

Dacorum Street Pastors

Chairman Report 2021

Following on from the previous year, this last year was again difficult as activity was interrupted and affected by the Covid situation. Risk Assessments were carried out on a regular basis in line with the template provided by Ascension Trust. Covid regulations resulted in Street Pastor activity being withdrawn in Q1 (January -March 2021),

Nevertheless, at the start of Q2 (April to June), teams of 2 resumed on Saturday afternoons, with night-life still affected. In Q3 (July – September) and Q4 (October – December), a rota was re-introduced for Friday/Saturday evenings, allowing Street activity, as Bars and Clubs resumed trade.

Our goal for 2021 was to retain the current team and work towards growing it but that work has been impacted by Covid-19. We have worked towards keeping teams together by phone calls to vulnerable and / or isolated members and zoom coffee evenings. Clearly we were unable to be pro-active in recruitment during the year but this needs to be a real focus for 2022.

Ascension Trust set up online Zoom training during the year which was overseen by Justine and enabled new Street Pastors, apart from one to complete their training.

Following work by a former Trustee (Simon Barratt) on Prayer Pastors, Paul Martin has taken a lead on this with assistance from Francis, our Prayer Pastor. The Prayer Role was shared with the Trustees in November. Our aim is to encourage greater engagement with Prayer Partners going forward.

Looking at the Urban Trinity, I have maintained good contact and support with the police through CI Craig Flint and latterly DCI Jason Keen.

Liaison with Dacorum Borough Council has been through the Community Safety Partnership meetings and conversations with its Chair, Cllr Julie Bank, Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services, who directed us to some funding. I also sit on the Dacorum Homeless Forum which last met by zoom on 2 December. We have also joined Community Action Dacorum which should give us further leads for funds and trustees.

Our income this year came as grants and donations. We are grateful to the Hemel Hempstead Community Church, Westminster RC Diocese Trust, Sunnyside Church and Dacorum BC and Herts CC for their financial support. 2000 leaflets promoting Dacorum Street Pastors were professionally printed and distributed in varying quantities to 36 churches in Hemel Hempstead and Bovingdon and 13 churches in Berkhamsted prior to Christmas with a letter inviting the clergy to mention our activity as part of their Christmas message.

Response Pastors remain part of the Herts Major Incident Plan but have not been called upon during 2021. We are part of the Herts Local Resilience Forum and I am Lead Co-ordinator for RPs in Herts. We have 8 RPs from our team.

Mike Wallis, Chair of Trustees, Dacorum Street Pastors