



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 9

July 2014

E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

...to the ninth Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter. Since the last newsletter we have completed another joint training course with the other three areas in Eastleigh. Through that course we have four new volunteers—welcome to Glenda, Judith, Jim and Phil. Also we have gained two volunteers transferred in from other areas— it is great to have Stacie from Andover and Rae from Chandler's Ford, although work commitments are currently preventing Stacie from serving.

We have, of course, had a few people stop since the last newsletter. While not going through all of them I do particularly want to mention Alan Shepherd and Paul Harley. Alan, and his wife Glenn, have been a wonderful encouragement and it is lovely that Alan is going to continue as a prayer pastor with Glenn. Paul has been a faithful team leader and has been battling with his health for sometime—I have loved his prayerful and upbeat reports and we will miss his wisdom. We have also had Ed and Dan away studying. Dan has gone out with Harrow Street Pastors a few times, but has also done a few patrols when he has been back in Eastleigh.

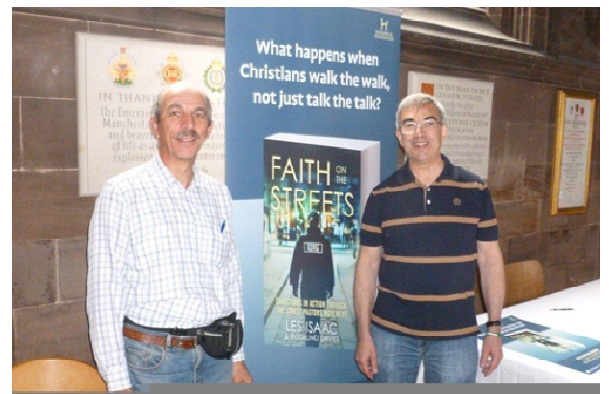
Please do pray for all these people who have served or have begun serving the community of Eastleigh, indeed pray for all the volunteers, some others of whom are facing health or other difficulties. I'm humbled by their faithfulness.

And continue to pray for our community. The murder of Choudhry Zishan is still fresh in our minds. Please pray for all involved, but particularly his family. Eastleigh is a good and safe place and we can show our best in the midst of such tragedy.

This month sees the 5th anniversary of Street Pastors on Eastleigh's streets—we are thankful for God's goodness and faithfulness to us. Training begins again in September—could you be part of the next 5 years?

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Eric and Howard at the practitioner conference, read their report inside

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between January and December 2013. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.



Walked round and up Market St. At top heard shouting. Three guys one shouting threats at someone further up the street. Spoke to them and gave them lollies – calming down the guy who was shouting. They then went off to meet their friend in the Istanbul Grill.



One girl 17, said she was at college hoping to be a doctor, her friend wanted to do child care but had a record of abuse and drugs. She talked to Maggie about doing voluntary work for three years, then she might be able to train, she seemed very low, we encouraged her saying this would be worth it.



As we arrived a man who had just got off a train said he'd like to talk to us. He was apparently under the influence of something and asked if we had any hot soup etc... He claimed to have just been released from jail after a 7 year stretch for manslaughter. We listened to his story which was quite shocking and chatted for a while, explaining that there is a night shelter in Winchester. He said he would be staying with his brother. When we offered to pray for him he shared that he'd become a Christian some years back through the ministry of a church in North Hamp-

shire. We held hands and he insisted on praying aloud himself too and then reciting the Lord's Prayer. Shortly after this we met him getting back on a train and felt it had been a 'God' opportunity to chat and pray with this troubled man.



We spoke to the man sitting on the wall. He told us that he'd had too much to drink and was waiting a while to sober up a bit before walking home. He assured us he was fine so, we walked on.



Found a girl drunk, sat at the back of the Litten Tree. Got her up and walking. She walked to the front of the Litten Tree and sat on the pavement by Nationwide and started crying. It seems her boyfriend went off with someone else. Left her with a friend as she did not want our further help.



The other two lads moved off and C continued to talk to us about his Catholic faith... We talked for a long time and we encouraged him to keep following his faith and praying for his family and not to be hurt by the gibes from his friends. He was quite drunk and a bit repetitive but I think talking to us helped calm and sober him.



Man came out of Monnet (or was it Chinese?) and as he crossed the road called

“I'm an atheist but want to thank you for the work you do.”

out “I don’t need any flip-flops.” He then walked back over to us said; “I’m an atheist but want to thank you for the work you do.”



On way back to the Wells Place Centre we met a young man on pavement, apparently asleep. It was cold and we managed to rouse him and walk him to his home nearby.



Back down the High St outside the kebab shop we met another young man. He was unhappy and had little self-worth as his girlfriend had found another man despite them having had a son who was now 5 years old. He had had a drink but just wanted to talk and thanked us for listening.



