

Street Life

The newsletter of Town Pastors;
Issue 10, September 2019



Caring for the vulnerable in
Britain's night time economy



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Dear Town Pastors, Prayer Partners and all our supporters across Suffolk and Norfolk

Greetings in the mighty Name of Jesus!

"Suffolk would not be the place it is without Town Pastors". Those were the words Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk, spoken to our TP Chairs and Coordinators meeting in June. I can't think of a more encouraging thing to hear from a senior official and community leader. He went on to list some of the deeply appreciated qualities of Town Pastors as a whole that apply to all our schemes, Suffolk and Norfolk. He valued our partnership with agencies such as the Police, our value of community and our ongoing commitment. With Town Pastors now established for over a decade in a number of our towns it's good to hear that we've lived out the values that were at our formation.



Reports from around the schemes confirm that we continue to have the support and gratitude from the public. On our streets at night, at Latitude Festival and at the extra events we cover, the overwhelming feedback is gratitude – even if incredulity that good folk would give up your weekends for the likes of themselves. This summer I was part of a Town Pastor team that attended one of the Newmarket Nights concerts to bring our own brand of help and support to the vulnerable, unwell or lost. Even as we drove onto the site one of the staff helping park our cars thanks us for coming to work with them and the sense of welcome and gratitude was constant among all staff present. I think our King will say "well done good and faithful servant" and "when I was lost, ill, or in need you comforted me".

In the coming year let us all encourage each other, yes with the words of those we serve in our communities, but even more so with the words of our King – spurring each other on to love and good deeds, holding each other and our communities up in prayer and demonstrating Christ's love wherever we go.

Every blessing

Tony Hodge

Chair, Town Pastors Central

Stop Press; Beccles Welcome to the Family

Editorial note; By the time this new edition of Street Life arrive, we should have increased our number to 12 schemes in Suffolk and Norfolk, as Beccles Town Pastors join the family. Please pray for Beccles Town Pastors for a smooth start, and for the new team as they undergo training during September 2019.

Base Pray-ers:

- Meet at the Town Pastor base near the town centre to pray throughout the entire night and supply Town Pastors with much appreciated tea, coffee, and toast on their occasional breaks. - We really need more base pray-ers!

- *"I have made lots of new friends by being part of the team at prayer base and we have also seen some amazing answers to prayer ... we don't pray all the time, only as issues arise. There is plenty of time left for eating cake and putting the world to rights!" – Ann -*

• Why not join the team?



Loving Latitude in Prayer 2019

Dear Friends

I wanted to send a very BIG THANK YOU! Thank you for praying for Festival Pastors and the Body of Christ in East Anglia during the recent Latitude Festival at Henham Park.

Overall the festival was a happy one, although one serious incident took place over the weekend and for this we continue to pray. It never fails to amaze

how quickly a field becomes a 'town' with tents, glamping, camper vans, mobile homes, caravans and it is always a treat to see how individuals personalise with flags, balloons, bunting and lights. This year the family zone extended greatly and many of the young folks were very excited to be seeing George Ezra!

Many happy conversations and good work took place during our time there. The team worked well together and totalled 73. They helped arrivals erect tents, carry

luggage, gave information and directions, distributed thousands of wristbands for children, gave out our signature 'Freddos' and 'Love Hearts' to festival staff and attendees alike which were gratefully received, dealt with lost

property and welfare, helped take down tents. In varied weather the team worked day and night. Met people from all walks of life, were reacquainted with old friends from previous years and made new ones.

They comforted individuals in distress, listened to many stories, laughed with and prayed with people. They prayed for



Lucy Agnew pictured on prayer



Richard and Anne on Patrol - picture courtesy of Network Norwich

each other and the Body of Christ across our region. Indeed, much prayer took place 24/7 from the early hours of Thursday morning until midnight on Sunday locally, nationally and internationally. Additionally, the prayer base at the festival was manned daily throughout the festival.

