



Eastleigh Borough Newsletter

Edition 1
July 2011

Welcome...

...to the first joint newsletter for all four Street Pastor areas in Eastleigh Borough! Street Pastors in the area began in Fair Oak in 2007, Eastleigh town followed in 2009 then Chandlers Ford and Hedge End/West End/Botley (known as HEWEB for short!) both in 2010.

In this newsletter there is news from each of the four groups as well as information about the next joint training course, which begins on 12 November. There are also contributions from the police our partners, along with the local authority, in the urban trinity.

God is doing exciting things through getting the church back out into the community. We hope this newsletter encourages you, but also may prompt you to think about whether being a Street Pastor is for you.

The pictures below are from the graduation service which took place on April 2nd 2011 at St Luke's Church, Hedge End. Maybe the picture from the graduation service in 2012 will include you!

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street
Pastors



News from Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath

There have recently been some encouraging new developments for Street Pastors in the Fair Oak, Horton Heath and Bishopstoke area. After completing training, four new Street Pastors have graduated and following the graduation they were commissioned at St Thomas' Church. They have now begun going out one Friday night a month with their new teams and are meeting people on the streets, working to make our communities safer and listening to people who want to chat.

We have a further opportunity coming up in November 2011 for more people to be trained as Street Pastors in the Fair Oak, Horton Heath and Bishopstoke area. One of the strengths of the Street Pastors initiative is that it is open to people with a range of ages, backgrounds and experiences. In Fair Oak, Horton Heath and Bishopstoke, our youngest Street Pastor is 19 and our eldest is in their late 60s. This is one of the factors that helps us engage with a wide variety of people. Anyone can get involved and add something significant to the team. If you would like to find out more, or come along to the first sessions on the new training course to find out if being a Street Pas-



Rev Iles Isaac with Nicholas Blakely, who, at 18 when he graduated, was one of the youngest Street Pastor graduates in the country.

tor is for you, please contact us using the information at the end of this article.

There has recently been a change of co-ordinator of Street Pastors in Fair Oak, Horton Heath and Bishopstoke.

Sheena Graham has now moved on in order to commit time to a new challenge supporting people who are struggling to find and keep work through setting up 'Job Club'. Amie Davis is now the Street Pastor co-ordinator in this area. Amie is 21 years old and works in a local pre-school. She has been one of the School Pastors in Fair Oak and Horton Heath since it was launched as a pilot project 18 months ago and now steps up as joint co-ordinator of the Fair Oak, Horton Heath and Bishopstoke Street Pastors alongside Pete Broom.

✉ Fairoak@streetpastors.org.uk

☎ 07728 839655

News from Hedge End West End and Botley

It's Hedge End Street Pastors' first birthday this month and in our first year we have got through 150 tubes of Rowntrees Fruit Pastilles.

We cover a wide semi - rural area and can drive up to 18 miles between our villages on an evening patrol.

We are establishing a recognisable presence on our streets and in our parks. In our first 6 months to December we recorded 300 conversations. However, with the lighter, drier evenings in May alone we spoke with 110 people. Clearly weather is an important factor and we are very busy on warm dry evenings.

With 5 newly trained pastors graduating in April we had the opportunity to increase the number of our street teams from 4 to 6. One of the new team leaders had spotted an opportunity to engage with younger teens in the early evening so since May the 2 new teams have been working from 6pm to 10pm on a 2 week rota.

First results have been excellent with lots of good conversations. We always ask the Prayer Pastors to pray for 3

significant conversations on each shift and the new teams have met some interesting situations –

- a Primary School child with his duvet saying he had slept in a land drain and was worried about what his parents would say. After a long conversation the team saw him on his way home with his sister and friends.
- a newly arrived elderly resident outside a sheltered housing complex who was glad of the chat and said he would look out for us the following week.
- some youths playing with a flotation device by a lake - we persuaded them it was best left in its housing.

We all enjoy the opportunities that being a Street Pastor gives to show that the Church cares about our communities and to engage with all the age groups we meet in the evenings.

As Revd. Les Isaac, the founder of Street Pastor says, “The Gospel is at the heart of what we do but not necessarily the first thing on our lips”.

