

UPDATE: APRIL – MAY 2025

"But I am like an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. I will always trust in God's unfailing love. I will praise you forever, O God, for what you have done. I will trust in your good name in the presence of your faithful people." Psalm 52:8-9, NIV

Where do you place your Trust?

When we speak to people on the street who find themselves without a secure home, it often a break down in family relationships, illness or a lost job that brings about the crisis. Then we listen to the story behind the situation we see before us, and it strikes hard how easy it is for things to fall apart and for all that we have come to trust to fall away.

On a global level, without drawing on specifics, it feels that our trust in what felt normal is being eroded. Where is the security? With a greater disparity between rich and poor and a bigger imbalance between strong and weak, empathy for our fellow humans is harder to enact. Hannah Arendt, the political theorist warned that "The death of human empathy is one of the earliest and most telling signs of a culture about to fall into barbarism."

Psalm 52 in its entirety speaks to our times, as if written yesterday. David fears for his very life, while those around him seek to advance themselves by whatever means. However, it is his trust in the steadfast love of God that gives him the courage he needs. If clumsily expressed, the message of this kind of trust can be misunderstood as glib. As Christians, even if we feel overwhelmed, we are equipped to play our part to society by being trust-worthy in all of our dealings and to express empathy for our fellow humans as our trust and strength is in God, through Jesus Christ.



The trunk of an ancient olive tree - thriving...



Patrol Dates - all currently in the City Centre

April		May	
Wednesday 2 nd	10:00 - 12:00		
Friday 4 th	22:00 - 01:00	Friday 2 nd	22:00 - 01:00
Saturday 12 th	22:00 - 03:00	Saturday 10 th	22:00 - 03:00
Wednesday 16 th	10:00 - 12:00	Wednesday 14 th	10:00 - 12:00
Friday 25 th	22:00 - 01:00	Friday 30 th	22:00 - 01:00
Saturday 26 th	22:00 - 03:00	Saturday 31 st	22:00 - 03:00
Wednesday 30 th	10:00 - 12:00	Wed 4 th June	10:00 - 12:00

Points for Prayer



As Easter approaches, give reflective thanks for the freedoms we have because of the crucifixion. Give thanks to Jesus for the power we have in prayer as He intercedes for us. Ask that we hear with humility and understand with wisdom what He wishes us to do.

May the mission of Ness Pastors be pleasing to our Lord and may we receive His blessing. Let us find joy in whatever way we serve; be it walking the streets, in prayer, or in financial support. Rejoice in our differences so that together we can deliver.

A couple of our volunteers have had to step down. We are sorry to see them go, but the decision is right for them. Please give thanks for their service, pray for rest and healing. We will be training new Street and Prayer Pastors again in the next year, so if this is something you have on your heart, please give it prayerful consideration. There is a season for all things.

We receive much in the way of positive feedback for what we do but, like anything, there is a small minority who respond negatively. Please pray for acceptance that we are on the streets to listen, care and to help in whatever situation we see before us.

Give thanks for all the encouraging conversations that we have, especially with those who are new to faith and starting out on the journey of discovery. Also, to those who are curious or even cynical. Preserve us from apathy. May any seeds that are sown germinate and grow strong.

Please pray for people who are falling through the social safety net. We have regulars, who we do not identify here for their privacy. They are all precious in the eyes of The Lord and He knows who they are. Give thanks that there are so many resources such as Café 1668, Ness Bank, the Cathedral, Listening Ear Hilton, to name a few, that provide social contact and food. We were made to be with others.

Thank you for your prayers

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Inverness Street Pastors is managed by Love Inverness, a Scottish charitable company limited by guarantee. Companies House #3314481. Office of Scottish Charities Regulator number SC041605. We are part of Ascension Trust Scotland <u>https://scotland.ascensiontrust.org.uk</u>

