



Newsletter

Edition 7
August 2012

E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk
www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

...to the seventh Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter.

Following the end of the latest training course in April we now have teams out late three Friday nights out of four in Eastleigh. It has been encouraging and refreshing to have new volunteers on the teams. It seems every week we are used by God in some way to help people, whether it be: ensuring vulnerable people get home safely; providing a listening ear for people hurting; giving out flip-flops so that ladies are not walking with bare feet; or, simply bringing God's love out onto the streets of Eastleigh. April also saw a well attended AGM with thanks to our friends at St Peter's Boyatt Wood for their hospitality.

We continue to be blessed by our contacts with our partners in the Urban Trinity, in particular with gifts from the Safer Neighbourhoods Committee and the police for which we are grateful. It does mean for now we can continue to provide training and uniforms without expecting volunteers to fundraise. So what is stopping you from joining up with the training and spending around 4 hours every 4 weeks listening, caring and helping—and blessing the people of our town? The next training course will begin on 10 November 2012— more information in this newsletter.

Over the next few months there are a couple of things to look out for. Firstly see us at the Eastleigh Mardi Gras on 15 September. Then on Sunday 28 October at 6.30pm in the evening we are planning a joint Street pastor Celebration which will be held at Eastleigh Baptist Church where the speaker will be Rev Les Isaac OBE. Rev Les will also be speaking at the 125th Anniversary Service for Eastleigh Baptist Church that morning. Happy birthday as well to the Eastleigh Salvation Army who are also celebrating their 125th birthday.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Congratulations to Rev les Isaac on his OBE.
Come and hear him speak on 28 October

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between January and July. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.



The doormen repeatedly told us to back off, telling us he was aggressive. When the doorman released him, two of us stepped in between all the doormen and the man. Over the next few minutes we were able to encourage the man to walk down the steps; passers by were also trying to encourage him to keep moving.

He was tearful and placid. He kept saying he had done nothing wrong, other than have too much to drink. He showed no aggression when we were speaking with him.



We met two girls aged c16 - gave lollies - one had lovely pink hair!



We walked up towards the Loft and saw the other SPs talking to three men. One said he worked in Winchester and could not praise SPs enough – the affect in Winchester has been phenomenal with real reductions in incidents and crimes.



Walking down the High St we met a homeless man who one of the Street Pastors already knew and another Street Pastor from another team was with him. He

clearly needed a hot drink so we invited him back of which he was very keen. So even though we had only been out an hour, the time is irrelevant it's about people. So we headed back much to the bemusement of the prayer team. Soon the much needed hot chocolate had reached the parts other drinks can't and we were much warmer but also learning about living around the clock 'tramp life'.



We walked down the High Street and were concerned about a car going the wrong way but the lady driver was simply turning her car around to jump start her daughter's flat car battery. We were able to help as, despite having the jump leads, she wasn't sure how to use them. The car started and they went on their way.



Found child scooter in car parking bay near to Passfield Avenue which we handed in to Fleming Park Reception.



We assured the police that we would get her home, she thanked us for talking to the police. She wasn't religious, but thought SPs were the 'business'.



Spoke with a lady, who respected the work

*She wasn't religious, but thought
SPs were the 'business'*

we are doing and said our kindness reminded her of her grandmother, who is now dead. She shared with me a small obituary that she had written about her. It was a lovely tribute and she said she had never shown it to anyone before, even though she carries it everywhere with her.



Then one of the 3 men from the Wine Bar quoted several verses from Proverbs. He said he was a philosopher. He believed you lived and then died. One of his friends said you can go to heaven or hell. He then left in a taxi with his two friends.



One of the lads threw the wrapper on the ground, and we picked it up, we asked the other lads for their wrappers, a couple of the lads said they would bin them, and one of the lads took the wrappers from us and put them in the bin nearby. There always seems to be a few good guys in a group.



Sitting on pavement younger girl with head in hands. An older couple who did not know her were looking after her. We went over to help. She had drunk too much and was slightly sick. We walked her home lending her a fleece to wear as she was cold. We ensured there was someone home and saw her into her home getting the fleece back first.



By Stones we were called over by a young lady who said she had been escorted home last week after drinking too much, she wasn't drinking so much tonight. We gave her and her male friend lollies.

I said "the steps of this bridge are very steep, please allow us to see you over" with a bit more persuasion she agreed. She struggled to walk up the steps and struggled to stop herself falling going down the other side, with the SP holding her arm. She was now quite out of breath and exhausted so they walked on to her house, walking up to her front door she started to fall, so I rushed to her side. The SP lady helped her find the front door key, it was dark, but one SP had a torch. The SP had to put the key in the door because the lady could not for tiredness and the cold. Once the lights were on she hugged us, I prayed with her and she went in.



