



A message from Peterborough Street Pastors

Peterborough Street Pastors has been serving the night-time economy in Peterborough for 12 years and recruiting volunteers has long been a challenge, understandably given the commitment that it takes to go out from 10pm – 4am on a Saturday night! Over the past year we have reduced to 4 volunteers which makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to put out a patrol each week.

We have, obviously not been patrolling during coronavirus lockdown and this has allowed us to take stock. We have seen a number of changes to the night-time economy over recent years. For example:

- The night-time economy in Peterborough is a fraction of the size that it was when we first began the scheme and the way in which young people socialise had been changing. They will now 'preload' before they come into the city centre.
- Despite our best efforts, we have not been able, for a good number of years, to recruit volunteers for the scheme and are currently down to three volunteers.

It is unclear when the night-time economy will be able to fully function again. It is unlikely to be 'back to normal' for at least a year and we cannot be sure that all the businesses will survive, and that people will want to socialise in the same way. There are also a number of changes on the horizon for Peterborough that may impact upon the night-time economy:

- The ongoing impact of coronavirus may mean that people do not have the money to go out and may feel differently about going into busy places
- The potential of the new University
- The changing face of the traditional night-time economy area to become more residential

Therefore, we have taken the decision to 'rest' Street Pastors until May 2021. We will continue to seek to recruit new volunteers and take them through recruitment process. We will then take stock of where the night-time economy is and if we are able to respond to the change. We are very keen to recommence our patrols, albeit that this might be in a different way – different times and different locations.

Please join with us as we seek God over this time for the work of Street Pastors. If you have any queries or would like to hear more about the work of Street Pastors or are interested in joining us, you can contact either our Co-ordinator or Chair. Their details are below:

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