



Newsletter

Edition 1

July 2009

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Welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and a very warm welcome to this first edition.

We hope to produce a newsletter for Eastleigh Street Pastors 3 to 4 times a year. Its purpose will be to tell you about the scheme and what God has been doing through it. At the time of preparing this newsletter we have not yet been out on the streets! This edition therefore provides information on: what a Street Pastor is; how Eastleigh Street Pastors came into being and how it is structured; a reflection on the training the volunteers have undertaken; and a chance to find out a bit more about one of the volunteers.

We hope you enjoy finding out about the scheme and will want to continue to receive news of Eastleigh Street Pastors. If you would like to do so please fill in the form at the back of this newsletter, or simply e-mail your contact information to the address at the top of this page.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Volunteer Street pastors visit Eastleigh CCTV

On 6 June 2009 most of the trainee Street Pastors visited the CCTV operation at Eastleigh. Street Pastors, will not be working for either the police or the council, but will have close contact with both bodies who are partners in the project.

What is a Street Pastor?

A Street Pastor is a Church leader/minister or member with a concern for society - in particular young people who feel themselves to be excluded and marginalised - and who is willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (i.e. their perspective of life) and location (i.e. where they hang out - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc).

Street Pastors will also be willing to work with fellow activists, church and community leaders, and with agencies and projects, both statutory and voluntary, to look at collaborative ways of working on issues affecting youth, and initiatives that will build trust between them and the Street Pastors.

As the Street Pastor gets to know people in the community he/she will find out what their needs are and what can be done to help. A presence of Street Pastors will earn credibility in the community, so that people know that the Church is there for them in a practical way. The role is not



about preaching heaven and hell, but one of listening, caring and helping - working in an unconditional way.

To be a Street Pastor you need to be over 18 (no upper age limit), a church

member and able to commit to our training programme.

Each Street Pastor team consists of at least four people, and in Eastleigh we have four teams. Each team works once every four weeks, for our teams usually from 8.30pm to around 12.30am.



Charity no. 1039580

The Ascension Trust

Street Pastors is an Ascension Trust led Initiative, which is a nationally registered charity based in London. In 2002 Ascension Trust launched a "Guns on our Streets Tour" to five London hotspots: Brent, Hackney, Haringey, Lambeth and Southwark, Aston in Birmingham and inner city Moss Side and Longsight in Manchester.

A report was produced after the tour highlighting the findings from the consultations and discussions that took place. As a response to the recommendations made, the Street Pastors project was launched in January 2003. Each project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies.

A view from the training by Trisha Pludek

(reproduced from Eastleigh Baptist Church's monthly Contact magazine with kind permission)

This month I want to share with you my experiences of the Street Pastor Training going on at the moment.

We have a very diverse group—if I am correct 8 churches are represented. This is for me one of the most exciting aspects. The group seems to gel very well together. We are all so different with our own individual strengths and weaknesses.

“People don't care what you know until they know that you care”

I remember that the first time I met Les Isaacs, who heads up the Ascension Trust who oversee all the street pastors, I spoke to him about one of my weaknesses which I thought may bar me from actually getting out there on the streets. His reply was a surprise and an enormous encouragement. He said that it was important to recognize your weaknesses because then you could work on them, anyone who does not think they have any weakness is much harder to train. So there I was, with my weaknesses, on a Friday evening going along to Fair Oak with Alison (another trainee). We were going to “observe” Fair

Oak Street Pastors on a typical Friday night out on the streets. We were both excited and a little apprehensive. It was good that we had been able to go out together along with two of the Fair Oak Team.

I personally have two prayer partners (many thanks to Irene and Aloma—you are both a blessing), and I had asked them to pray. One of them said -“I will pray for a quiet night and a chance for you to learn from the team there”.

Well I can tell you that according to the Fair Oak team it was the quietest night they had ever had! This gave us time to observe how the team members worked together. How they decided whether to engage with people or not. We observed different situations from young ladies phoning dads and waiting to be picked up who seemed to be happy that we were around, to a man we nicknamed Mr Wobbly—we watched to make sure he got safely to where he had to go.

It was an amazing evening and we both came home even more excited about when the Eastleigh Team go out for the first time.

Southampton Street Pastors are known as the flip flop pastors because they carry flip flops around to help out with mainly young ladies who have been partying and have lost a heel from their shoes.

The Fair Oak Street Pastors are known as the Street Pastilles as they carry around

packets of Fruit Pastilles—which are given out freely to anyone who wants them.

I wonder what the Eastleigh team will become known as...

