



## UPDATE: JULY 2022, STREET PASTORS, INVERNESS

*My people were lost sheep. Their shepherds led them astray. They abandoned them in the mountains where they wandered aimless through the hills. They lost track of home, couldn't remember where they came from. Jeremiah 50:6, The Message*

### Summer Time...

**...and the livin' is easy.<sup>1</sup>**

It feels like it has been a long time coming, but at last the holiday season is upon us. Inverness is busy with visitors and our day patrols are engaging with people from all over the world, as well as popping into Café 1668 on Church Street to catch up with some regulars. Café 1668 and Ness Bank Church provide food and support to vulnerable people all year round, and the Cathedral is providing holiday packed lunches too.



*Cap & dancing wellies ready for Belladrum!*

There are more people around at night. With the recent dry evenings, it means that people have been happy to stop and chat. Interestingly we have had to give out fewer flip-flops; so perhaps prayers for a change in footwear fashion have been answered?

After a gap of two years, we are off to Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival. One concern for this year is that for some of the younger attendees this will probably be the first time they will have the opportunity to make some of the mistakes of youth, having spent so much time at home over the past two years. For us, sometimes the biggest challenge at festivals is when folks need help to find their tent in the dark, in a sea of identical tents that were not there earlier. The experience can make time for a good long conversation.

Of course, our Church leaders and various support teams have earned a restorative break over the summer too. With less regular structured fellowship, this can be a time when it is easy to lose your way. Look out for your friends and for yourself.

### Patrol Dates

Sat 16 July	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Thu 21 July	12:00 - 14:00	City Centre
Fri 29 July	21:00 - 01:00	Belladrum
Sat 30 July	21:00 - 01:00	Belladrum
Wed 03 August	09:45 - 11:45	City Centre
Fri 05 August	22:00 - 01:00	City Centre
Tue 09 August	13:30 - 15:30	City Centre
Fri 12 August	20:00 - 22:00	Hilton
Sat 13 August	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Wed 17 August	09:45 - 11:45	City Centre
Thu 25 August	12:00 - 14:00	City Centre

Your prayers make such a difference.

<sup>1</sup> Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong – Summertime.

## From the Streets

Those of you who have been supporting us for a long time will notice that we have fewer patrols in the city centre than we have done in the past. This will change. However, residents of the city centre have told us that they notice a positive difference in mood on the nights that we patrol. This cannot be down to the presence of a few individuals working in their own strength, but is testimony to prayer and the power of Jesus.

Two of the city centre door supervisors, who we regularly have spiritual conversations with, retire this month. We will miss their insight and chat, but wish them both long and fulfilling retirements. Door staff have a challenging role to play in the city centre, keeping order and trying to ensure everyone has a great night out. All are licenced by the Security Industry Authority, which involves comprehensive training. We really appreciate working with them and their craic during any quieter spells.

Finally, we are back in the Hub for in person prayer meetings including into the early hours of the morning. This feels so good.

### John Welsh: November 1941 to June 2022

John was a stalwart of both our prayer and street teams from 2017 to 2021. As our second oldest street pastor he had the energy and commitment of someone half his age and maintained he would keep going so long as able. He was one of the first to go back on the streets following the easing of lockdown in 2020.

His life experiences as a rural postie, hotelier, publican and family man were underpinned by an extraordinary compassion for his fellow humans and a joy for life.

As a man of great faith, we know that he is at peace with the Lord. He is nonetheless greatly missed here.



### Points for prayer

Always. Give thanks for the power of prayer and the hope we have in Jesus.

Give thanks too for the organisations who provide food for those struggling financially.

Pray for Mary Welsh and the rest of John's family as they adjust to life without him.

For our door staff. Give thanks for work they do. Pray for wisdom in their actions and regenerative rest when off duty.

Covid-19 is still circulating, so please pray for protection of all our teams.

For the summer festival-goers and holiday-makers. Safety, fun, good memories and strong friendships. Especially pray for the city centre on the weekend we are at Belladrum.

For our church leaders and ministry teams. Rejuvenation and inspiration. For those missing the routine and regularity of fellowship. Keep your eyes on the cross and pray.

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10, ESV*  
Have a blessed summer.