

Felixstowe Town Pastors - Report to CTiF 2026

Looking back over the last year, how does the situation for Felixstowe Town Pastors compare to that 12 months ago? We have continued to operate monthly (with a couple of exceptions), and we have seen occasions where our presence has been valuable in providing welfare assistance or in diffusing potentially troubling situations. We have welcomed the return to “active duty” of some former pastors and the integration of a couple of new base and pastor team members. The home pray-ers have become a little more willing to sign up for the “wee small hours”, although there is always room for more. However, it is probably the case that our numbers remain at the minimum threshold to allow us to continue operation. We would love to see more volunteers - it really isn't as hard as some people may think!

It is a reasonable question as to whether we are effective when only being out for about a dozen shifts. It is fair to say that every shift is different. We have reassured young women worried about being followed, given aid to people sleeping rough, listened to people sharing concerns and fears, been a calming presence and, of course, brought a little joy by providing our famous Freddo chocolate bars. We continue to believe that God is using us to be “salt and light” on the streets every time we go out. But we would love to do more and that requires more people.

We are also again involved with the organisation of Festival Pastors for Latitude and, for the first time, First Light at Lowestoft. We hope that Felixstowe will also be strongly represented among the Festival Pastor team once more.

We continue to very grateful to our faithful band of supporters who pray for us faithfully from home to our base team members and to all who enable us to do our work. We are particularly grateful to Trinity Methodist Church for the use of their premises.

Before going out for our shift recently we shared these verses from 1 Peter 4:10-11:

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

That was a prayer for that night, and for our continued service as Town Pastors - for as long as God wills it.

Neil Winton
Chair, Felixstowe Town Pastors