Anyone reading this might say—what can I do? The answer is very simple— firstly we need your prayers. Then be open to the Lord; listen to what He is saying to you.

I went to the first meeting ready to sign up as a Prayer Partner, then the Lord spoke very clearly to me that He wanted me to take that a step further and do the training, as I go through the training I have a strong witness that this is the Lord's will for me. To take Jesus out on to the streets, where the people are. To be

His hands and His feet. To show His love in any way I can.

One of the expressions we have learnt—and there are many—is “People don't care what you know until they know that you care” .

Another one is—”Love is spelt TIME”. Sometimes what people need is time, someone to spend just a few minutes listening to their problem or even like last Friday listening to their joys too.

A small team will eventually go out; but this is a corporate initiative; let's all take our part and do this together for the glory of God to see the name of Jesus lifted high over our town.

Blessings Trisha

Street Pastor training—what does it consist of?

Those wishing to go out on the streets do a 12 session course designed to equip them with an understanding of:

- **The ethos of Street Pastors**
- **The culture of today—including information on drugs, family breakdown, health issues**
- **How the police and other services operate in the local area**
- **Skills needed to be a Street Pastor such as listening and mentoring**

The training is challenging and interactive and is mostly led by local people with the appropriate skills and expertise. Some of our trainers are Street Pastors themselves. The exception to the use of local trainers are two sessions on roles and responsibilities run by the Ascension Trust.

If you would like to know more about the training speak to one of the Street Pastors or the co-ordinator Steve Smallwood. You can also fill in the form on the back of this newsletter. We hope to start a new course towards the end of October—if you would like to train fill in the slip at the end of this newsletter!

Meet a Street Pastor!

The first of a regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. Future interviews will allow stories to be told of their time on the street, but for this first issue we meet **Steve Nicholls**.



Occupation: Business Analyst working for AA Insurance
Church: New Community Church Eastleigh

How long have you lived in the Eastleigh area? - 12 years

Tell us a little of your Christian story:
I was born and brought up in a Christian home. My parents, uncle and aunt and my grandparents were, and still are, Christians.

At 13 I made a commitment to follow Christ. I would never claim that life has been easy as a Christian but, the answer never changed, wherever I looked for it! God has always been faithful. I've been a member of New Community Church since I moved to Southampton in 1984 and a part of the Eastleigh congregation since it started in 1998.

How did you hear about Street Pastors and why did you volunteer? - I read an article in the Daily Echo about Fair Oak Street Pastors and thought it sounded like a fantastic way for Christians to serve their community whilst showing God's love. When I heard about Eastleigh Street Pastors I knew I had to respond.

What did you enjoy most about the Training? Meeting and getting to know the other people who are training to be Street Pastors

What challenged you most in the training? There's so much to learn in so little time. I don't feel qualified to go out on the streets. I feel it's like learning to drive; you learn a lot more once you're let loose on the streets. I just pray that my belief is right!

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor? I don't feel I know enough about what's expected of us.

And to finish - what five words or phrases (good or bad) describe you.

- A great sense of humour
- Dependable
- A proud husband and father
- Cheeky
- A member of the Green Army

Ed. Many thanks Steve—by the way for those of you that don't know the Green Army are Plymouth Argyle supporters, so Steve is a man who knows suffering! You might like to know that Eastleigh Baptist Church's football team is also known as the Green Army!

A report on the Eastleigh Street Pastors Launch Event

It is perhaps not unusual to pop into your local pub on a Friday evening after a hard week at work, however on Friday 30 January 2009 over 50 members of local Eastleigh churches, together with police officers, several local councillors and Chris Huhne MP, spent Friday evening in the Litten Tree pub in Eastleigh Town Centre. They were there to celebrate the launch of the latest Street Pastor Scheme in the south. The cross denominational nature of the venture was shown by worship and prayer led by Catherine McElhinney from Holy Cross Catholic Church and Rev Tony Parkinson of the Methodist church.



The Litten Tree Pub Eastleigh

A generous donation of £5,000 was received from the Borough Council's Safer Communities Fund, together with £3,000 from Hampshire Constabulary. These two donations alone mean work could start immediately on arranging the training. Chris Harvey said with money also given from the churches it was overwhelming that the money was already available to start the project off. Councillor Cathie Fraser lead member on Eastleigh Borough Council for health and community safety then endorsed the project – she said it was all about “practical Christianity – good old fashioned talking to people – it is about everybody working together in Eastleigh”.

Acting Superintendent Diana Boyles gave a ringing endorsement of the project from the point of view of the police. Endorsing the project for the Churches Rev Tony Parkinson said that this new project for Eastleigh based on the urban trinity of church council and policy but was also based on the Holy Trinity. He prayed that it would be thoroughly supported by all the churches and the community.

