



**Eastleigh**

# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

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

If ever there was a time for the church to re-engage with society, it is now. I'm writing this in the week after the atrocities in Manchester and London, where in the aftermath of both events response pastors were available. Of course, it is so difficult to know how to respond to such events. Yes we can pray but many of us feel helpless, yet want to do something. One way is to get active and make a difference in your own town. With Christians Against Poverty, The Basics Bank, ARK and Street Pastors - Eastleigh is an area where the church is doing this. But, remember you are the church and it is only by you being involved in these initiatives that we are able to bless our town. If you are feeling God stirring you to action why not consider whether you might train to be a Street Pastor? Details about our autumn training can be found on page 6. For those of us that are Street Pastors there are also plans for an area wide refresher training day on the 4th of November.

We would value your prayers for us all, particularly as a number of our Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors have suffered or are suffering health problems. And also pray for our Police in the difficult job that they do.

This issue of the newsletter contains more about response pastors, information from our new prayer co-ordinator and also a special thank you page highlighting some of the effects that we have been aware of as Street Pastors—including what happened to a homeless girl we helped a few years ago.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator

Eastleigh Street Pastors



Response Pastors in Manchester

Credit: Thomas Daigle/CBC

# Stories from the Street

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



Met up with the girls who we had met previously outside the Litten Tree. One was a little worse for her night out and we enquired if they would be all right getting home - Dad had been phoned and arrived as we were talking. Four of them stayed behind and the older girl appeared very sensible and in “charge”.



A man intercepted us and asked if we had a mobile phone he could borrow to call his wife in Guernsey as never owned one . He was going to Guernsey to join his wife for a weekend flying from Bristol but missed his flight by 10minutes. So he booked another flight from Southampton for the next day. He was staying at the Travel Lodge.



There was a loud crash, as if a roof tile had slipped off one of the properties, from further along the north-side of Wells Place. As we approached two youths jumped of the first floor roof between Motability Plus and Celebrations Stores, and went and sat with two young females on the circular seat by Tesco. They were rather coy and did not say a lot, so we crossed the road to see what they had been up to. It was then that went off down Wells Place towards Southampton Rd. We then went across

the street to damage and found that several panes of glass had been knocked out of a lantern roof, fallen on to the ground and smashed. We cleared the broken glass off the pavement as best we could, and left it inside the wide opening between the shops. We radioed CCTV Control to report incident.



We saw a drunk staggering around, he was not making any sense and was minus a shoe. He lived in Bassett, so we encouraged him to walk to the taxi rank, but he was not able to show the taxi driver any money, so was refused a ride. We asked if there was anyone he could phone for a lift, but he was still not making any sense. A girl recognised him from school, but was not able to help us with any further information about him.

We walked back to the Litten with him, he claimed his shoe and jacket were still inside, and his mates were there too. A girl and the doorman went to look for his shoe and jacket but could not find them. Eventually one of us was able to speak with his friend, on his phone. The lad lived at a nearby address, and he was happy for us to walk the man to this address, which we did, having spent about an hour with him.



Outside one of the shops two girls looked as if they need some help, it turned out that they were grovelling on the floor trying to lock up the shop – we helped them by shining a torch!



We were giving some flip-flops out by Monett, when two rival groups of lads

*She did come back and thank our ladies for their concern.*

started fighting. We tried to keep them apart, but one group of four lads kept running up to a bigger lad and hit him a number of times. The big lad did not hit back. We talked to the big lad a number of times and thanked him for not retaliating. There was a fair size crowd by Monett.

We were able to speak to the lads individually who had been doing the punching, they were clearly angry, but they did calm down. One lad said he was homeless, his parents had thrown him out and he now slept in a shed; he had nothing to lose if he was caught. We mentioned the homeless shelter and it was worth contacting the community minister at the Baptist Church.



A well-dressed gentleman suggested we take a look at a couple arguing in the alleyway just down from Monett's. We asked the couple if everything was all right as it appeared that she wanted him to leave her alone. They walked on and split up on Wells Rd. Walked on down past Stones, talked with a group of girls and gave out 2 pairs of flip-flops, and then down the alleyway back to check what had happened to the girl. Found the couple arguing in the loading bay of the old Woolworths, they both said that they were all right and wanted to be left alone. We checked in with CCTV and made them aware of the position and prayed for the situation and the safety of the girl.



