



‘Good news for the poor, the captives, the broken hearted and the mourning.’

### Our Aims.

- To demonstrate God’s love by feeding hungry bodies and souls.
- To reflect God’s invitation to all, by giving vulnerable people the best hospitality and a warm welcome.
- To offer hope and the opportunity to express faith and help others to find it.

On Easter Sunday 2008, an Ecumenical group of Christians started Street Church Northampton, initially for a three month probation period. It was soon made clear there was a great need from the folk who came and the feedback received continuation was essential. We meet every Sunday in the Salvation Army Hall which is really near to the centre of Northampton from 1.30-3.30. On average there are 70 ‘friends’ who come together, many are homeless, disadvantaged and vulnerable adults, with addiction to drink or/and drugs.

Every week there is the opportunity for our ‘friends’ to join together in Circle Time, we all gather to share concerns and pray for each other, we have now got to the point where we have to have two rows of chairs in the circle as there are that many!

Every six weeks, we have a ‘pampering day’, there is the opportunity for folk to have shaves, haircuts, manicures and even a foot massage!

We have in the recent past have had time for healing services and memorial services for all the folk who have passed away in the last few months. As a Church Community there is a well-attended bible study group who meet on a Monday and a Drop in at Castle Hill URC on a Tuesday night, on the street this is known as Night Church!!! Regularly there is on average 30 folk come on a Tuesday, they have also been to church socials as they all consider Castle Hill to be their church. There is a real feeling of family, which has developed over the past couple years, a lot of this can be attributed to the relaxed atmosphere and welcome the congregation at Castle Hill has given to the street community from the town.



I have now been Chaplain at Street Church for two years, this means I need to take care of both the volunteers and our friends giving pastoral support for all. However, alongside me is

Paul, he has had no official training but, he was where a lot of our folk were, drugs, drink, gangs and violence (as was I) were his way of life before he came to faith.

Being a Chaplain to the Street Church community is challenging to say the least, but, I feel God has given me a remarkable opening to share HIS love amongst this community. We have lost quite a few in recent months due to the cold weather and other reasons. Next week Castle Hill is hosting a Thanksgiving Service for a chap who was deeply loved within this community, the catering corps is getting organised to supply refreshments (from Castle Hill).

I'm not asking for financial support (feel free to donate!!!!) all I ask is for prayers for the work that is going on with the homeless community in Northampton.

Jennie Crane BA (Hons)

CRCW Minister