



# Ashford Street Pastors



**SPRING 2019**



**Ashford Street Pastors wish you  
an exhilarating Easter 2019**

**The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”**

Matthew 28:5-6

## **Our Commissioning Service**



On a wet and windy evening in February, 47 Street Pastors, Prayer Pastors, family members and friends gathered in St Teresa’s Church to bless three of our new Street Pastors, one new Prayer Pastor and three of our existing Prayer Pastors. We were joined by Fr Peter Kucharski, representatives of the Police and Ashford Borough Council as well as staff from Ascension Trust. It was a wonderful uplifting and reverential service followed by much chatting and laughter over coffee and cake. Many thanks to Yvonne from the Cake Place, Mersham-le-Hatch for our Commissioning Cake, decorated with a copy of our new poster.

We try to ensure people are safe and if people need assistance or a listening ear, we are there for them. We may assist people to ensure that they can get home safely by offering help and guidance or we refer people to local emergency or support services.

Ashford Street Pastors continue to need more volunteers to help us with our mission of caring, listening and helping the vulnerable on our local streets. Now is an excellent time to join us as our training schedule for 2019 has just started. Please email Lita for more information and an application pack: [ashford@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:ashford@streetpastors.org.uk)



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## Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit

One evening recently, we got a message from one of the clubs, asking if we could come to assist a semi conscious man who was nearby. Our Street Pastors responded to the request while our Prayer Pastors prayed for the situation.

It turned out that Jim had recently lost his father and his friends suggested that he accompanied them for an enjoyable evening out. Somewhere along the line, they had got separated and Jim was now on his own, having drunk quite a lot of alcohol and feeling rather low. The Street Pastors sat with him while he sipped some water and he told them his story. After 45 minutes, Jim felt recovered enough to walk home so the Street Pastors walked with him back Kennington and made sure he got in through his front door safely.

On the same patrol but a few hours later, the Street Pastors accompanied two young women safely back to their parked car and away from the group of young men who were following them.

Most of what we do is unexceptional but it makes a difference to the people we help and they remember. Not long ago, a young woman came up to the Street Pastors and thanked them again for the help she received nine years previously. Could you be a Good Samaritan for our local community? If so, please arrange to have a coffee with Lita by emailing her: [ashford@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:ashford@streetpastors.org.uk)

## Friends of Ashford Street Pastors

Becoming part of 'Friends of Ashford Street Pastors' is a simple way to partner us, but it is also a very effective way of keeping the streets of Ashford safer on the nights we are out by setting up a standing order for a set monthly donation.

We are looking for 98 more people to give £5 to £10 each month.

£5 = 400 lollipops  
£5 = 30 bottles of water  
£5 = 5 pairs of flip-flops

If you would like a form, please email Lita using [ashford@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:ashford@streetpastors.org.uk) or ring 07511 816 621.

## A few statistics...

**Thanks to your support and donations, since January we have:**

- completed 15 patrols, 315 hours with Street Pastors on patrol supported by over 200 hours of prayer from Prayer Pastors;
- engaged with more than 400 people and assisted more than 70 people in vulnerable situations;
- removed 107 bottles and 13 glasses from the streets;
- handed out 64 bottles of water, 7 foil blankets, 30 pairs of flip flops and 302 lollipops.