A lady in a black dress was upset on bench by Monett but walked off when asked if she was okay. She did come back and thank our ladies for their concern.



At the station we watched a drunk man. He walked out but stood at the side entrance and he was not steady on his feet. We approached him to find out if he was okay. We had a chat with him and found out his name. He was divorced and he told us how he had lost everything and his family. He was crying as he poured out his heart to us and we listened and we offered words of encouragement and shared faith in Christ.

He told us he was on his way to Southampton and we offered to help him get a ticket. He thanked us for listening to him and told us the chat had helped him. He decided he would get a taxi but changed his mind and we then offered to walk him to catch a bus. We walked with him to the bus station at Sainsbury's. He changed his mind again and said he was fine and he told us he was going to a pub. He thanked us again for our help and he walked away.



We stopped to talk to a man bottle feeding his 8-month old baby. He told about how he and his wife never thought they would never be able to have a baby. There was obvious delight in his face and in his manner as we talked. We prayed God's blessing on the baby as we left.



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

## The long-term effect of Street Pastors

*Street pastoring is very much about the moment—but those moments have lasting effects. The story below is of a young lady we met a few years ago.—she posted this to one of our volunteers who helped in a personal capacity too.*

I know it's been ages since I last saw you but I wanted to just say hi. I'm about to start my second year at the Open University, so I'm really excited about that. Sometimes I look back and remember where I was 5 years ago, and I remember how nice Street Pastors were to me when I was homeless. I'm still very grateful.

Honestly, I remember it clearly, the first real thing of hope that I had were you guys when you found me on a bench and offered some help. And you showed me kindness when I was in a pretty bad shape which honestly meant a lot to me and probably was the only hope I had at the time. No one else actually did that and I was not in a good place at all at the time so I couldn't help myself much. That was the start to sorting out my homeless application with the council when you introduced me to Chris the councillor and I would never have been able to sort all that out on my own.

I think you are already doing more than you think by doing what you do. You're already changing someone's feelings of hopelessness around, it just may be a long journey ahead of them. I did have to do a lot of changing and it was very frustrating to get seemingly nowhere, especially because for a long time I couldn't see a way forward. But little by little you deal with things and you sort them out, you test and trial and you try again and eventually you start getting somewhere. In the end the

hard work starts to pay off, and every time you got through another day and you stuck at it, it was all worth it.

I guess with a transformative journey the key thing to remember is that you might end up somewhere even better than you expected, that positive things can come from harsh experiences and that you will always learn from it. Although I have to say there are things you will just have to endure and let it change you but that will give you the opportunity to believe in yourself. In brief, I picked myself up again by dedicating myself to my recovery, however long it may take and trusting that I'd make it. There are changes that have happened to me along the way that I would never regret like having more compassion, a greater appreciation of life, being able to help others with my experiences and coming out the other end as a stronger person.

I'll be off all summer. I'm with this programme that helps people with long term health problems get into full time work, so I'm really excited about that and I'm doing part time peer support work as well at the moment.

*A couple of other, briefer, stories are below. Sometimes we hear the effects of another area's work - we are all one church!*

A man came over to talk to us, he wanted to thank SPs for helping him when he was low. His friend had committed suicide about five years ago, so he turned to drugs and drink, but he said SPs in Chandlers Ford had listened and helped him to change his life. He is now off the drugs.

A young lady of 20 came and thanked us, she said how SPs had influenced her when she was a mouthy 14 year old from a troubled family. She now works in care looking after troubled teenagers.



## RESPONSE PASTOR UPDATE

By Howard Sheffield

As you may know I have recently enrolled as one of the national Response Pastors, and whilst away for the weekend in the Cotswolds with my wife I received a text which read :

*"Plse report 13:00 to Central Meth Church, Chippenham - Coord Michael - light aircraft crashed on shopping centre, several serious injuries - 4 hour deployment at Emergency Recept Centre. DO NOT reply to this txt "*

When I arrived the Emergency Response Centre (ERC), the building was buzzing with people not knowing quite what they were doing. I was told that the emergency services had cordoned off the Emery Gate Shopping Centre (EGSC) in the middle of Chippenham, and people were being sent to the ERC. Information was sketchy as the emergency phone lines had not yet been installed and people were having to rely on mobiles.