We met three ladies who were going home after an evening out. One was sober, one was drunk and one was very drunk. The drunken lady asked us to help her to the taxi; which we did. She was very apologetic about the state she was in.



One Friday we had a Baptist Missionary Society action team join us on patrol as observers...

Left church and went to Grantham Green. Met 3 girls and 4 boys age c13-14. They recognised the observers from the action team as they had been into their school. They chatted about classes they had done at school.



We offered her flip flops but she was so drunk she thought we were the Police threatening to arrest her for not wearing footwear in the town. Her friend tried to explain but to no avail, I guess we’d upset her as she continued grumbling on as they walked to the taxi. Can’t help everyone! Further up the precinct we spotted a couple walking our way, the lady was not wearing shoes, so again we tried to offer her flip flops. This time the response was the complete opposite, the lady stopped looked at us, looked at the man with her, as if to say can these people be for real “free flip flops at 1am in the morning?” She then said a hearty yes please. Several questions later all about us and off they went almost skipping (the lady was doing the skipping) for joy. Wherever they been, it was as though we’d been the icing on the cake, in completing their evening.



One girl was asking about the reality of God. She had lost her Grandma to cancer and so struggling with the ‘why is there suffering?’ issue. We were responding to her questions when a man who described himself as a Sikh became a bit agitated and accused us of ‘preaching’. The girl explained the situation to him but he was a little drunk and not willing to listen to her explain. We distanced ourselves from the situation and they moved on.



We walked back round to Litten Tree. Spoke to a young lady who had just graduated. She showed us a video of her graduation on her phone. She wanted to join the police and had chatted to an officer that night. However, she had been told there

were few opportunities and that she would have to volunteer for two years. We encouraged her to follow her dreams.



One girl started with the questions: Do you go to church? do you pray? does God speak to you? does God really care about us?, do you think he created everything? Her friends called, come on, no she said I'm talking. This is great, some real people, with something to say. She said I've been here at the fair every day it's the only thing to do. I've got my friends but when we're not out together, well I've only got my phone. Thanks for talking to me. I thought of the passage of the 100 sheep, 99 were together but one was hoping to be found, she was found, thank you Lord for leading us to her.



Two of the SP's met a man they thought they had briefly met before. He was walking very quickly & with a mission & was drunk. They found themselves stood as it were in his tracks so he had to stop & talk. He was twitching on the spot i.e. his body wanting him to continue. He listened & talked a bit himself but then suddenly said, you've just stopped me from doing something very stupid I had planned and was on my way to do. He didn't say what his plans were but after talking with them he promised he wouldn't, in fact he said "I don't want to anymore". He thanked the SP's before walking off. Thank you Lord for that!



Helped an elderly lady with her bags to get a taxi to Chandler's Ford. She had been to

bingo, then played on the amusement machines with her sister.



We met a group of young people and gave out sweets. As we were talking the SP phone rang and they asked if we had a direct line to God!



We then spoke to a man simply asking how he was as he was walking away. He stopped and spoke about the fact that he had lost three of his family and friends to Cancer and his mum now had cancer. We had a good conversation and said we would pray for him and his mum.



We went into the car park where we met a man in his 40s. He was quite heavily intoxicated but jolly and eager to give hugs to the street pastors. He was heading to a nearby road so we accompanied him. On the way we talked briefly about Jesus.



He told us he had been in prison for 18 months and read the bible. He wanted to believe but had never felt anything. We encouraged him that faith was not about feelings, that God loved him. He thought no church would accept him as a smoker and an ex prisoner. We said that was not true and as he wanted a lively church, suggested some possible places to go.



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

STREET PASTOR PRACTITIONER CONFERENCE 2014

At the end of May Eastleigh Street Pastors Eric Hyom and Howard Sheffield attended the Conference which was held in Manchester Cathedral along with around 500 Street Pastors (SP) and friends from all over the UK and further afield. These visitors included 24 delegates from Denmark who belong to a similar organisation called Natte Ravnene or "Night Ravens."

The title of the conference was "Working Together" and began with a welcome by the Dean of Manchester Cathedral and the Chairman of the Ascension Trust (AT), and concluded two days later with speeches by the Bishop of Manchester and Revd Les Isaac MBE Founder & CEO of AT. In between there were speeches and workshops on a great variety of subjects relating to Street Pastoring. If we tell you the organisation represented you will get a flavour of the topics covered: Asst Commissioner of Met Police; Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner; CEO of Charity Commission; Corporate Relations Director of Diageo (Drinks manufacturer); Leader of UK Apostolic Church; CEO of Nehemiah Housing Association; Director from Luminar (who own 55 Night Clubs in northern England); ASDA National Community Life

Champion; Simon Thomas - Founder of "City to City" & ATR (who many of us met during or SP Training); Rosalind Davies – Curator of AT; Daniel Stone - AT National Co-ordinator for School & Colleges; Two SP Co-ordinators (including Mandy Harding from Southampton); Two Chief Police Inspectors, Representative from The Jerusalem Trust (talking about fundraising); Representative from "Breaking the Cycle" (talking about forgiveness); and Danish Founder of "Night Ravens." During the Conference worship was led by a Choir from Bruderhof Community, Jake Isaac, Graham Kendrick and IEC; (not all at once!) Eric and Howard also went to the Ascension Day Communion Service in the Cathedral to experience firsthand one of the Anglican traditions.