Three prospective Street Pastors were then interviewed. Jacqueline Broderick from All Saints Anglican church, who had lived in Eastleigh for over 25 years, had heard about the scheme in Fair Oak and when a member of that team came and spoke and she felt it was something that she was compelled to do and her desire was that people were helped through the scheme.

Eric Hyom was already a trained street pastor working at Fair Oak, but has lived in Eastleigh for 25 years and is keen to see the scheme up and running here. When asked about fear he recounted a story of a night he was out with a fellow Street Pastor who was a grandmother. They came across a car full of youths, and a group of youngsters hanging around the car drinking, a situation which looked confrontational. They talked gently with the driver and some of the other members of the group. There were a couple of confrontational members, and the lady just looked up at them and said ‘I am not afraid’ and the situation was diffused. It was worthwhile making that initial approach to find out they were a good bunch, who were just boisterous and bored. Street Pastors was about bringing Christian peace and searching for the good in people.

Steve Smallwood had only moved to the area 18 months ago. Having volunteered to be trained he was approached to be the co-ordinator for Eastleigh. Having been involved in youth work many years ago he had spent much of his time doing administrative tasks in his previous church and was keen to get involved in a more practical role.

Les Isaac, director of the Ascension Trust, then shared something of the vision of Street Pastors. He felt that God was challenging Christians to be real and relevant in our communities. But it is not about us going out with a 4 x 4 bible, but about acting with compassion for our fellow human beings. Faith without works is dead. He said his faith needed him to be where people are. We are called to love not to judge. He was excited that Street Pastors is breaking generational differences, there were Street Pastors as old as 86. Young people were so impressed to see older people out on the streets caring for them. He emphasised that Street Pastors needed to work in partnership with local authorities so that they can signpost those that need help to the help they need. The good Samaritan knew where the Inn was. The partnership with the police provided reassurance boundaries and procedures. In six years not one Street Pastor has been hurt.

The meeting closed with an appeal for volunteers. At that time Eastleigh had 27 people who were interested in beginning the training in April, with further people interested in being prayer pastors.



Les Isaac "...it is not about us going out with a 4 x 4 bible"

The management committee

Eastleigh Street Pastors (see also overleaf) is overseen by a management committee consisting of representatives from 5 Eastleigh Churches plus the town centre manager, Dennis Chandler, who is a church member in Emsworth and Diana Boyles, Chief Inspector of Eastleigh for Hampshire Police, and a member at Chandler's For Methodists Church. The committee is chaired by Chris Harvey, secretary of Eastleigh Baptist Church. Eric Hyom represents Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, and brings invaluable experience as a Street Pastor at Fair Oak. All Saints C of E Church is represented by the minister Rev Richard Davies. Rev Tony Parkinson of the Methodist Church is also on the commit-

tee and kindly lead one of the training sessions at short notice. The other committee member is Margaret Moore of the Salvation Army. The committee meets up to 12 times a year. Steve Smallwood, the co-ordinator works to the committee, organising the agenda and meeting records. The committee would like to find someone to serve as treasurer. Currently Eastleigh Baptist Church (EBC) hold the Street Pastor Funds on behalf of the organisation. CRB checks have also been carried out through (EBC). The Wells Place Centre will also be the base for Eastleigh Street Pastors, is the venue for management meetings and was the venue for our first training series. We are very grateful to the officers and members of Eastleigh Baptist Church for their support.

What is Eastleigh Street Pastors?

Eastleigh Street Pastors is an unincorporated association of the Ascension Trust. This means that the project is an entity in its own right. However, it is not recognised as a `legal body` so cannot take on contracts in the name of the Ascension Trust. A constitution was adopted on 20th March 2009. A copy of the constitution is available from the coordinator Steve Smallwood. Membership of Eastleigh Street Pastors is free, although members must be members of a church and either live in; Eastleigh; an adjacent borough; or work in the town. The next Annual general meeting will be in March 2010. if you would like to become a member please fill in the form below.



Get involved!

Please complete the Slip below and return it to:

Eastleigh Street Pastors
c/o Wells Place Centre
Wells Place
Eastleigh SO50 5LJ
Or e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



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Please tick all that apply

- I would like to train to be a Street Pastor
- I would like to be a Prayer Pastor
- I would like to be a member of Eastleigh Street Pastors
- I would like to receive occasional news and updates by e-mail

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I agree to my details being held on the PC of the Eastleigh Street Pastors Co-ordinator