspended indefinitely.
- Simon community expressed thanks to 'Junction 42', a Christian charity which supports offenders and their communities, for providing 50 'faith packs' to give to people being supported in lockdown. See more about Junction 42 at <https://www.junction42.org> and also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPLwITCjvQo>
- Glasgow City Mission continues to run a weekly slot for sharing connection and reflection called The Gathering on Facebook Live at 2pm on a Friday
- BBC news report 'How can we tackle homelessness after lockdown' suggests the hotel accommodation being used at the moment will come to a conclusion at the end of June. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-52928982>
- We are grateful to those who are continuing to make donations to GSP including Maryhill Evangelical Church, Clyde Valley Community Church and the Hope Trust.
- Ascension Trust Scotland Board will meet on Tuesday 9 June by Zoom
- Team Leaders will be meeting on Tuesday 9 June at 7pm by Zoom.

PRAY

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6: 18

Please pray for Lorna and Stuart as they continue to work from home.

'Please see the prayer points from Willie

And finally,

Our bulletin will continue fortnightly from this issue; please send me any thoughts/comments about what you may like included.

Please be in touch if GSP can be of support to you: please do not be stuck. As a family, we are here for one another.

Linda Burke

Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors

SCO39983



Context for prayer

- As the lockdown rules are beginning to be relaxed the whole question of what to do about homeless people is raising its head. A group of charities operating under the banner of "Everyone Home" is trying to urge the Government at Holyrood to build on what has been achieved to help the homeless in our cities. It would be tragic if they were all turned out back onto the streets from the hotels and hostels where they are currently being accommodated.
- Glasgow Street Pastors are in ongoing contact with our partners, particularly the City Council and the Police so that we will be alert to opportunities for us to serve as the situation changes. We are moving into an environment which is completely unprecedented and we need to strike a balance between creatively seeking out opportunities and over-committing ourselves to offering services which cannot be sustained or would prove unsafe for street pastors or those with whom we come in contact.
- We recognised at the start of the lockdown that it was important for GSP team members to keep in contact with one another during this period of isolation as there was a danger that we would lose the focus on our identity as street pastors. All our teams have been having regular virtual meetings on Zoom, WhatsApp and other platforms as well as keeping in touch by text and email and praying regularly for one another.

Please pray:

- That a realistic plan can be developed to make a massive reduction in the scourge of rough sleeping in our cities and towns. Pray that there will be a will to take the necessary long term steps needed to meet the physical, mental and spiritual needs of individuals who are homeless.
- That all parties may have wisdom in knowing how to move forward as the city slowly opens up again. Pray that we will be able to identify ways in which we can provide our services of listening, caring and helping in a post-Covid 19 Glasgow. Pray also that we will be alert to risks to the health and safety of street pastors as we plan for the months ahead.
- That these virtual meetings can continue, so that we can care for each other and grow closer together. Pray that team members will feel supported and encouraged at this difficult time. Pray also that we will be able to keep a grasp of the vision for the work that God has called us to so that when the time comes for us to move forward again into the "new normal" we will be ready and able to do so.