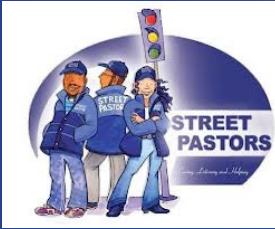


MSP News

Your News, Thoughts and Prayers

JANUARY 2026



Happy New Year



Thank you Energize Community Choir

On Saturday 13th December, Energize Community Choir had their carol service at Christchurch Parkwood.

They asked if I could attend as they wanted to make a donation to our work, **thank you**. It was a really lovely service and there was a wonderful moment.

The organiser - Ken Scott had asked me to say just a few words about our work. When I did this a lady asked if she could say something. She said one night a couple of years ago, she had a call from Medway Street Pastors to say her autistic son was standing on the edge of a bridge and wanted to jump.

She was so thankful the team were there to assist with his recovery. She said that unfortunately her son died last year (of natural causes).

New adult choir members, male and female are always welcome. No auditions required, non-music readers welcome, you just need to love singing! We meet Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9pm at Christ Church, 46, Wallis Avenue, Parkwood, Maidstone, ME 15 9LB. £5 per week. Try it free for a week- no obligation to join but bet you'll be hooked!

*To find out more, please visit the facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/838818979560481/>*

I enjoyed a great coffee morning with Wendy Pfeiffer who runs - Circle of Friends CIC, a befriending and outreach service supporting Maidstone and the surrounding villages.

They wanted to make a donation to the work we do; one of their members was one of our Prayer Pastors for many years. I was also speaking to another ex Street Pastor who is also part of Circle of Friends.

Circle of Friends is all about promoting friendship, wellbeing, independence, and community – but it needs support to grow.

Wendy is looking for sponsorship, investment, or partnerships to help this vital service reach more people.

If you can help financially please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/s?q=Circle+of+Friends+maidstone>



Pictured above is fundraiser Linda, myself and Wendy.

Another Thank You!

I had a call from Malcolm McKay who asked if we still need Pot Noodles - we did. He went on to say he had brought 40 for us. What a wonderful thing for an individual to do. Thank you Malcolm for your generosity and care.



Mother's Union Coxheath Branch are so good to us.

They heard we use a lot of Pot Noodles, Cup-a-Soups for our street population, and bottled water and lollies for the night-time economy revellers. Above is their donation to us. **Thank you so much.**



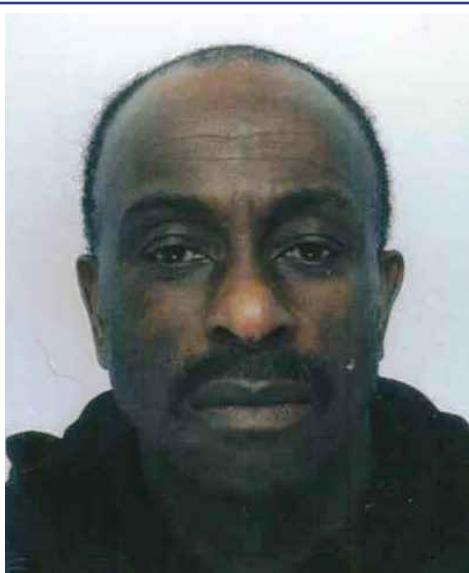
Can you make a donation to help fund our work?

If so please scan this QR code and make a donation amount of your choice. **Thank you**



Once again we had been asked to assist with some marshalling duties at the recent Maidstone Churches Carol Services.

Pictured above is Ian, Steph, Nigel and Mary having a well earned break!



Our grateful thanks go to Baron Reid who has now stepped down from his Prayer Pastor role. Baron has been with us for many years so we say 'Thank you' Baron for all you have done for us.

Baron is still going to be a 'home prayer' for us on a Saturday night.



It's not good bye - more a moving on!

Gwyn McPherson is our longest serving Street Pastors.

Gwyn has decided the time is right to step down from her Street Pastor role as she is now going to be one of our School Pastors.

Thank you Gwyn for your many years of loyal service.

We know you will excel in this new role with our newly formed School Pastors



Kent Social/Worship event



For a lot of people, we may only get to see loved ones and family just once or twice a year, how sad.