In just 11 years Street Pastors has grown so that there are now 288 Street Pastor Areas in 8 countries with over 11,000 trained Street Pastors. The Bishop of Manchester referred to Street Pastors as a "Viral Vision." What was most memorable was how frequently the non-church organisations thanked Street Pastors for the work they do, and more than one referred to SPs as modern day Good Samaritans. Also, several of these secular organisations are keen to partner with Street Pastors as they see SPs being of benefit to their own

organisations which is a real testimony to the appreciation that the work of SPs are to society.

What was also of great interest was to learn how SPs are being invited to partner with other organisations. Many will have heard of School Pastors, but other ministries include gun & knife collections points, caring inside



Street Pastors about to go on patrol in Manchester on the Friday of the practitioner conference

******NEW Training course******

What kind of training do street pastors get?

Our training programme equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols, and aims to set the tone for continued learning while you are out on the streets. We hope it will also equip you to be a more aware and informed citizen the rest of the time!

Examples of topics covered:

Loving like Jesus

Roles and responsibilities of street pastors

Skills: listening, caring and helping

Street craft: observation, assessment and intervention

Police and CCTV

Homelessness

Drugs and alcohol

Youth and Community

When does the next training take place?

This time all the Street Pastor areas in Eastleigh Borough are joining with Southampton in a regional training course. This will operate over 3 weekends on the following dates and times:

Friday 12 September, 7.30–9.30pm

Saturday 13 September, 9am–5pm

Sunday 14 September, 2pm–8pm

Friday 26 September, 7.30–9.30pm

Saturday 27 September, 9am–5pm

Sunday 28 September, 2pm–8pm

Friday 10 October, 7.30–9.30pm

Saturday 11 October, 9am–5pm

Sunday 12 October, 2pm–8pm

No space for Meet a Street Pastor this time—it will be back in the next newsletter

Prayer Pastors

Every Friday as we go out we are supported in prayer by teams that come to Wells Place and pray as we are out on the streets. Without this vital prayer support the initiative would not work. However, a number of prayer pastors have recently had to stand down so we need new prayer pastors to get involved. We are thankful to Mary Giles who has coordinated prayer pastors for the last five years but she has needed to stand down. We also, therefore, need a new prayer pastor coordinator.

There is no need to train to be a prayer pastor—although you are welcome to do the street pastor training. The responsibilities are to come to Wells Place once every 4 weeks between 8pm and 11.00pm

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night clubs, working with British Transport Police, Fire Brigade Chaplaincy, working with organisations for the homeless, stewards at community events; and as St Francis is quoted as saying something like: “Share the Gospel and if necessary use words.”

Cressida Dick from the Met Police gave us a very challenging thought. She said every criminal leaves a trace, and every personal contact leaves a trace – a blessing or a curse. What kind of trace to do you leave?

Simon Thomas spoke about the biblical model of SPs from the Book of Ephesians (and many other scriptures,) and encouraged us to take risks for he said without faith it is impossible to bring hope (see Heb 11). But God has taken the biggest risk; He sent Jesus to die on the CROSS!”

Les Isaac in his closing address said “I am

(although we would love to have teams between 11.00pm and 3.00am for the late shifts!) and pray. Prayer pastors also make drinks for the Street Pastors when they come in for a break.

Additional responsibilities for the coordinator are to organise the prayer pastor rota, arrange one or two prayer events a year, and publicise the prayer support of Street Pastors.

If you can serve in this way please get in touch using the contact information on the front or back of the newsletter.



proud to be a Christian. We are the face and the footprint of the Church. We are frequently called mad for going out on cold wet nights – and not getting paid - but God uses the foolish to confound the wise. We face challenges, but we will overcome. We are representing the Church. We are representing the Head of the Church! We are making a difference to our world.” If you want to read more of Les Isaac’s testimony, and the testimony of a handful of ordinary people who have come to faith in Jesus through the work of SPs, get hold of a copy of the latest SP book entitled: “Faith on the Streets”

Howard said “My over-riding impression from the Conference is that SPs are more just a handful of Christians showing the love of Jesus on the streets on Friday night, rather it is fast becoming the united Church in action in the Community.”

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. Volunteers and prayer pastors are automatically members. The last Annual general meeting was on 23 April 2014 and the next will be Spring 2015. 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 PCs of the Eastleigh Street Pastors Coordinator