Rec empty but for a vixen disappearing into the shrubs, and a little wood(?)mouse crossing the path near to the Railwayman!



In High St heard a young lady shouting at another couple so we went to investigate. It turned out that she wanted to go off to another bar on her own, but her friends did not want her to go alone as she had a lot to drink – quite which bar she was going to was not clear as apart from Stones & LT they were all closed, (unless the Irish Club was still open). She calmed down when we spoke to them. She was carrying her high heels in her hand and agreed to accept a pair of SP flip-flops; her girl friend also accepted a pair. They went off together.



We spotted an almost full can of beer on

the pavement. With no one to claim it we tipped it away and disposed of it.



Spoke to one older lady, who was very pleased to see Street Pastors out and about as she had a daughter who went out drinking in Eastleigh.



Met a lady who could not walk very well, we suggested we walk with her to her home to ensure she got home safely, walked with her over the railway bridge and stayed with her until her boyfriend came and met us.



As we moved down Market Street we met a group of very loud males and whilst we were talking to them a young man across the street dropped his trousers and revealed his bare backside.



Stopped to speak to the doormen at the bowling alley. We were able to help a man who had been sick and arranged for the stairs to be washed down.



Spoke to a young man outside the Litten tree. He had been asked not to go back inside. His friend was still inside but he needed to get home. Walked him to the taxi rank as he felt vulnerable on his own.



One of the smokers began taunting us. We

spoke to him for a while. He was quite anti God and anti Christian, he claimed to believe scientology and thought we all came from space bacteria.



Saw 'genius' displays by about 10 young people on scooters at the skate park.



Back to the Litten as it was closing, and gave out lollies, 7 – 8 pairs of flip flops and slippers, lots of brief conversations.



We chatted to a man drinking outside stones who announced he was a pagan and was a serving soldier. Having told him we were Christian volunteers he was obviously expecting us to preach to him but we said we were not there to preach. We explained why we wander the streets and he was appreciative and impressed.



A young man came to talk to us. Two of his friends had committed suicide, he hadn't been able to talk to anyone and was close to tears as he spoke. He wanted to talk to his dad, but he was working. After listening an SP talked about the time he lost a number of friends over a short period of time, and he questioned, why? The man said he was a Catholic, we offered to pray for him, and he agreed. We talked about the need to speak to God and to listen for God's reply. He said that he felt we were meant to be there for him; so he could talk to us.

We continue to give God praise for all the contacts and experiences He has given us.

Rev Les Issac OBE

The following is the press release issued by Ascension Trust in June on the award of the OBE to Rev Isaac

Leading church figure Revd Les Isaac has been named in the Queen's Birthday Honour List and will be awarded an OBE for his work fostering community cohesion in his role as Head of the Ascension Trust, the umbrella organisation that oversees the work of Street Pastors, the initiative for which Rev Isaac is well known.

Street Pastors was launched in 2003, as a response to gun and knife crime in Britain's urban areas. The concept of sending trained pastors out onto the streets between 10pm – 4am every Friday and Saturday caught the attention of Christians across the country, who saw it as an effective way in which to engage with their local communities. There are now 250 Street Pastors initiatives across the UK, overseeing 10,000 trained individuals who provide over 600,000 volunteer patrol hours every year. Street Pastors has also been established overseas in various countries including Trinidad, Antigua and Northern Ireland with enquiries being received all the time from individuals in the UK and abroad who are interested in setting up their own Street Pastor Initiatives.

Such has been the impact of Street Pastors it has inspired the launch of School Pastors and College Pastors initiatives where trained volunteers provide support for students in educational establishments. There are currently 10 School and College Pastors teams across the UK, with teams due to launch in Tavistock, Isle of Wight, Ilfracombe, Northern Ireland, Torbay, Cheshire West and Ellesmere Port. Commenting on his award Rev Isaac shared, "This is a great honour and is really recognition of the work that our amazing

team of volunteer pastors carry out every weekend providing a much needed listening ear for people on our streets, as well as for school pupils and college students across the country during the week. I am particularly thankful for people who have worked alongside me in a joint effort to build peaceful and strong communities." Ascension Trust is also the umbrella organisation for Word for Weapons, which provides specially made knife bins where people can leave their knives and weapons in exchange for an 'all-I-need-bag'. Since it was launched in 2007, over 4000 weapons have been collected and destroyed. When Rev Isaac was growing up, he never envisaged that he would become a church leader, let alone be the recipient of an OBE. Born in Antigua, Rev Isaac came to the UK to join his parents who lived in north London as a young child. Thrown into London life, Les experienced gangs and street violence during his teens, and in his search for hope became a Rastafarian. He converted to Christianity in his late teens and as a result of experiencing a radical life change, and being inspired by his new found faith, Rev Isaac became committed to make people aware of the spiritual and practical relevance of the gospel message, and sharing it with everyone – both within the black community and beyond.