Although the café was a little quieter this year, the staff provided a warm welcome, refreshments and an oasis of peace during this busy weekend. Bean Baker and Jon Kendall did a marvellous job in providing music - some



Bean Baker and Jon Kendall having a jam

young listeners even encouraged a record contract! Esther Day once again contributed through her beautiful live painting and provided a stone labyrinth for people to ponder, walk and enjoy. We had numerous prayer requests again this year and some of the labyrinth stones were also painted by people with loved one's names and prayers on. We again had the privilege of praying with people in the café for various situations. On the final day the team had a

time of worship together, giving thanks to the Lord and interceding for all who stood with us in prayer...that means you! Thank you so much, once again your intercessions they made all the difference. Without you we could not do this work.

Barry Willson, who has served in the role of Festival Pastors General Manager for the last three years has always recognised the important contribution of intercessors on and off the Latitude site. He writes *"Our Latitude teams of over 70 Festival Pastors and Café Volunteers engage with the public throughout the Festival in a relatively small area. They have a special ministry, "workers together with God" and they do a great job. They can only function at*

Home Pray-ers:

- Every night when the Town Pastors are out on the streets, members of the prayer team are also busy between 10pm and 4am working on a rota to pray for one hour each throughout the night.
- *"I feel very privileged to play a small part in the Town Pastors team as I pray regularly from home. I physically could not be out on the streets or up all night but I can support those who do that in prayer"*
- – Maureen -

• Why not join the team?

the "front line" as a consequence of the faithful ministry of hundreds of prayer warriors across the UK and overseas who have offered up thousands of prayers on our behalf. I am indebted to you for your role in supporting us, and we give God the Glory for what has been accomplished in His Name"

Liz Livey

Prayer Encourager for Latitude

A Final Hallelujah From Our Latitude Chief

As some of you may be aware, in addition to his many other activities, including being our Finance Director at Town Pastor Central, Major Barry Willson has had the role of general manager for Festival Pastors at Latitude, and wonderfully risen to the challenge of organising and pulling everything

The 2019 Festival Pastor Sunday team bought Barry some festival headgear as a small farewell gift.



together for Latitude for the past few years, from meetings with Festival Republic, ordering of resources for the event, putting up and tearing down, plus numerous practical and

financial issues, plus organising everyone getting to and from Latitude, organising pastors / café teams and so much more!

Barry indicated last year that 2019 would be his last year for being General Manager at Latitude.

Please join me in praying for heaps of Blessing on Barry and his lovely bride Cindy and their extended family, thank you Barry for all you've done for us and for Him!

Please also pray for the Festival Pastor organisers as we explore what the Lord wants us to do next year!

If you are a Town Pastor volunteer and would like to work as part of the Festival Pastor team at Latitude 2020, please email peter.livey@townpastors.org.uk for more details. Ed.



Spotlight on Lowestoft

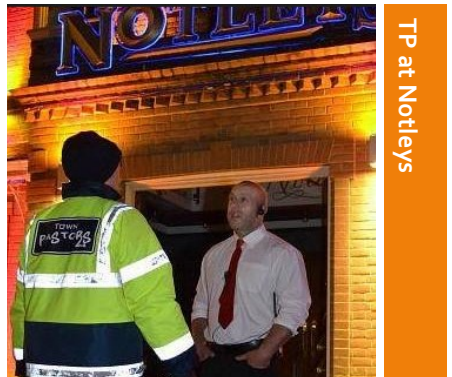


The Town Pastor scheme in Lowestoft has been running since March 2010 so next year will be its 10 year anniversary. The scheme continues to support the night time economy and has seen quite considerable change in the local environment over this time. The scheme is based at the Fishermen's Mission building at Lowestoft Docks which is a great central location

and enables the Town Pastors to be really close to the town centre and the local nightclubs.

At the beginning of the scheme, there were over 40 volunteers and frequently 2 teams out on both Friday and Saturday nights. The high street was a busy place with a lot of popular pubs going right up to the lighthouse in Lowestoft. The shifts were busy with lots of conversations and revellers from 9pm until midnight and then with some people at the local nightclubs until 3. At that time there were at least 4 nightclubs and it was always busy.

