

# Perth Street Pastors

Spring 2020 Newsheet



SC03961

**Your** .... neighbours

.... tradesmen

.... professionals

... shop staff

are some of folk we meet on the streets! Many of them...

... are covering up worries or hurts

... have an inaccurate picture of the Christian faith, rejecting not Jesus but some hang-ups over a misunderstanding of "religion"

**What can we - and you! -do?**

**We - and you - can ...**

- i. ... notice people taking time to listen to them in confidence
- ii. ... pray for them
- iii. ... try to understand where they are coming from.
- iv. ... show and share the love of Jesus, accurately representing a relationship with God Who values and gives identity.



**A couple of examples :**

## 1. Ex-service personnel and others

It is estimated that 1 in 3 people who have been in combat or have had serious incidents such as assaults, road traffic accidents or traumatic bereavements are affected by PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Someone with PTSD often relives the traumatic event through nightmares and flashbacks, and may experience feelings of isolation, irritability and guilt.

Suppose someone has a boil. Rather than squeezing poison into one's system, it should be lanced in an antiseptic atmosphere. So with unhealthy thoughts ... if bottled up they can lead to depression or aggression. It is far better to get them out with someone who cares and can be trusted. It is not helpful to things bottle up.



## Many thanks

**to those congregations ...**

...who supported Street Pastors from their congregations at commissionings in 2019.

... who regularly pray for us

... who encourage others to come out as observers to help think about being SPs - night-shift, day-shift, or school !

**Note that early evening shifts give an opportunity for those unable to do nights !**

## 2. Students

In a post-institutional age, "religion" and "church" are often perceived as negatives, but relationship, value, identity, people with a cause are seen as positives. The Christian faith is about a living relationship with God Who on the cross has placed eternal value on our lives, from which we find our identity and belong to the church - a people with the cause of showing and sharing God's love

A leading worker with students said last month:

"18-24 year olds are the most likely to welcome spiritual conversations. But as they have been raised in a largely secular context they know little about Jesus' truth claims and "power for life transformation" The questions they ask are often superficial, but it does not take much for them to become much more serious as they discover Christianity's "ring of truth", especially as they perceive that Christianity carries much more explanatory power than any other big story for how life really feels"

**Give me, O Lord,  
a heart at leisure from itself  
to soothe and understand.**