The story of Rev Isaac's early life is told in his debut book Dreadlocks, and continued in Relevant Church. The inspirational growth of Street Pastors is told in the best seller, Street Pastors.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Rev Isaac will ensure that his OBE spurs him on in his work to positively impact communities across Britain and make the world a safer place, and encourage his team of volunteers to do the same.

Meet a Street Pastor! The seventh of our regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet Jaqueline Brodrick

Career: Retired Community Paediatric Nurse. Worked with Health Visiting Team.

Church: All Saints Church of England

Tell us a little of your Christian story I went to Sunday School with friends from about 6yrs and when old enough helped in Sunday School. At that stage my family did not go to church, but slowly became involved with the church. On leaving home and throughout my various training I became involved with the church in the areas that I worked in. When working abroad the church was often the centre of my life and it has been fantastic to see how faith can have such a big impact on people. On coming to Eastleigh I visited various churches but found I was always drawn back to All Saints.

How did you hear about Street Pastors? When Eric Hyom came to talk to our Congregation as Street Pastors was being set up.

Why did you volunteer? At the time I felt I needed a new challenge and had been praying to God to ask him what he wanted me to do. While listening to Eric I knew that was what I was being led to do.

What did you enjoy most about the Training? Learning more about Street Pastors and how their presence had helped in some difficult areas. Also meeting with the other Street Pastors in training.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night? Very variable depending on the time of day and year and also the weather. Early patrols tend to involve more of the younger people, especially in the outlying areas of the town e.g. Boyatt

Wood and Fleming Park. Later patrols tend to be based in

Town especially as the Pubs and entertainment areas close and people make their way home or to the Kebab outlets.

Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol

It is heart warming when people come up to you, give you a hug and say that a simple thing, like just being able to stop and talk for a while about something that may be worrying them, has helped them.

Has being a Street Pastor changed you? It has helped me not to judge people at face value. I do feel it is there but for the grace of God go!

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor?

No

And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you Kind, Determined, Busy, Helpful, Chocolate-loving!

Many thanks Jacqueline. It has been great to have you involved from the start of Street Pastors in Eastleigh. I can remember you talking eloquently at the launch event. Jacqueline has also joined the management committee as the representative for All Saints church. Please do pray for her as she takes forward that responsibility. If you have a question you want to ask e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



****NEW TRAINING COURSE****

STARTS 10 November 2012

The four local areas in Eastleigh Borough—Chandler's Ford, Hedge End/West End, Fair Oak and Eastleigh are going to hold a joint training course starting Saturday 10 November. Even if you are not sure if Street Pastors is for you why not come along to the first session on 10 November and find out more. It is 9am to 4pm, at Wells Place Centre Eastleigh. The remaining parts of the course will be on Saturdays from 9am -1.15pm, with breaks for Christmas and half term.

The course covers such topics as: Roles and Responsibilities; Listening and Counselling Skills; Social background awareness; Knowledge of key agencies such as the Police, Social Services and Education; Mentoring; Alcohol and Drug awareness; Local community; Youth culture; and The Good news

As well as the training, in order to be a Street Pastor you need to have been a member of your local church for a year and we will take up references and carry out a CRB check.

It may be that you want to know a bit more. There are two events that you can attend to explore further whether being a Street Pastor is for you.

Tuesday 2nd October 7.30pm

An informal event at the Salvation Army Citadel in Eastleigh where we hope to have a few serving Street Pastors who will talk about what they do and why they do it with opportunities to ask questions.

Wednesday 17th October 7.30pm

There is a Churches Together in Eastleigh meeting at HOLY CROSS where Eastleigh Street Pastors will be sharing about our work.

Steve Smallwood

(e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk).

For more information and copies of this and earlier newsletters, as well as the borough newsletters see www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk.

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 last Annual general meeting was on 18 April 2012 and the next will be in Spring 2013. 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



.....
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 PCs of the Eastleigh Street Pastors Co-ordinator