



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 16

January 2018

E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

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

I am writing this about 8 weeks after around 270 street pastors from the Southern area gathered for worship and training. It was amazing to see how many different types of people God has called to this ministry! You can find more on that event in this issue. Now that the Eastleigh team is over 8 years old it would be good to have some new people step forward to replace those that through health or change of life circumstance have had to stand down. If you are feeling God stirring you to action why not consider whether you might train to be a Street Pastor? Details about our spring training can be found on page 6.

We continue to 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 some statistics on 2017, the return of the 'meet a street pastor' feature and information about the next set of training. The picture below is of our stall at the Eastleigh Football Club Community Fayre after the first ever Eastleigh FC carol service. It was great to be engaged in the community in that way. It was also good to speak to some of the staff at the club involved with community and media. Well done to Jono Harvey, who is the club chaplain, for arranging it. Up the Spitfires!

Blessings,
Steve Smallwood,
Co-ordinator
Eastleigh Street Pastors



Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between August 2016 and January 2017. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.



We met a young lady sat on another bench who had not long finished work at a supermarket. She said it was her 20th birthday but none of her friends were up for celebrating with her. She was not really wanting to go home where she lives with a couple which had started well but now they seem to be annoying one another. She told us all about her job and the challenges of living on low wages. We sang happy birthday to her, gave her some lollies and wished her well.



Two couples stopped with us, one girl prayed the Hail Mary in Irish, and she said she would pray for us.



A number of people started coming out of The Station and we gave out 3 pairs of flip flops. We did have some concerns about some older men who were hanging around the girls so we mingled and talked to the girls to make sure they were Ok.



Further up towards the kebab shop a fight started between two girls which got a little out of hand and this developed into a fight between a group of lads . CCTV said that the police were aware so we just hung around at a distance. The fights then sub-

sided. Police arrived and took statements and the street quietened down and they hung around for a while before being called off to another incident. (The police did say that CCTV had said that the incident would probably have been much worse if the Street Pastors hadn't been there.)



On High St stopped to chat to a man outside Stones. He wanted to talk about his views on Brexit and was quite dogmatic in his views. We parted on good terms and gave him some sweets for his son. Also chatted to a man outside the betting shop. (Interestingly the prayer pastors fed back that during this time they were led to pray into issues relating to attitudes to foreigners....)



We went off down towards the bus station and there we met a man who had just finished work at a supermarket. He was upset because he only works two days a week and had just had a bad review report. He was obviously keen to work because he was off to a caring job having already done work at the shop. We said we would pray for him—having chatted, listened and made some suggestions as to how he might approach the meeting with the manager next week. He thanked us.



He was a man that wanted to chat. He said he had had a very difficult time as his life was good but then took a turn when he was accused of a serious crime and after that his life went a bit pear-shaped. He maintained his innocence but the damage

We had a long chat with him and he really appreciated us just listening to what he had to say.

was done and he lost his job and all manner of things went wrong. He was now trying to get back into normal life. We had a long chat with him and he really appreciated us just listening to what he had to say.



Walked down High St, saw a ladder leaning up on the wall of Salvation Army building in the alleyway adjacent to Iceland. Concerned that there either had been a break-in, as the ladder gave easy access to the flat roof and first floor windows, or it would be a potential hazard later on in the evening. Asked CCTV if they could see the ladder and they said they would keep an eye on it. On hearing our report to CCTV the manager from Stone's came down to investigate. The police were informed and arrived quickly and entered the building but saw no signs of a break-in; they put the ladder inside the building and we left and returned to WPC



We found man at the back of the alley. He was down on his knees, bending over a low wall, hardly visible, and yes, being sick.

We chatted to him and gave him a bottle of water and tissues; all the while he was kneeling & facing the ground. He asked us to look out for his partner in a red Seat Leon, so two of us returned down the alley to Leigh Rd. When a car of that description passed by we hailed the lady driver who stopped, jumped out the car leaving

the engine running and an 18month-old baby in a child seat in the back. We suggested that she switch the engine off, and we said we would watch her car & the Baby while she attended to her partner.

