

## Quakers

Now the winter is coming, we are very grateful to the Quakers who offer their premises free of charge for our Street Pastor Base until March.

Here it is nearer the Plains where a lot of the 'action' takes place especially at the end of the evening and the clear window at the front of the Meeting House, means that Safeguarding issues are covered, in that anyone in distress and needing a cup of tea etc will remain clearly visible.

*A note from the Quakers: Practise random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty*



## Totnes United Free

Being in the centre of Fore Street, Totnes United Free makes a wonderful base for most of the year. Many, many thanks go to Pastor Fraser Nute and the church for allowing us to use it free of charge. The church is open to the community in the middle of the day each week with welcome cups of tea and coffee. They also have resident part time representative of Christians Against Poverty which is a wonderful church inspired organisation who can help people deal with even the most severe debt. Their help is free with no strings attached and continuing until people are debt free.

*'CAP is unsurpassed when it comes to the debt help they give across the country' Martyn Lewis Money Saving Expert.*

**Call CAP free on 0800 328 0006**

## Totnes Street Pastors Autumn Newsletter November 2013

*Registered Charity 1000179*

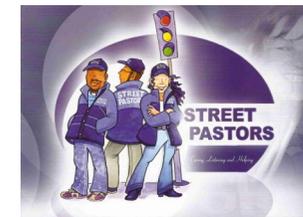
The Management Team is very pleased to announce that we have 2 new Street Pastors in training.

Ann King and Susan Vaughan - both are very experienced. Ann has a background in counselling and is a very gifted artist - you may have seen her work during the Totnes Open Studios weeks.

Susan teaches Vocational Education in Teignmouth and has also been a nurse.

They both attend St Mary and St George RC church in Totnes. They are currently training with Torbay Street Pastors each Thursday evening and it is a measure of how important the Police and Council consider our work to be, in that we no longer have to pay for training.

We will of course be giving a gift to Torbay for all their help, support and friendship. Ann and Susan will have completed the 60 hours training and received DBS clearance by the end of the year and will be joining our teams on the streets from January. Please hold them in your prayers.



**Newsletter Editor Liz Waterson 01803 849345**

## Prayer booklet

Along with this mailing comes a Prayer Booklet that you may wish to use (especially each Friday), to pray for our Street Pastors and to pray for our town.

Please let us know if you are praying for us and if you want to become involved in praying at the Street Pastor Base (even for just short while at first).

Do contact John Hawkins on 864328.

## Caring, Listening, Helping.

### The Street Pastor Motto

**Caring** - Picking up bottles and rubbish, taking soup to homeless and giving out space blankets.

**Listening** -Allowing people to engage in conversation and taking time to listen to their views. You can never underestimate the gift of listening

**Helping** -Helping people get home safely and friendship groups to stay together. Ringing the police when a fight breaks out and calming the situation where possible by encouraging people to step back. This happened only recently and our Street Pastors were able to calm those on the edge of the situation, call the Police and give a full witness statement.

**Follow Street Pastors on Twitter: @streetpastors**

**Follow Ascension Trust the umbrella body for the world wide scheme on Facebook.**

**Just google: Ascension Trust Facebook**



## Lead us not into temptation...

We are a little concerned that the Coop now stays open until 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays. We have passed on our comments to the store and some members of Totnes Town Council.

It is not difficult to guess what is most commonly sold after normal opening hours.

Of course, those of us who are on the colourful side of 50 and 60 often shake our heads at some of the antics our young people get up to, but I suspect that may it be because alcohol and drugs weren't so easily available in 'our day' that we scraped through.

Never has the phrase **lead us not into temptation** been more appropriate than when we think about how easy it is for young people to obtain alcohol and drugs today.

You may also have seen on TV the programme 'Dying to get High' about just how easy it is to obtain so called Legal Highs. Torbay Street Pastors were featured in the film.

Is it time for us to take a responsible look at the sale and cost of alcohol and drugs legislation and join our MP in asking the Government to take steps to make the temptation to buy a little less easy.

In Ipswich, the Coop has taken steps to stop selling super strength alcohol in its shops and the community has seen a decrease in street drinking that previously lead to anti social behaviour - just one example of a small change that can improve a situation.