The town as a whole has an ageing demographic so, as the years have passed, the majority of the pubs along the high street area have closed down. There are also now only 2 nightclubs left open, Notleys and Faith, both very close to the Lowestoft Harbour bridge. This has led to the town being considerably quieter especially during the late evening time. When Wetherspoons opened, this brought back some much needed life in those late evening hours



The shift times have also changed for the teams, with teams now going out from around 11pm until 4am as the interactions are now based predominately at the 2 nightclubs. With the town becoming quieter, the scheme itself has also been through a lot of changes and seen the overall volunteer base reduce. At the present time the scheme hopes to ensure at least 1 shift is covered either on the Friday or Saturday night each week.

What has also been evident over the years is the changing needs in the town. The Town Pastors used to spend a lot of time supporting young people, chatting and dealing with them when they were intoxicated. Now the chatting still takes place and there is a lot more time spent listening to people and understanding their mental health challenges.

It is great that the Town Pastors are so well known in the town and everybody

is always happy to see them. The atmosphere is largely good natured when the Town Pastors are present and there is a great relationship with the local police and door staff.

Recently the Town Pastors were able to support The First Light Festival in town. Shifts started from 7:30pm and the Town Pastor team were able to deal with a number of large groups of young people, diffuse potential brawls and ensure the event was a really great environment. It was great to be invited to support the first of what is hoped to be an annual event.

Once again this year, the scheme had a great take up for volunteers to support Latitude. This is always a highlight, getting together with the other local schemes and being able to support such a well known event.

There have been so many highlights over the last year with young people helped, wonderful conversations, receiving great feedback from those helped. Here is just one of the pieces of feedback received that warms your heart and helps to remind us of the fact that we have the privilege to serve:

I just wanna say thank you so much for last night, like it really helped me and I really appreciated it. The flip flops were such an amazing gesture and helped me to get home safely, without me standing on glass anywhere and without breaking my ankles anymore than they were. I managed to get a taxi and arrived back in one piece.

I just wanna also say thank you for standing and chatting to me whilst I was alone and cold outside on the bench. It seems like a small thing just saying it but honestly, I felt safe when you were all there with me. I knew that you all done an amazing job as town pastors but you don't truly appreciate it until those time of needs. I'm sorry for the state I was in last night, but I just wanna say, thank you for helping to keep me safe, it meant the world to me xx



Town Pastors at First Light Festival

Some of the LTP crew at Latitude



As we look to the future

we are spending time developing additional training to support mental health awareness and ensure our teams are ready to take on the new challenges this brings. The scheme does need new volunteers and new management support so we are actively looking to the local churches to see if we can grow the volunteer base again. The changing needs bring about more opportunity to support people in critical times and bring the love of Jesus into their lives.

It is a privilege to support the people of Lowestoft, to be Christ's ambassadors and shine his light into dark places

Richard Ward, Chair – Town Pastors Lowestoft

Police and Crime Commissioner Visits Town Pastor Chairs Meeting

In June 2019, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore visited the regular meeting of Town Pastors Chairs and Coordinators from across Suffolk and Norfolk with a message of thanks and encouragement for all the work of the 10 Suffolk Town Pastor schemes across the county. Tim made special mention of the partnership between Town Pastors, the Police, local district councils and the PCC highlighting the support for communities and relationship building of Town Pastors. The ongoing commitment of Town Pastor schemes to their communities was deeply appreciated and the regular reports of activities, which are amalgamated across the county



by Town Pastors Central before being passed on to the PCC, showed just how much work is done in the Night Time Economy.

Tony Hodge, Chair of Directors of Town Pastors Central welcomed Tim and thanked him for his ongoing support and encouragement he gives to the Town Pastors. Tim stayed to hear feedback from all the Suffolk and Norfolk Town Pastors schemes, listening to reports of activities and answering questions from the representatives.



