



# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

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

Well 2016 was a year of change for the world, but in most ways the world is still the same - in need of God's love and care. And who does God trust to provide that? His people—us. We give a big welcome to Graham, Brenda and Derek who graduated from the latest course and pray God's blessing on them as they serve Eastleigh. Thank you for volunteering.

We also had a number of Street Pastors who stood down last year. I am grateful to them all for their service. However, I do particularly want to mention Jacqueline Brodrick who was part of the original team who first went out in July 2009. Jacqueline also spoke at the launch in March 2009. She will continue as All Saints rep on the management committee and has said she would still do an occasional early patrol if needed. I have appreciated greatly her steadfastness, wisdom and support. I am also grateful to all our continuing volunteers who invest their time in supporting and loving our town. We are also thankful for our fellow agencies. Eric Hyom had the chance to talk at a recent Safer neighbourhoods conference and I recently met with the new head of Eastleigh and Romsey police Ian Trueman.

Training starts again March—could you help invest God's love and care in your town?—see pages 4 and 6 for more information.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator  
Eastleigh Street Pastors



The team about to go out on New Year's Eve

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## Stories from the Street

*The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between November 2015 and February 2016. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.*



Chatted to a lady sitting drinking outside a restaurant. She said was getting married the next day. She said she was feeling nervous about the occasion - but not about the marriage. We asked if we could pray for her and she agreed.



...she was keen to tell us that being older we should be sitting by the fire and eating shortbread! We were obviously good people doing what we did and should not have to put up with drunk people like her. We tried to reassure her that we liked being out and meeting people like her.



Walked down the High Street and towards bowling alley where a guy was worse for wear and shouted at his friend. We thought there was going to be a fight, so we followed them up to the top of Market Street where they stopped at the cash machine and by this time two or three girls and another guy caught up with them. While watching them a lady came by with two men who were supporting her. We stayed put and watched and then at a distance but a car came with a woman in it who was the wife of one of the guys and they eventually got her into the car to take her home.



Spent a fair amount of time with a drunk lad, he was having trouble with the cash machine. We tried to talk him out of going to knock on the door of a girl he knew, and in the end he decided not to get a taxi to where the girl lived.



As we were walking away one of us thought we heard somebody shout after us. As we got to the car park entrance by Tesco a man caught up with us. He told us about his past life in prison. How after he had come out he had initially got involved in a toxic relationship, but he now had somewhere to live and a job. He shared how God had once spoken to him and that he wanted to go to church and had wanted to go into St Andrews. We encouraged him to do so. While he was clearly in drink he appeared sincere.



We spoke to a shop worker. He was of Pakistani origin and was excited to tell us that he is expecting to receive British Citizenship in February. He said that Britain is the best country in the world in which to live; and he told us about some of the other countries he had lived in.



Four high spirited lads were pushing a trolley, with one of them sitting in it, they were opposite the Istanbul, we gave out sweets and rescued the trolley, taking it back to the Tesco car park. Swept up the remains of a broken bottle by Tesco, and picked up two more.



At railway station we spoke to various peo-

*...he left to walk home (he declined any help) much "happier" than he was when we first met him.*



A lone girl was sitting by the bus station, she was tearful. We spoke to her, but she reassured us that she was ok, but did not want to talk, she thanked us for our concern.



ple, among them an ex prisoner. He said he lost his house being in prison and now is homeless. He sleeps at friends.



Met up with a man from Fair Oak who said that he had seen us earlier and had now plucked up courage to speak with us. He was lonely and depressed and asked about churches in the area where he might be accepted (he had had some disappointing experiences in the past). This felt like a genuine plea for help – he just wanted to talk to someone. He was happy for us to pray for him on the street and he left to walk home (he declined any help) much "happier" than he was when we first met him.



Our presence was noted by the people in the street and the tension began to subside, the groups separated, sweets were offered and normal late night conversations started with the remaining groups left on the street.



Said hi to a man on High St who then stopped and spoke of how unusual it was for someone to extend friendship to a stranger. Chatted with him for a while and he spoke of his dislike of what he's observed in terms of anti-social behaviour.