Street, School, Rail and Prayer Pastors are a family and we should get together!

This will be a 'bring and share' type buffet.

The format will be: Welcome by Anwar Bourazza of Ascension Trust - Plenty of Worship - Live music - Choirs - Prayers - Fellowship - Chatting and more.



It would help us to know who, and how many may be coming.

Can you please email Huseyin and Nicola at: sittingbourne@streetpastors.org.uk

If you can sing or play an instrument etc. can you please email Steph; inlovewithjesus2005@hotmail.co.uk

It would be good for a photo opportunity if we can wear uniform.

Saturday 24th January

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Allington Baptist Church
76A London Road,
Maidstone.
ME16 0DT

Parking is available

Let's celebrate 2026 with a great show of who we are and rejoice in knowing we are doing God's work.



Weekly Report Updates

Just a reminder, these reports are edited to remove incidents with venue's to protect their privacy.

Saturday 6th December.

SP Team: Ros, Heather, Robert with Joana having a second observer night. Hilary was due to be in, but due to some family issues, she could not join us.

PP Team: Sheila and Nigel.

We had quite a lot to chat and pray about, and with a time of worship the team signed on and headed out just after 10.00.

10.55: Team rang in to say they were with a vulnerable female at Urban Blue. The female was quite drunk and being awkward and went on to say she had lost her handbag and phone, and her friends had deserted her - they were from Dover. The team were with her for almost an hour as follows.

We contacted control to ask if there were any Police around. We thought a welfare check should be carried out on her as she was; drunk, had been smoking weed, was alone, and from Dover with no money etc.

The Police responded to say they were on their way to Jubilee Square. Just after this the team said they were walking the female to Old House at Home as she said she had been there and that her bag maybe there. Old House at Home replied to say they had this female with them earlier looking for her bag but it wasn't there. The team then said they had taken her to Zoo Bar, but they said she had not been there, they were then taking her to Ballin as she had been there. On the way the female was needing the toilet, so they took her to The Muggleton Inn who escorted her to the toilet. From this they were going to Ballin who said her bag wasn't there.

The Police then met up with the team and female and they took over (more later).

11.30: Two ladies were walking down the alley at Switch and looked a little confused.

We spoke to them and they said they had asked the take-away next door where there were any toilets they could use. The ladies said they had been told to 'go down the alley' but they were not prepared to do this (good for them). We allowed them to use the toilet in Switch and they were so pleased and really thankful we had helped them.

In conversation, they said they had come from Essex to go to a 70's - 80's R&B night at Ballin (this must have been a big draw as the lady from above had been there as well, just goes to show people do still travel a long way to come to Maidstone). We asked how they were getting home to which they said they would order an UBER. They were really polite, nice and complementary about the work we do.

11.45: As the team had been with the lady from 10.55 for a long time, they came back to base for an early break and to fill us in on what had occurred, they reported:

- All was quite down by the river and Maidstone West station.
- Usual male 'C' was given a hot drink.
- They had been back to UB to find out more about the lady from 10.55. The Police had established she and her friends were staying in an Air B&B in Postely Road and they had taken her there.
- A very sick male being supported by his friends was given a sick bag and bottled water.
- The urinal was not out.
- The mobile CCTV was near Ovation/Bierkeller.
- Police were on the Square.
- They spoke to a group of people who asked who they were and what they do :).

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There were not too many issues tonight so the team returned to base at 01.15 and reported:

- Maidstone East station was all quiet.
- They had some good conversations with door staff, almost all are saying they are not as busy as they used to be.
- The bag the lady lost at 10.55 had been found in Ballin. The Police were taking it to the Air B&B.
- Good conversation was had with UB.
- 'C' had another hot drink.
- They had spotted the vulnerable male 'M' (with his cider in a bag), strange as it seems, a group they had spoken to earlier had asked them if they had seen 'M' (at that time they hadn't). 'M' was talking to some people and all seemed okay with him.

We then signed off and headed home around 01.30

Saturday 13th December. N/A

Tuesday 16th December. (our monthly day patrol).

SP Team: Mark, Hazel and Robert.

