



UPDATE: JUNE 2022, STREET PASTORS, INVERNESS

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:1-4, NIV

Stronger Together

Two themes have emerged during our patrols this month.

The first has been a number of enquiries as to which church we belong to. Street Pastors are The Church on the street, not any one church. There must be at least four committed churches in order to set up a Street Pastor initiative, this prevents any one doctrine from being dominant. The only thing that matters on the street is that we are committed Christians who actively demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to those who need it. Having a mix of churches also means as individuals we can learn and grow from each other's spiritual experience.

Perhaps that the question is being asked means that church appears fragmented in our society? But we are all united by one thing, with so much more in common than we have in difference. Les Isaac sums it up nicely, *"Christians look at other Christians and think they must be wacky. Non-Christians look at us all and think we are wacky. Meanwhile the world is going down the pan."*¹

The concept of the world going down the pan leads me to a second feature of the month – more interactions with people in mental distress. This is supported by a national survey which suggests that the mental health of the nation is as low now as it was during the toughest parts of lockdown. Street Pastors can do a lot here by prayerfully listening and really hearing what the person has to say, without judgement. Sometimes that is enough, sometimes we can offer information to direct people to specialist support and sometimes we have the back up of professional services.

This is not the place to explore the reasons for the low mood of the nation. We are meant to enjoy life in all its variety but sometimes we need a hand up, and that is okay. If there is someone in your social circle that you have not heard from for a while, do take a moment to check in. It can make all the difference and they may just need a small boost to get back into the way of society after the last two years of isolation.

Patrol News

Ross has now joined us as the patrol coordinator. So we now have a full team with Sue coordinating prayer teams and Mark with overall managerial responsibility. Each can be contacted by using their first name followed by the @loveinverness.org email address.

The prayer teams move back into the Hub this month and we are so grateful to Castle Street Baptist Church for access to this great resource.

¹ Les Isaac and Rosalind Davies. *Street Pastors*. Published by David C. Cook. 213pp.

Patrol Dates for your Prayer Diary

Thu 23 Jun	12:00 - 14:00	City Centre
Sat 02 July	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Wed 06 July	09:45 - 11:45	City Centre
Fri 08 July	22:00 - 01:00	City Centre
Tue 12 July	13:30 - 15:30	City Centre
Sat 16 July	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Wed 20 July	09:45 - 11:45	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

Sectoral Prayer Focus

Inverness has two sources of mental health support that can be accessed directly. The Samaritans in Tomnahurich Street are part of a nationwide initiative with 19 branches in Scotland and over 200 in the UK. Mikeysline are Highland-based, with a physical presence at The Hive Centre on Academy Street. Founded in 2015 after a number of suicides in the Highlands they have grown to offer a range of services.



Please give thanks for the presence of people from all walks of life who are able and willing to support people during their darkest times. Pray for resilience in their volunteers and the continued support of the community. Any suicide is too many. One actual suicide prevented helps break the cycle and may prevent more.

Points for prayer

Always, give thanks for the power that we have been given in the gift of prayer.

For our street, prayer and management teams. Please give thanks for their commitment and ask for strength, energy, wisdom and especially good team work as we again adapt to change. Let the light of Jesus be visible in us and spread to others.

Give thanks for the support we receive from emergency services, door staff and the welcome eyes of the CCTV operatives. They do a difficult jobs and we really value them.

Please pray for those who are struggling with poor mental health. For anyone considering taking their life, ask for the right person to be put in be place to ensure they get help. It might even be you.

Finally pray for unity in the Church in all its guises. May we be all be identifiable as Christians showing the love of Christ, first and foremost.

And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:40, NLT.

Thank you for your support.