The RP co-ordinator teamed me up with a local lady, a member of the Chippenham Street Pastors, and sent us to talk to a couple on the terrace outside. We asked if we could help and quickly established that they were not indeed a couple, but just a man & woman who had made their to the ERC. As I had started to talk to the lady, we realised the gender mis-match and swapped "partners". Brian then told me that his teenage daughter and her friend had gone to the Shopping Centre earlier in the day and he had been unable to contact them since the incident. He was extremely anxious and I tried to help him make phone calls but all in vain as the line were down. We took the two people into the building to register their concerns

and to get them a cup of tea!

I was then accosted by a journalist trying to get information and quotes for the press, and I had to firmly, but politely tell him where to go!

The second person I was asked to help was Nigel, a shopkeeper from the Centre. He had been out to his car and had left two assistants to man the shop. He was in total shock; he could not make contact with his staff and the trauma prevented him from making any rational decisions.

Whilst I was dealing with these two cases 14 other RPs were assisting other members of the public, including someone with Alzheimer's and they had to try and get information from him.

All this was a Response Pastor training exercise to help train in how to deal with emergency situations and how to help people, whether that is a severe accident, terrorist attack or other major incident, and was held in Chippenham at the end of April. The actors were all members of Chippenham Street Pastors and a local "Am-Dram " group who gave up their valuable time to help us in the training.

Plans are that the event will now be rolled out to the other regions of the country to help train all 300 commissioned Response Pastors. While I hope I will never have to use my training, at the same time it was good to have had the experience just in case.





## \*\*\*\*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 15 September, All day Saturday 16  
and Sunday 17 September

Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Friday evening 29 September, All day Saturday 30 September  
and Sunday 1 October. Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 15 October, All day Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 October  
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 1 September 2017.

Provisional dates have also been produced for spring 2018 training –  
they are: 23/24/25 Feb; 9/10/11 March; 23/24/25 March

If you cannot make the autumn course why not put the spring dates in  
your diary to ensure you can make them!

## Prayer Pastors - Who are we and what do we do?

I am Katie Arnett the new prayer pastor coordinator for Eastleigh. Prayer pastors are people from the local churches who pray for our Street Pastors while they are on patrol. I hope the following gives you a picture of what being a prayer pastor entails.

We don't just pray for the Street Pastors but also for everyone who works in the night-time economy: the door supervisors; the emergency services; the CCTV staff; and, the workers in the pubs and bowling alley and cinema and restaurants.

Prayer takes place at Wells Place Centre on a Friday night from around 8pm.

The prayer pastors pray with the Street Pastors before they go out. You will be left a radio and mobile phone so that the Street Pastors can ring the group if they have any urgent prayer requests. The prayer pastors may also contact the team while they are out if they have a message for them.

Prayer pastor groups approach the time in a different way. Some groups will pray for short periods and chat in between. One group share liturgy together.

Street pastors normally return for break time, usually around 9.30pm. They like to

be welcomed back with a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate and also cake if the coffee shop have left any or the prayer pastors have brought some along! They will probably share something of any encounters or incidents while out. This information is CONFIDENTIAL so we are not allowed discuss with others outside the prayer team.

Team leaders will usually write up their notes during the break and may suggest items to be prayed for.

Street Pastors will go back out c10.00pm until 11.00pm so we pray briefly for them as they go. Once they return from patrol the prayer pastors are free to go although the Street Pastors may wish share any further encounters or incidents of note especially if the team itself may need prayer. If there is a late team on if any prayer pastors want to stay to pray the late team out at around 11.30pm it is appreciated.



At the moment we have one church whose small groups regularly come and pray, and another church who provide a group. The provision of different small groups by one church has been encouraging for those that have taken part with members saying they feel blessed to help provide prayer cover for our Street Pastors.

It would be a great encouragement to have more people and more churches involved in the prayer support. Ideally the commitment is to come and pray once every 4 weeks.

Please contact me via the [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) e-mail address if you would like to join us.



# 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 26th April 2017 and the next will be in April 2018. If you would like to volunteer, become a member, or just want to know more, please fill in the form below or email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk).



## Get involved!

Please complete the Slip below and return it to:  
Eastleigh Street Pastors  
c/o Wells Place Centre  
Wells Place



.....  
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