The lady persuaded her partner to go to the car, and with support on both sides we got him down back down the alley and into the front passenger seat.



Further down we were approached by another 2 ladies for sweets and they told us about Fair Oak Street Pastors who used to look after them when they were younger.



We observed a lady by the train station, who seemed to be harassed by a man. We went over to speak to her, she said she was ok, but that we should not get involved with the angry man she had been with. We came back to her three times over about twenty minutes, it seems the man was her partner, and they were arguing, he had no money for a ticket, and no phone. She said again that she was ok, and later on she was hugging him.



Noticed a man from Grimsby who was very intoxicated and was trying to open the passenger door of a car. Asked him if he needed a taxi and then accompanied him to the taxi stand and made sure he managed to get in.

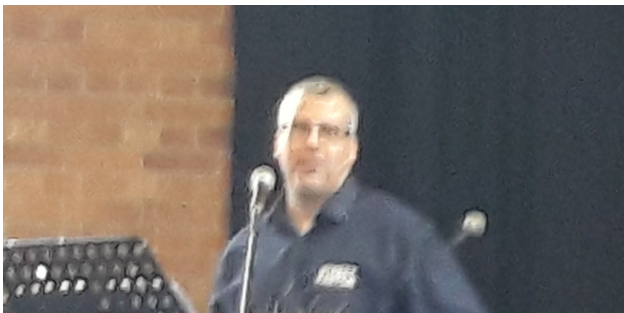


We continue to give thanks to God for the people we meet and the way He uses us.

Southern Area Street Pastor Gathering

On 4th November 275 Street pastors from across the South of England gathered at King's Church Hedge End.

The day began with worship led by a very polished (and loud!) gospel band. Having been woken up by the worship, Anwar from head office at the Ascension Trust gave a very encouraging talk. He reminded us that being a



Street Pastor was not about being a volunteer but that we are passionate 'called ones'.

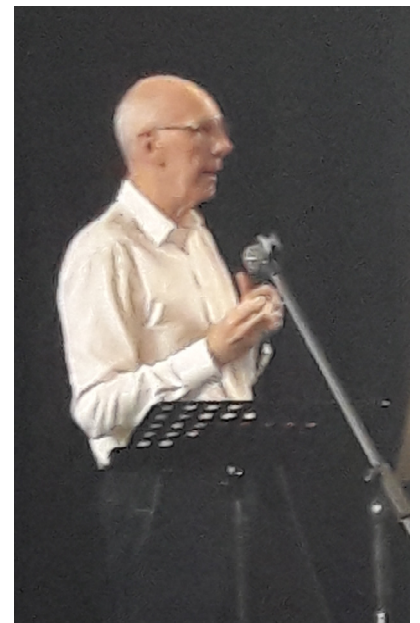
We then split into groups to cover a number of different topics. Sessions included a talk on leadership where different forms of leadership were described and we were encouraged to adopt the Be, know, and do pattern of leadership used by the US Armed Forc-



es and heard the inspiring tale of one of the heroes of 9/11—[Rick Rescorla](#).

Another session covered the issues around modern day slavery and human trafficking, encouraging us to consider whether the people we meet might be subject to this. A session on the biblical basis

for Street pastors was based on Nehemiah and pointed out that geography not denominations is what defines us. The session on mental health reminded us of the mispercep-



tions around the topic and prompted us to examine our perceptions of ourselves and others. There was also a session on prayer pastors and one on sharing your faith on the streets. An uplifting spirit filled event, the next is being planned for early 2019.



Meet a Street Pastor! After a break , the tenth of our series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet **Dave Savage**, who transferred from Fair Oak to Eastleigh last year.

