



## Erdington Street Pastors PRESS RELEASE

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### **Erdington's Street Pastor scheme ready to launch**

Members of churches in Erdington are preparing to train as Street Pastors in order to care for others, who find themselves in need of help in our area.

**A Launch is being held virtually at 1pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

Special Guest: **Rt. Revd David Urquhart** (The Lord Bishop of Birmingham)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2953549578?pwd=RIY5bmppd01ZbGZ5WVM5UGQ5bll2QT09>

Meeting id: 295 354 9578

Passcode: StreetPast

We will be celebrating what we will be doing to support the amazing residents of Erdington. You will find Street Pastors on the High Street prior to the launch on the morning of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Come and have a chat to see how we can support you, or how you can get involved.

Speaking in anticipation, **Councillor Mick Brown (Gravelly Hill)** - "Having witnessed the impact of the Street Pastors during the time that my wife was Lord Mayor I know that they are not people standing on the side lines, but people who are out on the streets every week making a difference. They bring a message of hope to people who don't think that life is worth living, especially important at this time where Covid has shone a light on the massive inequalities in society, and that no matter how insignificant a small first step can be the start of the road to major personal change"

The meeting will also be addressed by the Operations Director of the Ascension Trust, the parent body of Street Pastors nationally.

Welcoming the prospect of the Street Pastor scheme within the Erdington area **Steve Botham, Immediate past Director of World Prayer Centre** “God’s hand in on Erdington – love your unity and your passion to pastor your community. I worked with Street Pastors to develop the Training material they are awesome”

A number of civic leaders will be attending the launch including **Jack Dromey, Member of Parliament for Erdington.**

Our local Police have also welcomed the development of our Street Pastor team which we hope will contribute to a significant reduction in crime levels, whilst supporting the more vulnerable residents within our community.

Volunteers are over 18 (there is no upper age limit), active Christians and willing to complete a challenging programme of training including sessions on youth culture, drugs and homelessness. A DBS (Criminal Records Bureau Check) is required and references are obtained before joining a team of at least three/four people, each of whom will work a minimum of one session a month, between around 10am to 5pm. A distinctive uniform is worn when volunteering so people know who we are.

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***Management Committee***

*Pastor Rasaan Ibrahim (Chair), Claire Westmacott (Secretary), Mel Taylor (Treasurer), Rev Malcolm Oliver & Jean Morton.*

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