As we approached the alley near the pub, a girl called us over, her boyfriend was on the floor fighting another lad. We tried separating them, and as they started to separate, a doorman from the pub came over and helped. The doorman walked one of the lads away, and we stopped with the other and his girlfriend. He was very apologetic, saying his mum would kill him. He had taken his shirt off, and we encouraged him to put it back on, we also retrieved his shoes from the alley. He asked us to take his photo, before walking away with his girlfriend.

We thanked the doorman from the pub for helping us resolve the fight peacefully.



Meet up again with the two girls we had seen earlier. They say they are feeling tipsy after having a Budweiser in the toilets at a fast food restaurant! One asks if we will report them to the police - the other says no they wont 'cos SPs are nice people! She then said to one of us, "I expect you did the same sort of thing when you were young anyway!"



*We continue to give thanks to God for the people we meet and the way He uses us.*

## Is God calling you?

Eastleigh Street Pastors began in July 2009 with 19 volunteers. Since then nearly every Friday we have had volunteers from local churches out on a Friday night in Eastleigh.

Our current number of active volunteers is 26. However, there is always a turn over and those who are currently unable to patrol for health reasons.

At present this enables us to cover from 8.30pm to around 3.30am on three out of four Fridays, with a team out from about 8.30 until 11.30pm on the other Friday. But we need and want to do more and we can only do that if extra people volunteer. Indeed, with turnover of volunteers we probably need around 4 or 5 people a year to just carry on with our current level of service. So with around 8 volunteers we would not only continue but be able to fully cover all Fridays until 3.30am. If we had 20 volunteers it would allow us to consider some late night Saturday patrols too.

The police and council would support us patrolling on Saturdays and I have lost count of the number of times one of the town's doorstaff has asked me about Saturday patrols!

If you are sensing God saying this is something you could get involved in - what would be your commitment? Well you would need to undertake some high quality training (see page 6 for details). The training will equip you

for the role of Street Pastor but many of us have found it provides useful insights in all parts of our lives. Then ideally we would like you to consider serving for at least two years giving around 4-5 hours every 4 weeks to be part of Street Pastor patrols.

You do have to be over 18 (no upper age limit!), part of a local church in Eastleigh or the surrounding areas for a year or more. We take up references and carry out a DBS check. We will also ask if there are any health issues we may need to take account of.

Street Pastors do not preach, we are simply out there to listen, care and help when we can. See the main website for more details:  
[www.streetpastors.org/about-us/what-is-a-street-pastor/](http://www.streetpastors.org/about-us/what-is-a-street-pastor/)

If you want to know more I, or any of our Street Pastors, would be happy to talk with you. If you would like to find out more or get the application form please:

e-mail [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)  
or ring/text 07984 860590.

You'll be joining a band of around 12,000 Christians getting outside the church walls and serving Christ on the streets of our towns and cities.

Steve Smallwood





## Meet a Street Pastor!

After a break the ninth of our series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet **Linda Lloyd**

**Career:** Retired nurse, last job at Countess Mountbatten House in West End

**Church:** New Community Church, Eastleigh. (We meet at Barton Peveril College.)

**Tell us a little of your Christian story** I was blessed in that I was bought up in a Christian home and then, in a Baptist Church 25 years ago I was drawn closer to God and am thankful for that experience.

**How did you hear about Street Pastors?**

I had seen snippets about Street Pastors on the TV and had always felt this is something I would like to be a part of, but the time never seemed right.

**Why did you volunteer?**

My husband, Martin, and I were moving to Eastleigh and were already at New Community Church. I met Howard (who was already a Street Pastor) and when he told me about Street Pastors in Eastleigh I knew this is what I definitely wanted to do.

**What did you enjoy most about the Training?**

I was apprehensive about the training but really enjoyed meeting such a variety of people from across the area. I even met people I used to work with and shared lifts with Adam, who is part of the team in Chandlers Ford.

**What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night?**

The streets of Eastleigh are different according to what time it is. Frequently, on the early shift, particularly in the summer we meet families who may be at the Cinema or out for a meal and there is often a lovely atmosphere and people are very friendly. We take lollies as an icebreaker and will check with parents before offering them to the children but we can get through quite a number and many will comment that they are grateful we are out on the streets.