Editorial note - Suffolk PCC has supported Town Pastors with grants each year. Last year they gave a grant to Suffolk Town Pastors to the tune of £49,995

Newmarket Town Pastors at the Races !

Newmarket Town Pastors tried a new venture in conjunction with Newmarket Racecourse. On two of their "Newmarket Nights" (racing followed by a concert) we set up in

a tent to look after people at the Racecourse. There was a full St. Johns

Ambulance presence, so we were looking after friends and relatives of anyone injured, as well as anyone upset by events.

Town Pastors at Newmarket Racecourse
for "Newmarket Nights"



This meant St. Johns and security staff could do their jobs more effectively.

With 17,000 and 9,000 on respective nights, there was a lot going on! We are in talks to see if we can do it again next season.

John Borda
Newmarket Town
Pastors



Town Pastors Activity Last 12 Months

In Town Pastors, we monitor our activity aligned with the Police & Crime Commissioner year, and this lasts from April to March.

In total across the Suffolk schemes, 22329 items were recorded (excluding Latitude).

Our busiest months with over 2k incidents are illustrated on the right - December is busiest, but June to August are close behind, and our quietest times are January and February.

April 2018	1750
May 2018	1669
June 2018	2171
July 2018	2047
August 2018	2155
September 2018	1856
October 2018	1736
November 2018	1636
December 2018	2219
January 2019	1490
February 2019	1576
March 2019	2024





Looking at Latitude, we have some slightly different categories, these statistics relate to Latitude 2019.

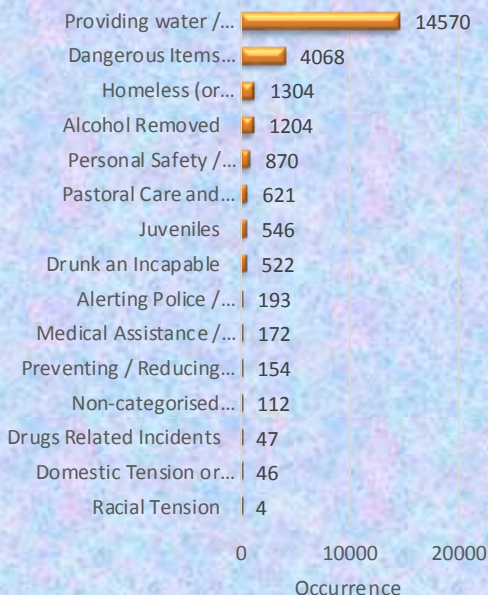
At Latitude in July 2019 we recorded 2104 items (which if combined with our normal stats. makes July our busiest month).

Here 'providing water / refreshments' is normally Love Hearts / Freddos (often linked to crowd control), and as water in plastic bottles is banned on site (no single use plastics) we do not use bottled water.

Our second largest category is engaging with juveniles, the third largest activity - putting up tents!

Finally, lets pray for God's provision that we continue to do His will and have Town Pastor volunteers willing to pray and be Jesus hands and feet wherever this is needed, Amen.

Suffolk Town & Festival Pastor Combined Statistics



Town Pastors:

- Working in pairs, wearing bright distinctive jackets and headgear, are Christian volunteers from local churches who are out in the town hotspots most Friday and / or Saturday nights being a positive influence on the streets and providing help and support to vulnerable people.
- *"I really felt the presence of God in our interactions on the street" - Louise -*
- *"We were asked three times in one night if our caps were available to purchase or for sale on eBay. Everyone was fascinated to know the significance of the 'fish' logo - not merely a fashion statement but the ageless street symbol of Christians!" - Steve -*

• Why not join the team?

If you're a Town Pastor scheme and would like to share something for the next issue, or a reader who might want to join Town Pastors as a Base-Prayer, Home-Prayer or Town Pastor, or set up an initiative in your town—we'd love to hear from you!

Please email ;

peter.livey@townpastors.org.uk

For more details on Town Pastors, please see our website
www.townpastors.org.uk