✉ Hedgeend@streetpastors.org.uk

☎ 07587 081475

News from Chandler's Ford

Chandlers Ford Street Pastors started on Friday 2nd July 2010. We had 15 trained pastors, which has now grown to 18 Street Pastors and a team of 12 prayer pastors, which keeps growing. The response from the churches and the local community has been incredibly supportive. We have had encouraging conversations with teenagers out on the streets whilst handing out lollies, and have been out every Friday night (except 1) including Christmas eve and New Years eve.

We are funded by the generous support from our partners Hampshire Police, Local Parish Councillors and the local churches and businesses. The project is a coming together of the Church, Police and the Council to listen, care and help our local community care and love our local community. We have also received incredible support from both ASDA and Waitrose in donations to keep the project moving forward.

We are also working in partnership with the parish council, who have asked us to be a voice for the young people we en-



counter while on duty, which has resulted in them making decisions on services which will improve the provisions for the young people. We mainly work in the areas of Velmore, Knightswood Park, Hiltigbury recreational ground, Fryern and the High Street, all the areas where young people congregate, but we would love to build the team up to a point where we could cover more areas within the parish.

The thing I love most about the project is the range of ages of our Street Pastors, from myself in 30s up to people in their 70s. This is a coming together of the generations all with the same heart and mind to be in the community caring for anyone out on the streets and in the parks regardless of their age, gender, religion, race or beliefs.

✉ Chandlersford@streetpastors.org.uk

☎ 07841 865442

News from Eastleigh

Eastleigh Street Pastors have been patrolling the town centre and surrounding areas since Friday 10th July 2009.

Initially we had 19 people who were split into 4 teams and patrols covered 8.30pm to around half midnight—similar to the other three areas in the borough. In November 2009 a small team of volunteers tried a more ‘traditional’ street pastor shift—beginning at 11.00pm and ending around 3.00am. There was clearly a need for people on the streets of Eastleigh to care listen and help. With new trainees, in April 2010 six teams were created and in two weeks out of four, two teams go out one from about 8.00pm to 11pm and then the other from around 11pm until God lets us go home—often around 3.00am! The teams only do late nights alternate 4 weeks.

Early evenings are great fun and we get though loads of lolly pops with the teenagers in the town. We have built up some good relationships and young people are prepared to talk to us where they may not talk to other authorities. Our later evenings are often full of incident:

✝ Our presence recently helped calm a situation where two groups were wanting to fight each other.

✝ We have helped a few people worse for drink including someone lying on Leigh Road Recreation Ground with his mobile

phone by his side just waiting to be stolen.

✝ We recently ensured that a homeless girl did not spend Friday night on the streets of Eastleigh.

Like many other Street Pastors in town centre areas, we also provide flip-flops to girls who cannot face walking in their heels—we have got through around 50 already!



Our vision at Eastleigh is to provide a presence in the town centre each Friday night until beyond closing time. To do that we need to add at least 10 or ideally 12 to the 28 active volunteers we have already—this would allow us to have 8 teams of 5 people. Could you be one of the 12?

In addition to those that are trained to go out on the Street the project would not function without the prayer support given by the prayer pastors. As well as providing a welcome and a cup of tea when we come in for a break we have a mobile phone with them so we can phone in any immediate prayer needs.

✉ Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



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Prayer Walk October 2010

The new training course starts 12 November— so what does it involve?

The course is split into 12 units, the first two being taken on the opening Saturday, which is a whole day. The remaining units will be Saturdays 9am to 1pm. The sessions are held in local churches around Eastleigh Borough.

Some sessions involve mainly presentations from the front and discussion, others, such as basic first aid, are more interactive. The course is designed to help equip you to serve on the street but you may find it develops your confidence and gives you skills and knowledge applicable beyond the role of a Street Pastor. The dates and subjects are shown on this page. Those that have attended the course found it enjoyable and challenging. Do go and talk to those who have trained to find out more.

You would be welcome to attend the first two sessions without any commitment to find out if being a Street Pastor may be for you.

If you wish to be Street Pastor we ask that you make every effort to attend as much of the training as possible and each management committee has the final say as to whether someone graduates to be a Street Pastor, depending on suitability and course attendance. You will also need to complete an application form and you may be interviewed by the management committee and/or co-ordinator. We will also ask for two references, one of which will be from your church minister.