The late shift obviously has a different feeling but we continue to have positive feedback and the security men at the various venues are friendly and appreciate our being there and our interest in them as individuals. "The Station" does not close until 0300 and we feel it is important that we stay out until the streets have cleared so we will often get into conversations and hopefully diffuse situations. We also carry water and flip flops, and will sweep up any broken glass we find.

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

Not long ago we were out at about 0230 and were alerted to a problem in a back alley. There was a man

being sick through having drunk too much but he was all by himself and was clearly unwell.

We stayed with him and finally he told us that his wife had been

contacted by the people he had been with but they had then left him to cope alone.

Eventually, he gave us a description of his wife's car and I was able to flag his wife down while the others helped him out to the roadside. She had been driving around looking for him but had no idea where he was.

She also had a child with her who I stayed with while she went to her husband. He had not been out drinking for 2 years and I was very aware that this man could have died if he had not been found as the back alley had a dead end and was not used. It was also a very cold night and the man had only skimpy clothes on.

It was so good to feel that we had been able to help him.

**Has being a Street Pastor changed you?**

I think that I have changed as I have more confidence to simply walk up to total strangers and engage them in conversation. I have also really appreciated the different skills I have noted in my fellow street pastors and continue to learn from being with them. From outside you just expect people to be able to change their ways.

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

I don't feel fearful as we are never by ourselves and support one another.

**And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you**

I suppose I am "normal", smiley and "getting on a bit!"

*Many thanks Linda—everyone loves your smiles!  
If you have a question you want to ask e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk*



# **\*\*\*\*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?**

All the Street Pastor areas in Eastleigh Borough are joining with Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth, Salisbury, the Isle of Wight and the New Forest in a regional training course. The training will operate over 3 weekends currently planned for the following days and times:

Friday evening 3 March, All day Saturday 4 March and Sunday 5 March  
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Friday evening 17 March, All day Saturday 18 March and Sunday 19 March. Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 31 March, All day Saturday 1 April and Sunday 2 April  
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) for an application form and for more information.

Applications by end of Friday 17 February 2017.

Provisional dates have also been produced for training later in 2017 – they are: 15/16/17 Sept; 29/30 Sept and 1 Oct; and, 15/16/17 Oct  
If you cannot make the spring course why not put the autumn dates in your diary to ensure you can make them!

## Prayer Pastors update

Every Friday as we go out we want to be 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. We have one very faithful team from Holy Cross who come once every four weeks. For the second year house groups in Eastleigh Baptist Church have each committed to come at least once to support Street Pastors in prayer—with around a dozen groups this means a second week in a four week cycle is filled. So we are now looking for a final group, or groups, to complete the prayer support.

Some good news is that someone has come forward to be the prayer pastor coordinator, more news on that shortly. 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 (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.

If you would like to serve as a prayer pastor get in touch using the contact information on the front or back of the newsletter.

And finally a special thanks to the faithful team from Holy Cross who come to pray. Please pray for Kathy who leads the team as she has recently suffered a bereavement and also been unwell.



## Statistics: We've found our bottles and are on our trolleys!

As well as helping people we try and keep the environment of our town safe. One of the ways we do this is by removing and disposing of glass bottles discarded around the town. If these are broken they may be a risk to children, bare feet and tyres (both car and bike). Even worse they could become weapons if a fight breaks out.

Having just put together the statistics for 2016, not including New Year's Eve where the count was well into double figures, we removed 195 bottles from the streets of Eastleigh, a substantial increase on the 114 we removed in 2015 and 68 in 2014, the first year we started to keep count.

I don't keep a count of the number of

trolleys returned that are left lying around Eastleigh but again we take these back to the supermarket trolley parks

to avoid them being used to cause damage/accidents when they are left out on the street. They can be a tempting 'toy' to a bored person! Only last month we found three together lying in Derby Road (trolleys not bored people!). Steve





## 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 20th April 2016 and the next is planned for 25th April 2017. 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](mailto: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