

# BROMSGROVE STREET PASTORS

(Registered Charity no. 1149031)



11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear friends

## **What is the Lord's plan for the future of Bromsgrove Street Pastors?**

In preparation for our next Bromsgrove Street Pastors AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, it feels right that we give you an update for your prayer-filled consideration.

As you already know, we decided to pause our plans for a possible move away from Ascension Trust whilst we looked at a more secure and sustainability plan for Bromsgrove Street Pastors, particularly in view of reducing numbers of people on our teams.

Our trial period of revised patrol times has been welcomed by most of you. We have consulted with venues and our local policing team to see if finishing earlier has caused any difficulties when the last venues close, and have been assured that it has not had a negative impact. Therefore, at the present time it feels right to continue as we have been since January, whilst remaining open to future changes should the need arise.

However, we have more to consider. Looking at our Street and Prayer Pastors numbers, we are now at the lowest point we have ever been, and we are continuing to struggle to recruit new volunteers. We are no longer able to patrol every week without some people doing multiple shifts every month.

With our Management Committee, it is now almost a whole year since we shared with you the need to release Matt Thompson as Secretary, but no one has come forward to replace him. Norman Hewer also now needs to step back from the Management Committee and patrol team with immediate effect.

In addition, since I stepped back as Minister of Bromsgrove Baptist Church at the end of January, my own circumstances, including the opportunities that the Lord seems to be showing me for my future ministry, have led me to carefully consider my current commitments. This is the right time for me to step back from the role of Chair of Bromsgrove Street Pastors, and possibly from patrols. This has not been an easy thing for me to work through. I have been leading Bromsgrove Street Pastors, including giving a strategic link into our wider community, since we first began discussions back in 2011.

One Bible verse that has been on my mind is Isaiah 43:19 – “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland”.

We need to discern together what the “new thing” is that the Lord is saying to Bromsgrove Street Pastors.

Should we be looking to create new structures that enable the project to be sustainable? That will require more people to join the Management Committee, as well as the recruitment of more volunteers for our patrol and prayer teams.

Do we need to take a break, regroup, and come back at some point with renewed energy and passion?

Do we need to consider the possibility that it is time to stop one thing so that the “new thing” that the Lord has planned can emerge? There are now significantly less people out at night, and the number of opportunities we are having for meaningful God-focused conversations has reduced.

These three questions will form our main discussions and prayer time at our AGM. It is vital that as many of us as possible can come together to discern what the Lord is saying to us at this time.

As we will be having such significant discussions together, we would like to see two thirds of our Bromsgrove Street Pastors members at the meeting, please, so if you haven't already let us know you are coming, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers.

God bless.

**Rev Paul Lewis, Ray Wilkes, Matt McVeigh, Terry Clarke** (the remaining Management Committee members)