12 November 2011 9am-4pm
Roles and Responsibilities 1 & 2

19 November 2011 9am-1pm
Listening and Counselling Skills

26 November 2011 9am-1pm
Knowledge of key agencies—the Police

3 December 2011 9am-1pm
**Knowledge of key agencies—Prison
Basic First Aid**

10 December 2011 9am-1pm
Mentoring

Christmas break

14 January 2012 9am-1pm
**Alcohol awareness
Drugs awareness**

21 January 2012 9am-1pm
Knowledge of key agencies—Social Services

28 January 2012 9am-1pm
Local community

4 February 2012 9am-1pm
**Knowledge of key agencies—
Education
Youth**

11 February 2012 9am-1pm
Social background awareness

Half term break

25 February 2012 9am-1pm
Good news

Eastleigh Police forge links with Street Pastors

Team's *By Eastleigh Police*



welcome addition to policing presence on the streets on a Friday night. We welcome their support in ensuring Eastleigh remains a safe place to work and live."

"I have not known for any Street Pastor Team to have encountered any

Strong links are being forged between the Eastleigh Police - Central Team (who cover the Town Centre, Boyatt Wood / Newtown / Allbrook and Fleming Park / Aviary & Monks Brook Estates) and the growing number of Street Pastors, a group of Christian volunteers who provide guidance and reassurance for visitors frequenting the public houses, nightclubs, restaurants and bars, enjoying Eastleigh's night time economy as well as the young adults living within the borough. The Street Pastors first began working within the Central Eastleigh area in 2009 following on from Fair Oak. HEWEB and Chandler's Ford were added in 2010.

Ch.Insp Paul Bartolomeo, Eastleigh and Romsey District Commander said, "The Street Pastors are a valued partner in neighbourhood policing, providing a

hostility, they offer a worthwhile visible reassurance in the community supporting those who maybe in need for what ever reason"

"It is important that the whole community is involved in a response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue. In areas across the country where Street Pastor Teams work there has been shown to be a reduction in the levels of crime. This is not evangelising on the street, but about exploring those opportunities for conversation"

For further information go to the Street Pastor Website

www.streetpastors.co.uk

A view from the Police on the ground on the work of Street Pastors

Insp Sloggett and PCSO Clayfield

As the Safer Neighbourhood Inspector for the Hedge End Sector I see our Street Pastors Team fulfilling a valuable role in a non-intrusive way with young people and the wider community with whom they react whilst on patrol. The

Street Pastors' Scheme is working really well and provides a valuable resource to reduce crime and disorder through their visible presence at key times. The commitment of those undertaking this

role is very impressive. We are keen to support the continuation and development of this scheme. The remainder of this article is by PCSO Clayfield giving our view of how we see Street Pastors operating on the ground.

Since the Street Pastor teams became active in the Hedge End north community they have been invaluable when engaging with the younger members of society. A good example demonstrating this is the positive relationship the Street Pastors have built with those who like to socialise at the car parks in Tollbar Way. It has been reported that the youths have been extremely responsive and pleasant when speaking with them. The local police have felt the positive effects of this by not needing to patrol the area as regularly as previously there was constant calls draining police resources in relation to vehicle nuisance.

The Hedge End north safer neighbourhood team work closely with the Street Pastors and have definitely felt the positive effects they bring to the community and are extremely supportive of their work.

Furthermore local youths in Hedge End have stated to PCSO Chilcott their positive opinions on the Street Pastors claiming how they feel a lot of safer knowing they are in the local area visiting the local recreation grounds. Additionally, PCSO Coppin has had an encouraging response from the residents in West End. A member of the public stated that they were happy to see an increase in high visibility patrols around the local area, referring to the Street Pastors and police.

The Street Pastors have also proved valuable when they are given information to help the safer neighbourhood's team focus on areas of concern via weekly briefings. They are the extra set of eyes

and ears that prove really helpful. A good example of this is when the teams assisted police at Wellstead Way after reports of a suspicious male was frequenting the play park. The teams were briefed with a description of the male and were able to support the police in extra patrols to help keep the area safe. Additionally the Street Pastors were able to assist police when two local teenagers in the West End area left home and started to camp in neighbouring woodland over a long period of time. The Street Pastors always made an effort to check on their welfare and constantly offered guidance which the youths were appreciative of. The Hedge End north safer neighbourhood team work closely with the Street Pastors and have definitely felt the positive effects they bring to the community and are extremely supportive of their work.

If you would like to know more, be a prayer pastor or you would like to train to be a street pastor please e-mail , text, or ring the area in which you wish to serve with your name, address and a phone number (details under the articles in this newsletter). Please also indicate that you are happy for any such information to be held on the coordinators' PCs.

