

- Roger Bartlett of The Christian Police Association asked for our prayers for the following: We are blessed to have a full time Police Chaplain in Devon and Cornwall, one of 7 in the country. That is because Paul Netherton is a Christian and sees great value in a Chaplaincy. Her name is **Sarah Jeffrey** - she is not a Rev but a lay person from a free church. *She and Roger Bartlett mentioned that the Christian Police Association Initiative - ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) have alcohol free cafes plus activities for young people. There is one in Paignton on the circular road opposite the covered shopping centre. Sarah also asked us to pray for the police, when things go wrong. She mentioned the importance of engaging with other faith groups and of sharing her faith, without evangelising through listening, caring and helping.*
- **The funding cuts are cutting deep and the Police need wisdom to know how to handle them.**

The extended licensing hours have caused a great deal of extra work and the Police ask us to pray that opening hours will be reviewed.

- A new book full of SP street stories 'Faith on the streets' is due out in May
- **All in all, the conference, attended by all but 2 of the SP schemes in Devon and Cornwall, underlined that our role is vital and greatly appreciated.**

Here at Totnes we are now using the Quaker Meeting House as our Base all the year round and we have to say goodbye to Susan Vaughan, who due to pressure of work (not least ofsted) has had to stand down.

Totnes Street Pastors Spring Newsletter 2014

**Totnes Street Pastors
invites you to our
2nd Commissioning Service
When? Sunday 1st June at 4pm
Where? St John's Bridgetown
Speaker and Commissioner:
Ros Ede Ascension Trust Rep**



Totnes, it's the place to be!

**RSVP: totnes@streetpastors.org.uk
Registered Charity 1000179**

Report from Coordinators Conference 2014 Devon and Cornwall Police HQ Middelmoor

- Grateful thanks were giving from the Police Assistant Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Paul Netherton, Tony Hogg the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall and from Ascension Trust. SPs - 'the fourth emergency service!'
- Some Groups noticed that when they are on duty things are quieter - police have assured them that's because they are there!
- Nationally the SP scheme is just over 10 years old. There are 280 initiatives and 11,000 trained SPs. Ascension Trust, which is the umbrella organisation that set up Street Pastors, has 1 or 2 enquiries per week about starting a scheme nationally and internationally. They have just sent a SP license to the Democratic Republic of Congo
- We collect stats from our weekly reports, as Coordinators have to return an annual report to Ascension Trust.
- So far this year, we have had several good conversations, - people seek us out! We have helped a many vulnerable persons to safety, defused several fights and given out lots of lollies!
- **If SPs deal with an incident it can save between 3 to 6 hours of Police time and the Police are fully aware of this.**



- Crime levels have dipped slightly, but the nature of crime has changed. It is now sexual, and domestic abuse, shoplifting, alcohol driven or due to mental illness. Our area has the 1/3 highest suicide rate in the country. There are no beds in the SW for under 18s with mental health issues in SW. The nearest bed is in Scotland (yes, I did write Scotland!!) People with mental health issues often, therefore, end up in Police cells which are not the right place for them. Our listening, caring and helping is crucial. Also, knowing the range of voluntary organisations on offer here in Totnes that we can refer people to, is of great help - hence why we were a part of the **Health and Welfare Day held here in Totnes in March.**
- **Legal Highs continue to be a problem. Only one change in a chemical compound can get a banned substance back on the streets again.**


Health and Welfare Day
29 March, 11am-4pm
Civic Hall, Totnes

Caring Town Totnes is a new project bringing together all those keen to help Totnes become an even more caring town. Come and join Totnes Caring, Citizens Advice Bureau, AgeUK Devon, Totnes Street Pastors, Totnes Drop In Centre, Network of Wellbeing, Totnes Job Centre, Plough and Share Credit Union, the Fire and Rescue Services, Food in Community CIC and many more to find out more about support that is out there, suggest new opportunities for caring for one another and offer your time and skills if you can.

FREE ENTRY

Delicious food will be available throughout the day with tea and cake on a pay what you can basis.

For more information please email caringtowntotnes@gmail.com or check out the Facebook page facebook.com/caringtowntotnes