PP Team: Nigel

After patrolling around Lockmeadow, they met a group of people and had a conversation with them. Most were okay in talking with them but woman was not so keen. One of the group said to her, "no, these people are good to us". One of the males said he had been banned from the town but he was homeless and had no way of getting any assistance. The group had all been drinking.

Whilst at the river, they checked in on the tents that have been there for a long time, and there was no sign of anyone being on the boat that is moored up there. One of the ladies that is normally here (the Ukrainian lady who frequented All Saints grounds) was not around.

They had another chat to a Muslim male who was singing! He went on to say he was 'new age' and a 'free thinker'. He shared some of his life experiences and that when he was in a Mosque in Nigeria, he was constantly beaten up.

They had been to Maidstone West station and spoke to some people there, all was okay.

The lady that sells the 'Big Issue' in Week Street, said a 'friend' is taking her and her 5 children to live in Spain where she will be a translator. This is probably genuine but it seemed a bit strange to us.

Friday 19th December.

We decided to patrol tonight rather than Saturday. This would have been the last working day for many people with office parties and the like happening - good job we did!!

SP Team: Mark, Nigel R, Jane, Heather, Jim and Anne

PP Team: Shirley and Nigel

We had two teams out tonight, Mark, Nigel and Jane started earlier at 9.00pm, with Heather, Jim and Anne starting at 10.00pm

Katy wasn't able to join us in the prayer team as she has an infection in both eyes, we prayed for her and the first team went out just after 9.00pm.

10.45: The team rang and said they were with a vulnerable lady near HSBC. There is a lot more to this which is detailed below*.

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10.56: Team called back to give this more detail report about the incident at 10.45, also:

- Kent Search and Rescue vehicles was on Jubilee Square.
- Spoke to Market House door staff who said they were strict with who enters. They said that Fridays seemed busier now than Saturdays?
- Had a good conversation to male outside The Brenchley who asked who we were and what we do.
- They mentioned this van (picture right) was on Jubilee Square.
- Police were on Jubilee Square and more by Metro bank.
- There was an ambulance at The Brenchley and while they were there, the Police arrived and spoke to the team.
- They spoke to a male who is normally out with Urban Blue, but he was just out with friends tonight.
- Had a conversation with two women on Jubilee Square who said they were Christians from Welling. One said her father is a Pastor, and the other said she was Greek Orthodox.
- They spoke to an ex Policeman who was interested in our work and would like to do this, sadly he is not a Christian and doesn't attend a church.
- The mobile CCTV was near Ovation/Bierkeller. They spoke to the male door staff at Ovation who said he was still troubled by the attack there a few weeks ago.
- While on Gabriels Hill, they spoke to a male 'T' who said he sleeps in Mote Park, he tries to keep away from the other Street Population and knows there is help available. He had a pot noodle from us.
- Spoke to two Police officers who said they were on until 04.00am.
- While talking to the door staff at Ballin, they said they had a guest London DJ and the venue was at full capacity - 1,100!
- *This lady 'L' (dressed in white, with a white scarf and pink hair) was deemed vulnerable by the team and they offered to walk her home, just in the flats behind Maidstone West station on Tonbridge Road, she refused. We asked for the Police to attend to do a welfare check on her, they said they would attend asap (but were stood down a little later as she was collected). In discussion she said she was from the Isle of Wight and had suicidal tendencies. She said she hated being indoors but equally was scared to go out. She has three children who her live with her dad as she doesn't want them to go into care. She had been moved from IoW to Kent due to DV, this was strange as he abuser came from Kent? she has been moved 4 times since being here.



Apparently she has a social worker who is good to her; one time the social worker got her moved in two hours due to some drug issues in her flats. We said to her that she may be better off in a women's refuge, she said she didn't want to go to one.

She said she doesn't like being on her own and her ex once found out where she was, and he broke her eye socket! She then added that last night a woman hit her, she also relayed that she had been in Maidstone hospital for six days as she has a blood clot on her brain! (we will add this is what she said, we have no proof her story is true, there was just something odd about the situation).

As she didn't want us to walk her home, she said she'd phone a friend - which she did. A little while later a male arrived and said his name was 'D' and he worked with 'Open Arms' charity (homeless help). We said to her is the man she rang to which she confirmed, he said he knew her and would take her home. Again we were just a little concerned about this and ask control to monitor if possible, they confirmed they had them on camera.

