



Pastoral Guidelines and Personal Safety Procedures for Street Team Members

Introduction

Street teams aims to share the love of Christ practically and through prayer whilst restoring hope and dignity to the most vulnerable in our town.

We do this by:

- > Giving out coffee, tea, soup, sandwiches and cakes. We also provide sleeping bags, hats, gloves and coats when needed
- > Praying that God would restore lives to wholeness through emotional and physical healing
- > Forming meaningful friendships that will, in time, help our friends to form a better understanding of the love of Christ
- > Practically assist by 'sign-posting' our friends on the street towards relevant support (housing advice, drug or alcohol misuse support etc.)

Safety Procedures for Street Teams

Be Wise

Matthew 10:16 - 'Look I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves'

We do not judge people but we need to be careful to avoid danger to ourselves which could arise because of our actions or what we say. We should always bear in mind the vulnerability or past problems of those we meet and be careful not to give them false ideas and tempt them into inappropriate behaviour.

Do:

- > Love: 'Remember the love of Christ compels us'
- > Meet people on their own level. Most of our communication is through our body language and eye contact. Sitting or crouching at their level often helps develop openness and break down barriers
- > Respect your team members and those you meet

- > Always stay with your team, do not be tempted to 'go alone'
- > Pray for people when invited to. (Further guidelines later)

Don't:

- > Give money
- > Leave your team, unless specifically asked to do so by your team leader
- > Don't judge anyone
- > Use Christian jargon, be simple in the way you share and express Christian truths
- > Arrange to meet people on your own, always discuss such an issue with your team leader

Appropriate Dress for Leaders and helpers

Everyone should dress modestly and practically and women in particular should dress modestly with no low fronts, strappy tops or skirts. This is important for your protection and to avoid unnecessary temptation for those we are trying to help.

Praying with people

It is really important that we pray for our 'friends' if and when they are open to receiving prayer. You may find that you are asked to pray or you may feel it is appropriate to offer to pray if people have been sharing with you difficulties that they are experiencing. Either way, it is essential that you follow these guidelines:

- > It is best to pray in twos. If you feel it is right to pray, say you are just going to get someone else (another helper) to join with you
- > Pray for people of the same sex as yourself. Where you feel it is important to pray for someone of the opposite sex (for example where they have shared something with you or you have built up an understanding with them) you need to find another helper of the opposite sex to pray with the guest, or to join you in praying, or ask the leader for help
- > If you feel it is appropriate to lay hands on the guest, explain to the guest that it is usual for someone praying to "lay hands" on them and ask if it is ok for you to do it, before you do. Make sure that you touch them somewhere that could not be misinterpreted, such as arm or shoulder or upper back

Physical contact & conversation

It is important that we greet people in a warm and friendly way, but we need to be wise in how we conduct ourselves. Many people do not offer or expect any physical contact and we should respect that. It may be fine to greet someone of the same sex with a hug, especially if they clearly desire it, but this would not be appropriate or wise with someone of the opposite sex. It is better to greet them with a touch on the shoulder or forearm, or if they

offer a hand, by a quick handshake or squeeze of the hand.

When sitting chatting, while it might be appropriate to put a supportive hand on a shoulder or wrist if they are of the same sex as yourself, especially if they are upset, it will normally be inappropriate to hold hands with a guest or hold them tightly or towards yourself, however upset they appear. Where the guest is of the opposite sex, it is better to avoid all physical contact other than in the greeting as described above (as this may be misconstrued).

We have learned from experience that some people will try to engage helpers of the opposite sex in conversations which are of an intimate nature, e.g. about sexual relationships they are involved in. It is better to disengage yourself from those conversations and if necessary, ask a helper of their gender to take over. Flirtatious or suggestive remarks should normally be lightly handled and not responded to. If anyone becomes over friendly or in any way physically or verbally harasses you, then inform the leader of the circumstances, as we need to discourage or avoid such behaviour. It is really important that we do not encourage overly intimate conversations.

Sarah Workman
Neville Page-Jones
October 2017

To be completed before working with Trinity Street Teams.

I am joining Trinity Street Teams and
have been given my introduction training by

I have read and understood

Pastoral and Personal Safety Guidelines for Street Team Members

and agree to abide by them.

Signature of team leader:

Signature of team member:

Print Name

Date: