



UPDATE: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21: 25, ESV.

Party Time!

We are approaching the season of Christmas parties and Operation Respect, an Inverness Community Safety Initiative, is gearing up to ensure a safe and fun time for all. It is time to let our hair down and forget problems past, present and future. It may also be when some feel tempted to try recreational drugs for the first time.

Scotland tops the European league tables for drug misuse deaths, but not in a good way. In Highland NHS area we do rank third lowest in the country, but there is no space to be complacent as deaths have increased sevenfold over the last 20 years. Earlier in the year Police stated that drug gangs remain the top type of serious crime they deal with in Highland. Young or vulnerable people may be exploited to set up supplies.



None of us is immune from addiction

When it comes to national league tables for avoidable deaths Highland is above the national average for alcohol specific deaths and second highest for probable suicides. These statistics make gloomy reading but death is a pretty blunt metric. Long before death there is the collateral damage of a life not lived to its potential.



If you are likely to witness an overdose, speak to your pharmacist about naloxone

In Inverness, the nurses at either Osprey House or the Highland Alcohol and Drug Advice Support Service (HADASS) on Church Street provide support for drug and alcohol users. It is so humbling to witness their compassion and care as they work towards reducing harm and focus on recovery in addicts. Naloxone, a life-saving drug that temporarily reverses the effects of opiates, is available as part of a national programme to reduce drug misuse deaths.

There can be a lot of judgment about addiction, but no-one sets out for this outcome in life and medical support frames the issue as one of health. On the street, people sometimes ask us why we bother with 'these people'. Every person is precious in the eyes of God. Every death, or life not lived to its potential, is the life of someone's father, mother, brother, sister, friend... Those who find themselves in the grip of addiction are extremely vulnerable to exploitation, but can and do make a full recovery to lead fulfilling and even inspirational lives. We all need a hand up sometime.

'These people' matter and like all journeys theirs started with that first step.

Patrol Dates for Prayer

Sat 26 November	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Wed 30 November	09:45 - 11:45	City Centre
Fri 02 December	22:00 - 01:00	City Centre
Tue 06 December	13:30 - 15:30	City Centre
Wed 07 December	09:45 - 11:45	City Centre
Fri 09 December	20:00 - 22:00	Hilton
Fri 09 December	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Thur 22 December	12:00 - 14:00	City Centre
Fri 23 December	19:00 - 22:00	City Centre
Fri 23 December	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre
Sat 31 December	22:00 - 03:00	City Centre

Thank you!

From the Streets and Nationally

Conversations on the street reflect the deepening national crisis. People anxious about the future and those already experiencing the impacts of the cost of living crisis by having to move home and the upheaval that entails. This inevitably can have negative impacts on important relationships. We try to encourage people that a good Christmas need not be the most expensive one and that warm hugs are more valuable than expensive toys.

The Inverness Warm Space Group are meeting to map out who is providing warm space in the coming weeks. This is a cross cutting initiative with nearly all faith and a wide range of community groups represented.

If you have not seen us on Facebook for a while, please pay us a visit at Inverness Street Pastors. After a bit of a lull we are again posting more, hopefully useful, information.

Points for Prayer



Give thanks for the power we have in the cross and the redemptive power of Jesus.

Pray for cooperation and wisdom as Operation Respect gains momentum and for the Warm Space Group as both seek to care for our communities leading into winter.

Give thanks and pray for the continued compassion of the beautiful NHS harm reduction nurses. Lives can and will be turned around. Pray for those who think it is okay to take drugs and for recovery for those in the vicious trap of addiction.

Continue to pray for the various initiatives that provide warm food, fellowship and support for those in need: Inverness Foodstuff; Café 1668; Listening Ear Hilton.

Please pray for resilience in our teams as we head out in the lead up to Christmas; that we will give witness to the real message of peace and love on earth. Include our Prayer Pastors who sit up and pray through the patrols, often into the small hours of the morning too.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17, ESV

Thank you for your prayers and remember the Christ in Christmas.