Occupation: IT Software Consultant

Hobbies: Diving Instructor, Street Pastor, First Aider (EMT) / Instructor, Deputy Controller SW Hants RAYNET

Church: All Saints Eastleigh

Tell us a little of your Christian story Started attending St Toms Fair Oak as part of an Alpha Course and met God. Completed that and a Beta and follow on Courses. Attended regularly and became part of that family, assisting with sound and worship. I have attended New Wine for many years being part of both the Ministry Team and then the Medical Team. I was at St Toms till the start of 2017 when my wife and I transferred to All Saints in Eastleigh.

How did you hear about Street Pastors? I attended the first presentation from Les Isaac in the area at St Toms and signed up

Why did you volunteer? The idea of Christians in action on the streets rather than in a church really resonated with me.

How have you found the move from Fair Oak to Eastleigh? Eastleigh is a lot busier area than Fair Oak in respect to SP work, Fair Oak had some really busy times but it was mostly quiet, the hours were easier though. There were the same quality of incidents but spread over a year rather than a month. Due to an insurance dispensation we could walk in pairs so we covered a much larger area, from Horton Heath to the Hub at Eastleigh.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night? The streets of Eastleigh are like most small towns on a Friday Night, a high proportion of alcohol related incidents however due to the high level of respect and love the Eastleigh Street Pastors are held in we have very few actual direct arguments aimed at us.



We are normally able to defuse with Gods help a lot of the situations. It almost seems nowadays with the shortfall of Police and Ambulance we are the only ones around with the time to care and assist people.

Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol : Every time we go out there is something good to take away every evening. From listening to people reveal their life aspirations or failures. Helping drunk people home or showing we care by being there every week even in the rain or snow is a privilege.

Has being a Street Pastor changed you? It has helped me be less judgemental, enhanced my patience and appreciate more what God has done in my life.

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor? Due to spending years in the Military and Police I have very little fear of the streets. We are also a non-confrontational organisation and are held in high regard by most of the Public.

And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you Choosing to provide Christian Care and Love on the Streets

Many thanks Dave—we are privileged to have your experience and leadership capabilities in Eastleigh. If you have a question you want to ask e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

EASTLEIGH



******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 23 February, All day Saturday 24
and Sunday 25 February

Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

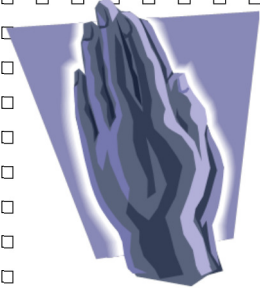
Friday evening 9 March, All day Saturday 10
and Sunday 11 March. Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 23 March, All day Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 March
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Email eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk for an application form
and for more information.

Applications by end of Friday 9 February 2018.

Training will also take place in the autumn if you can't make the above dates. The autumn training will be 14/15/16 Sept 2018, 28/29/30 Sept 2018 and 12/13/14 Oct 2018—pop them in your diary!



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

Prayer pastors are people from the local churches who pray for our Street

Pastors while they are on patrol. 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. They also make refreshments when they return from the streets. The street pastors 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.

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.

Katie Arnett , the prayer pastor coordinator for Eastleigh. Please contact me via eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

Street Pastors Count!

Every patrol we make has a record kept of the times we are out, the number of contacts, the number of bottles picked up and whether we have experienced anti-social behaviour or have been able to help someone in some way.

The statistics for 2017 have just been collated and here are a few highlights. As in previous years we had around 2,000 contacts (1979 this year). This was down on the 2,282 in 2016.

We helped more people this year 24 compared with 15 in 2016.

However we also saw a rise in the number of anti social incidents from 24 to 30. Indeed there was a point in

the year when it seemed every Friday there was a fight as the late night venue in Eastleigh closed for the evening.

We picked up a similar number of bottles this year, 178 compared with the 195 we picked up in 2016.

We have not been keeping statistics on the number of flip-flops given out but in generally these seem to be less in demand than they were.

All the above good work is made possible by 750 hours of time spent on the streets by volunteers and around 104 hours of prayer time at Wells Place while the Street Pastors are out—I **would love to see the latter figure rise in 2018 so see Katie’s article above!**

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 26th April 2017 and the next will be 18th 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.



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