



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 9 October 2020

Management Team meeting - Tuesday 6 October

- Scottish Online Conference feedback: strategic planning was outlined at the conference which aims to encourage and support Street Pastor Initiatives around Scotland by means of enhancing communication and contact between initiatives. A three year plan is in place to support growth in all areas of the service and to explore creative ways of achieving this.
- West End Street Pastors: WESP held their EGM (extraordinary general meeting) on 14 September and at that meeting the membership voted unanimously in support of joining GSP. So, the process has begun to enable this. There will be further discussion about the practicalities of this.
- GSP SCIO: We are currently at the final stages of the process of becoming a SCIO.
- Stuart's reported positively about day patrols and about city centre planning for the festive period including our participation if restriction allow this.



GSP Family:

- Could we all pray for Marion Johnstone at this very sad time of loss for her? Marion's husband, David, passed away recently. May Marion know the comfort and peace of God's love for her.
- One of our former SPs, Billy Niven, passed away recently. Billy was also a SP with WESP. We thank God for his life and witness.
- We welcome David Law as a new Team Leader. We all wish you well in your new role.
- Our prayer and best wishes for the future goes to Irene Eastwood, one of our Safe Zone team leaders who has stepped down from her role and her time with GSP. Irene has brought her skills, compassion and commitment to benefit others. Sincere thanks to Irene for her service; blessings for her future and God's plans for her.

And from Stuart

Day time patrols continue to be a fruitful extension of GSP ministry. One of our team, Jarmila, was able to pray with someone in Polish her native language! God puts the right people in place at the right time!

While not actively recruiting, we are receiving contact through the website, from people interested in volunteering with GSP.

The return to night time patrolling has again been overtaken by new restrictions.

Glasgow City Mission is making it known that the Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre will be open from the beginning of November as another source of emergency accommodation from Nov-March. This year a floor of a city centre hotel will be used and not the Lodging House Mission. 25 beds will be available.

The Simon Community have opened the Access Hub on Argyle St as a 'one stop' point to access services for the homeless. It is open from 9am-5pm every day apart from Wednesday when it opens at 10am.

Social Work Dept figures state that nearly 600 homeless people are currently being housed in city centre hotels.



Thank you.....

Thanks to individuals, churches and groups for their kind donations of hats, socks, blankets etc. As you know, all of these items are of great use when we are out on regular patrols. At the moment, we have a good supply of these items so could we put a hold on donations for the time being?

Uniform

Unused uniform is going to be stored centrally for use across Scotland. We will have a system in place when restrictions ease a bit to hand in any surplus uniform to SGT. We should each hand in uniform if we step down.



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. 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)

Thank you to those who supported us by participating in the Kilt Walk; and to churches who have also supported us.

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.

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

God bless you as we experience the changes in our daily lives.
My thanks to you all for all you do for GSP.

Linda Burke

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Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors

SCO39983



Context for prayer

- GSP are continuing to operate two hour daytime patrols, mainly in the mornings. To comply with social distancing requirements, we are going out in teams of two, supported by a prayer pastor. These have been a really fruitful extension to our work, as we are encountering people whom we would not have met during our night time patrols. Recently, one Street Pastor on patrol, who is a Polish speaker, was able to pray with a Polish lady in her own language.
- Before lockdown restrictions were tightened recently, GSP were planning to re-start evening patrols from 10.00- 12.00 at the end of September. However, plans for these have been shelved meantime.
- Glasgow City Mission are opening a Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre for homeless people on 1 November. The plan is to stay open until the end of March 2021. This Centre will be located on a floor of a City Centre hotel and 25 beds will be provided. Currently there are around 600 homeless people being accommodated in hotels in our city.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the ways in which the Lord has used the daytime patrols to reach people and offer help and support. Pray that street pastors will be able to listen care and help effectively during the current restrictions and that they will be protected from infection as they walk the streets and interact with the public.
- For the GSP Management Team, as they liaise with the police and the Council on the subject of evening patrols. Pray that we will all have the wisdom to assess the risks effectively and be able to restart evening working when the time and conditions are right.
- For the homeless in our city. Much of our daytime patrol work involves these people. Give thanks for the provision of the new Glasgow City Mission Centre and pray that it will be well used. Give thanks also that homeless people in Glasgow have been accommodated during the pandemic and pray that a more permanent solution will be developed by charities and government to address the problem of homelessness. Pray especially for those with addiction and mental health issues that these can be addressed systematically.