

'My Street Pastors Story' - From our Coordinator, Monica Abdala:-



I became a follower of Christ in 2003 and my life was totally transformed. I was once broken and lost, but since that encounter I've truly lived a brand new life...after all...I found Him whom my soul loves.

I came across Street Pastors for the first time in the summer of 2004. Their slogan **"the Church has left the building"** and their well-known core of service: **to care, to help and to listen** really resonated with me.

It took 3 years for things to fall into place – **Gods timing is always perfect**- in 2007 I came across an article in the local newspaper advertising the recruitment of volunteers for a new initiative in Barking & Dagenham called **Street Pastors**. I rang the number provided in the advertisement and the rest is history. I patrolled with the team for fifteen months.

In the summer of 2009 a letter was sent to Redbridge Churches (I live and worship in Redbridge) advertising the role of Redbridge Street Pastors Coordinator...I knew God wanted me to apply; later that year I was given the job; but God had more for me. Around autumn 2011 I received a phone call from Havering Street Pastors management committee inviting me to interview for their Coordinators role. Since then, I've had the privilege of coordinating both areas and meeting some amazing, loving and selfless people-**Thank you GOD!**

The ministry of Street Pastors has definitely helped me put into practice everything that I have learnt over the last 13 years of walking with my Heavenly Father...**2017 will mark the 10th year anniversary of serving as a Street Pastor...I'm truly blessed!**

Join us and allow God to mould you and use you in ways that you never dreamt possible!

Street Pastors Angel Scheme



Angels are being knitted by various church groups with the intention is to leave them as little blessings with little prayers attached. If you'd like to partner with us, please contact Monica and ask for the pattern.

HSP Romford & Hornchurch Winter 2016

Havering Patrols

Romford

November 4th 11th 18th 25th
December 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th
January 2017 6th 13th 20th 27th

Hornchurch

November 12th 26th
December 10th 24th
January 2017 7th 21st

When on patrol **Havering Street Pastors** provide a listening ear to anyone as well as the lonely, homeless, depressed and those affected by long term addictions.

They collect abandoned bottles & glasses which could be used as weapons & cause injury.

They engage in a non-judgmental way with everybody, including small and large groups of young people congregated in the streets.

The teams carry with them bottles of water for the thirsty and dehydrated, flip flops for the staggering ladies, lolly-pops as ice-breakers, tissues, wipes and sick bags.

Street Pastors are beacons of **peace** and **safety** in Romford & Hornchurch.

Other dates for 2016

London Street Pastors Training
Autumn/Winter Term

Oct 22nd & 29th

Nov 5th & 12th

Management & Leadership meeting

Tuesday 8th November 1pm @
Deeper

Romford Christmas Lights event

November 17th 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Hornchurch Christmas Lights event

Saturday 19th November 2pm - 5pm

Street Pastors Encounters:-

When a team of Street Pastors go out on patrol they never know who they are going to meet. Here are a few of their most recent stories...

Quite early on we met a gentleman sitting on the benches near Primark. We engaged with him and found out that his name was John aged(62) who had only recently found himself on the streets – it was clear that he was ill-equipped and naïve. We took him to Deeper for a cup of tea and suggested that on Saturday he visited Salvation Army – we also gave him the Hope4Havering phone number to arrange shelter accommodation. John did not have a sleeping bag, nor did he know where to sleep so we gave him an 'Above us Only Sky' sleeping bag and walked him to a safe area to rest for the night. As we left we prayed for him, he was clearly moved.

Everyone safe & sound no incidents to report. Some very good conversations - three people stopped us to specially thank us.

Among a large number of train passengers descending the station ramp was an off duty paramedic who told us he was concerned for a senior male passenger who was drunk and had been saying odd things to other passengers. He suspected mental health issues and asked if we could keep a look out for this gentlemen. We spotted the man – the last passenger to emerge onto the ramp. We followed him across the road to make sure he was safe. When a number 5 bus promptly appeared, the man boarded it.

A busy night in Hornchurch. Fatling courtyard packed, people well behaved. We escorted home one of their regulars, a young 84 yrs old lady, she was chatty and grateful for the company.

We tapped a lad onto a bus as his Oyster card had run out of money. He had been to the festival in Victoria Park.

Havering Co-Ordinator

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Administrator

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Prayer Coordinator

Vacant

Treasurer

Elaine Adams
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Team Leaders

Lynn, John, Phil, Ian, Tim



Awesome testimony by team leader Lynn:-

I met Kelly during one of our patrols in Romford on a very cold winter's night, roughly at 1am in 2009. I remember the encounter well....a guy was giving her a piggy back; sadly when he dropped her, Kelly fell on the ground and was unable to move. She was 3 months pregnant and in a real state of panic and fear for the safety of her baby. We immediately called an ambulance and made her as comfortable as possible, we put our coats under her body – Dean, one of the security guys got more coats to put on top of her. It took 2 hours for the ambulance to arrive. During that time the team reassured her, shared God's love, prayed for her and the baby and kept her company. Kelly was now in safe hands and in the company of friends giving us the clear to move on.

During my October patrol, I met Kelly again, only that this time it was Kelly sharing her testimony:-“ I've Just finished week 3 of Alpha course in a local Romford Church; got baptised 2 weeks ago and my daughter is now 7 years old".....

Amazing....7 years on and Kelly had become a Christian. Praise God!

I gave her a card for Street Pastors as she said she would love to do it. She had been drinking and was a bit tipsy, but clearly had encountered the Father, and was speaking with passion. Isn't our God wonderful? He gives life, He is faithful!

Do you love to pray?:-

Ongoing prayer support is very important when establishing and operating Street Pastors.

Could you become a Prayer Pastor?

A prayer pastor is someone who is...a Christian and is part of a local church; concerned for society and their local community; happy to work in a team, praying together while the Street Pastors are on the streets.

We are currently looking for a Prayer Coordinator someone who is...

- ✚ Committed to prayer
- ✚ Able to organise, encourage, persevere, and give leadership in prayer activities
- ✚ Confident with emails, phone texting & MS Office
- ✚ Able to work as part of a team and attend management meetings (4 per year)
- ✚ Friendly and engaging
- ✚ Willing to go out with a team of Street Pastors at least 4 times a year

For more information please contact
havering@streetpastors.org.uk