



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 17 July 2020

From Linda

Our last night on duty before lockdown was Saturday 21 March. Looking back to that night in March, Irene recalls that *".... the night had an added sense of urgency, of being on the cusp of the unknown, and how we relied more than ever on prayer and on teamwork. I prayed that night for clarity and wisdom, and for protection for everyone. The team worked together tirelessly and there was no hesitation in responding to the needs of the people who came our way in the Safe Zone that night. Prayer Pastors, Street Pastors, First Aiders and Safe Zone - we were all there to serve. And the officers from Police Scotland were great, as always."*

And today, Thursday 16 July two Street Pastors were out on patrol in the city centre as the first Day Time Patrol. Bruce told me that *"the city centre had a quiet feel; there was a sense of people being mindful of their safety. It felt very different being on duty during the day. The homeless people seem to have a lot of questions in their mind about what will happen next.....there seems to be an impact on those who are begging because of the lack of footfall."*

There is definitely a lot for us to think and pray about when we read these two reflections: uncertainty is a theme in both; and alongside that we have the certainty that we can and do serve going in the strength and faithfulness of the One who has set the path for us.



Glasgow Street Pastors SCIO - Update

Our application to become a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) has been granted by OSCR, the regulator for Scottish charities. We are now at the next phase of winding up GSP and transferring our assets to GSP SCIO. I hope that the process will be complete over the next couple of months.

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 from Stuart

Street Pastors are back on the city streets again! Day Time Patrols began on Thursday 16 July with volunteers working in pairs from 10:30-12:30 and 15:00-17:00 each weekday. On a Saturday we also have a team going out from 12:00-14:00 and Sunday from 13:00-15:00. While we look forward to the time when our teams can recommence night time patrols, whatever shape that might take as we move forward, this is an exciting time for GSP as we respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

The Practice and Procedure document and Risk Assessment for the patrol were sent out to you yesterday. Please get in touch if you would like to be included in the list of volunteers for the rota in August.

Police Scotland have informed us that they are starting a City Centre Plan again from this weekend in anticipation of an increase in footfall now that pubs and restaurants etc are open. Neighbourhood and Sustainability have also confirmed that 'nightzones' will be operational again on Friday and Saturday from 8pm-1am. These are the areas where taxi marshals are on duty. The end of the month will be significant as we find out what will happen regarding clubs and other entertainment venues.



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.

The finance team continues to meet in advance of each Management Team meeting to keep a close eye on our financial resilience across this time.

God bless you as you 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.

Linda Burke
Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors
SCO39983



Context for prayer

- GSP is changing its legal status to become a SCIO. Our application to make the change has been accepted by OSCR and the Management Team are now in process of winding up the old GSP Charity and transferring the assets over to the new charity.
- GSP are now out on the streets again on day patrols in teams of two, with effect from Thursday 16 July. Different procedures are in place as we are likely to meet up with a different clientele, although there will be a lot of homeless people on the streets, who may need our support. Risk assessment statements and new operating procedures have been developed for the teams to make sure that they can operate effectively and safely.
- Police Scotland are developing a City Centre Plan to cope with pubs and restaurants opening and clubs and other entertainment venues potentially opening at the end of this month. GSP are in liaison with the police to see what support we can offer and how we may be able to operate again in the night time economy in a way that is both effective and safe.

Please pray:

- For the Management Team as they go through this process, which is rather complex in places. Pray that they will be able to complete the application forms accurately and unambiguously and that the transfer process will go through smoothly and speedily.
- For the street pastor teams operating on day patrols in our city. Pray that they will be able to cope with situations and issues that may be different from those encountered on night patrols. Pray also that they will be able to follow the new operating procedures easily and that they will be kept safe from coronavirus, and pray that the social distancing required will not hinder them from listening to, caring for and helping the people they meet.
- For the police as they develop plans for monitoring the increasing night time footfall within the city. Pray that they will have wisdom in how to develop policies that will enable them to care safely for the people on the streets, in pubs, restaurants and clubs. Pray also for the customers that they will observe safety rules and not be deluded into thinking that coronavirus has gone away. Pray also for Stuart in particular as he works with Police Scotland and the Council to determine ways in which GSP can go back onto the streets at night and serve our community.