

Glasgow Street Pastors

Newsletter – 15 March 2021



Hello to you all!

It has been a long time since the beginning of the year. How lovely to be enjoying brighter, longer days and seeing so many signs of spring. And with our changing season, we also know that further changes will be announced. Of course, this will have a positive impact on what we will be able to do. There will be further information about this as developments happen.

hope

I attended the recent prayer gathering organised by Ascension Trust. There was encouragement to pray specifically into concerns in our society – fear, anxiety, poverty and so much more and to pray the grace of our loving Father into each of these concerns. And for us to all hold on to the hope that we have in each of His promises. We listened to God of this City (Bluetree) Have a listen to it and let's pray together about the greater things that are still to come in our city.

Training Opportunity....

Ascension Trust Scotland has organised a training event on mental wellbeing.

"We are glad to be able to bring a special 90-minute training and discussion session by Zoom on Trauma and Moral Injury which has been designed to help us realise the destructive potential of trauma and how the emotions of anger, fear, guilt and shame can overwhelm. Together we will discover the powerful healing potential of forgiveness and how it provides a basis for restoration and recovery after trauma.

So far, three dates and times are available (Wed 17 March at 7.30pm, Thurs 18th March at 7.30pm and Wed 24 March at 2.30pm) and attendees should choose the date which suits them best and then register their attendance by going on-line to

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-wellbeing-training-tickets-145515614119>.

Additional occasions will be added as needed, with a maximum of 100 attendees per session. The training will be led by the Rev Philip Patterson, former Army Chaplain and Programme Co-ordinator at Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland (VCS) and we have invited the 80 or so Workplace Chaplains in Scotland to be a part of this training which is also relevant to their work."

It will be good to share feedback about this.

And from Stuart

Glasgow Street Pastors is now taking applications for our Spring Training Programme which commences on 22 April at 7.15pm. Training sessions will be held on Zoom while restrictions are still in place. If you know anyone at your church who is interested in finding out more about this, please speak to them. They can then click the "I want to volunteer" button on the GSP website to take the first step in joining us. This applies to our work in the west end as well as the city centre.



PVG Online Application Process

I am pleased to you that there is a new, streamlined process for PVG applications. You may recall receiving an email telling you that GSP is now registered for PVG applications for our regulated work with adults. Moving forward all current SPs will be asked to complete a PVG for adults. The process went live on 1 March 2021 and since then my application has gone through and I have received my PVG certificate from Disclosure Scotland. It was all very quick and straightforward! You will receive details by email from Lorna as we roll out the process for GSP.



Kilt Walk 23 - 25 April 2021

Kilt walkers are signing up in support of their chosen charity. Is this something for you in aid of GSP? The Kilt Walk is not the traditional event of previous years, but has flexibility of activity for the participants. Remaining the same is the addition of 50% of what is raised by the Tom Hunter Foundation.

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.



Regular giving: continued thanks to all who give to GSP on a monthly basis or as one-off gifts. Your giving is greatly appreciated. Our finances are only being used just now to cover our financial commitments. 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)

Any donations to GSP should be sent to the following account at CAF Bank.

Account Name:	Glasgow Street Pastors SCIO
Bank Sort Code:	83-91-46
Account Number:	20401096

Love and prayer for all of the SP family,
Linda

Linda Burke Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors - SCO39983
linda.burke@gsp.scot 07870269546



Context for prayer

- Stuart Crawford, the co-ordinator of Glasgow Street Pastors was taken into hospital at the end of last week with suspected shingles in his face. It turns out that it was not shingles but a severe dental abscess. He was put on intravenous antibiotics and is now back home, where he is taking strong painkillers. Stuart has suffered from a variety of immune system-related health issues in recent years and this latest problem has hit him hard.
- As we begin to consider moving out of lockdown, GSP are preparing for the time when we can re-commence patrols. We plan to start day-time patrols when the risk level is reduced to level 3 (or equivalent) and then early evening patrols when it comes down to Level 2. A Zoom meeting of GSP Team Leaders is being held on the evening of 16 March to discuss possible rotas and protocols.
- Some of the Street Pastors in Glasgow have decided to step down from GSP and we are trying to recruit new members. The need has never been greater and the challenges for Pastors on the streets are significant. Because of the fact that we cannot meet "live" for training events we are planning to carry out some of the training modules on Zoom over the next month or two.

Please pray:

- For Stuart, that the Lord will clear up this infection and give him relief from pain. Pray also that his ongoing health issues will ease and that he will have freedom from the debilitating symptoms that have plagued him over the last few years. Pray also that he will continue to be free from the Covid virus.
- For the preparations to resume patrols as lockdown begins to ease. Pray for the outcomes of the Team Leaders' meeting on 16 March that there will be clarity on the way forward and that there will be agreement on how we can operate safely and effectively. Pray that Street Pastors will be able to stay safe on the streets and also protect the safety of those they come into contact with, while still managing to be effective in listening, caring and helping. Pray also that they will be able to respond to new situations and challenges that have arisen due to Covid and that the love of Christ will shine through in all that they do.
- That the Lord will raise up men and women to become Street Pastors in Glasgow. Pray that Christian people will be prepared to step into the breach to enable the work to continue to have a significant impact on the streets of Glasgow. Please prayerfully consider whether you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a Street Pastor. Pray also for the Management Team as they plan training programmes online, that they will be fit for purpose.