11.35: Team then called in a for comfort break and reported:

- Usual male 'C' had his hot drink.
- They spoke to a lady at Maidstone East station who was okay.
- The queue at Ballin was stretching up Bank Street and curling around the town hall.

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- They had received a lot of encouraging comments.
- Spoke to a lady from New Line academy who asked them "how do you cope with things, and what if a person is nasty to you" - we allayed her worries :)
- Lots of hello's received and lot's of bottles collected.
- They also checked in on 'C'.
- Quite a queue of people at The Stag.

01.50: The team rang in to say they were dealing with a medical situation near Ballin. Apparently there were two people with injuries and they had called an ambulance. More on this below.

02.10: Just after this the team came back and reported:

- One of the males they were assisting at 01.50 was now coherent, he spoke to the ambulance control who said they would 'stand down' the call out. The team left the male with Police who had now arrived.
- On the way back from their river patrol, they met a lady 'Z' on the ground at the take-away next to Switch. They managed to rouse her and she was then sick but the team helped her with water and sick bags. She then phoned someone and said she was going to meet her, the team followed at a distance until she met with her friend. A little while later they spotted 'Z' again but she was on her own and seemed okay.
- They spoke to a male while at the river who was very appreciative of what we do.
- Said hello to Kent Search and Rescue who were on the bridge and had a boat on the river.
- 2 sick bags had been given to some more people.
- While at Bierkeller they gave a sick bag to a girl but she refused a space blanket.
- Had a nice chat to the door staff at Players.
- Flip-flops were given to a girl on Week Street who seemed a little embarrassed she needed them as she said she was a mother with children!

So after a very busy night, we signed off around 02.30 and headed home.

New Years Eve.

SP Team: Emma-Jane, Heather, Graham and Nigel R

PP Team: Katy, Nigel and Margaret Riley.

We're never sure what NYE will bring, despite the bitterly cold night, a lot of people were not 'dressed' for it!! :):)

There had been a post on Facebook to say there had been trouble at Ballin earlier in the day. They had a ticketed youth event and 3 adults were allowed in with a youth. The reports were it was very crowded and some people were being 'kicked out' (not sure if this was the youth or adults?).

Usual time of chat, drinks, worship and prayers before the team signed on and headed out just after 10.00.

11.10: UB radioed Street Pastors to attend as they had a vulnerable, homeless female with them (more on this later).

11.25: Team rang in to ask if we had a sleeping bag and supplies for the homeless female above (see below).

11.35: Team called back for the supplies for the female.

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11.58: Team called back for a break to see in the New Year, we watched the fireworks from the car park, they reported:

- It was bitterly cold!
- The female they had been asked to attend at UB said her name was 'K', she was very unwell and had some mental health issues. She said she was homeless and had been in touch with Trinity Foyer and Porchlight. She has been staying in Lily Smith House but had been asked to leave there! She has been sofa surfing and has no family nearby, her sister lives near the coast somewhere. We could tell she had not been looking after herself so we gave her some washing supplies, coat, fleece, hat, scarf, gloves, sleeping bag, foil blanket, pot noodle, soup, water and tissues. Hopefully these will help her until she can access services again in the New Year.
- They had been to the tents of the far side of the river between the two bridges. There was no-one present so they left a flyer we had about the Winter Night shelter. They had also noticed another tent by B&Q car park and again left the flyer we had about the Winter Night shelter.
- They spoke to a guard at Maidstone East station who said there were no issues there.
- They had cleared up some broken glass near Brenchley Gardens.
- Long queues outside Ovation.
- They had a chat to group of Eastern European guys and girls.
- Had a chat to a young girl who asked what we do. She said she is vulnerable and lives on her own. She has some contact with her mum.
- There was noticeably a lot of rubbish on the streets.
- Small queues at Ballin and Harry's Bar.
- They gave some of our glass covers to some ladies in Bank Street.
- Police van was on Jubilee Square.
- Usual male 'C' had the first of his hot drinks.
- Said hello to Kent Search and Rescue who were in town.
- Spoke to the door staff at MuMu but door staff at Society Rooms were busy so we just acknowledged each other.
- They had seen approximately 9 Police officers in town.
- 00.10: Lockmeadow security mentioned something about 'smoke' and requested Police. The message was unclear and we heard no more.

00.40: There was a lot of noise from a small group of males at the entry to the alley at Switch. They were okay, just quite drunk so we gave them some bottled water, they were very thankful.

00.50: We heard a female was 'walking all over the place' and perhaps needed a welfare check. She was reported as going in to the alley at Market House into Fremlin Walk. Our team said they would try to find her. Shortly after we heard she was on the phone to someone and had met up with a friend outside Five Guys (not sure who was supplying this info; F/W, Market House, OHaH?).

01.50: Team returned to base and reported:

- The male from 01.30 was seen near Ovation, he had a bloodied face but did not want our help.
- They confirmed they had seen the female from 00.50 with her friend at Five Guys.
- While in Week Street, they spoke to the Priest at the Catholic Church as they had a midnight Mass. He said they had about 150 attend and he knows the Street Pastors from Sittingbourne.
- 'C' had another coffee.
- Spoke to a lady on Jubilee Square who was with UB, she said she had some severe stomach pains. Our female SP's said it sounded as though she was experiencing an ectopic pregnancy!
- They had been given a lot of praise and wished "Happy New Year" by many people.
- A lot of bottled water, flip-flops, glass covers were handed out.
- The Muggleton Inn allowed us to refill our flask with hot water.

We watched the NY celebrations from London on the TV at Switch when they came back at midnight. Normally the Embankment opposite the London Eye is heaving with people - it wasn't this year. This was a similar feeling we had in Maidstone, although there were many people around, it wasn't heaving!

After this debrief and clearing our cars of frosted windows, we signed off and headed home at 02.00am

ATTENTION

Below are the planned rotas up to March 2026. As we have some new people and some stepping down, these could change.

**We are having a Winter break on Saturdays 3rd and 10th January.
We will be back on Saturday 17th January 2026.**

Please can you all confirm these are okay, or advise otherwise.

It is totally understandable that sometimes, you will not be able to do your rota, where possible, please give as much notice as you can.

	Street Pastors				Actions		Prayer Pastors	
03/01/2025	No patrol NY break							
10/01/2025	No patrol NY break							
17/01/2025	Ros	Heather	Robert	Phil			Sheila	Nigel
24/01/2025	Jacqui	Jim	Shantelle	Joana Observer	Phil N/A		Katy	Sheila swap
31/01/2025	Ian	Jane	Anne				Steph	Linda
07/02/2025	Emma-Jane	Graham	Sue	Hilary			Tim	Mary
14/02/2025	Ros	Heather	Robert				Shirley swap	Nigel
21/02/2025	Jacqui	Jim	Phil	Shantelle			Katy	Shirley
28/02/2025	Ian	Jane	Anne				Steph	Linda
07/03/2025	Emma-Jane	Graham	Sue	Hilary			Tim	Mary
14/03/2025	Ros	Heather	Robert	Joana ?			Sheila	Nigel
21/03/2025	Jacqui	Jim	Phil	Shantelle			Katy	Shirley
28/03/2025	Ian	Jane	Anne				Steph	Linda



NOT LONG NOW

Our School Pastors are going into St. Augustine Academy during the first week of January to do their DBS checks. Once these are done we will then be able to say what day of the week we will be there.

We are so looking forward to starting this much needed ministry.

If anyone would like to join as a School Pastor, or School Prayer Pastor, we are starting the next round of training at the end of January.

For more information please contact:
maidstone@schoolpastors.org.uk

**Are you a person who likes to pray?
Could you give approximately 4 hours a month?
Do you like a coffee/tea and chat?**

We are in need of more people to join our Prayer Pastor team. Many people say they love the work of the Street Pastors but could not actually do the street patrol.

Our Prayer Pastors meet at the base on a Saturday night from around 9.30pm to pray for the Street Pastor team, the public in the 'Night-time economy', Police, door staff, CCTV control, the Street Population and the safety of the town.

For more information and to find out how you can serve in this way, please contact:
maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk

