



Eastleigh

Newsletter

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June 2018

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www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

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

This year began with the great encouragement of the visit of the Rev Les Isaac. He came to encourage the church in Eastleigh at the Churches Together in Eastleigh Service in January.

His address can be heard by going to our website (go to About us, then Video and Audio on the menu), but in summary he majored on the importance of prayer as the foundation for our work. But not just prayer for Street pastors, an attitude of prayer that is receptive to the new things God wants to do, so we do His agenda. What a challenge for the church in Eastleigh.



Rev'd Les Isaac

At that service we commissioned 3 volunteers and 2 more volunteers came forward for Eastleigh who trained in the spring and who we will commission at the Churches Together in Eastleigh service on 15 July. We would love to have more people involved, so please prayerfully consider whether this is how God wants you to serve Eastleigh. Details of the training dates for the next few years(!) are in the news letter—so easy for you to plan the training into your diary. We have a number of Street pastors who are unable to go out for health reasons and two who will be taking maternity/paternity leave (congratulations Lauren and Declan!) so it would be great if new people were able to come forward. We also need prayer pastors, for which no training is needed (see page 7) —without prayer foundations our work is not effective.

Blessings,
Steve Smallwood,
Coordinator
Eastleigh Street Pastors

Stories from the Street

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



Pass lady who then stops and asks if we would mind escorting her back to her car in Mitchell Rd. She tells us she has been out for a meal with friends and has to go down a dark alley. We walk with her back to her car and she waved as she drove off.



Near information point at front of council offices found a couple with man appearing to be sick. They had been celebrating the man's dad's birthday at a nearby establishment. We gave them a bottle of water which he used to rinse out his mouth and the pavement where he had been slightly sick. They were grateful for our help and were getting a taxi home.



We then walked towards Poundland, where we met up with the two lads fighting, they had gathered a crowd around them. We stood between but all the onlookers seemed to make matters worse.

We encouraged the crowd to let the two lads walk off a few metres on their own. They had a heated discussion, but made up. After a short time, the two lads parted company and went their separate ways.



Had a request from CCTV to go to the Railway Station. Met up with a group of 4 (15-16yrs old) and 2 much younger (8-9 yrs old) lads. Gave out sweets, chatted about Street Pastors and the fact that we were volunteer and then established that the younger ones were waiting for their dad to take them home (who arrived as we were talking). The older ones were waiting for a train to take them to Winchester.

Transport Police officer told us that he had alerted CCTV and was concerned about the young lads out with the older ones and was happy that we had responded.



We met a girl and two lads, she had lived in Australia, she said they had the same kind of Street Pastors there, but they were called 'Red Frogs. This was because they gave out frog shaped chocolates wrapped in red; they also cooked pancakes for people!



Two guys in a car stopped to tell us, they had just seen a drunken girl staggering towards Poundland, we thanked them and caught up with the girl. She said she was ok, and moments later her boyfriend appeared, he thanked us for being with her. They then walked to his car and drove off.



In the High St met a young guy as he was heading to The Station pub. He told us about his mum having a brain tumour that has grown 4mm in a few months. We said we would pray for her and did so by the Tesoro café.

...we were worried he might be aggressive, in fact he called out and said thanks for all you do.



We came across this lady again outside the High St kebab shop. Her two lady friends were trying to help her but she was in a bit of a state not knowing what to do, not wanting help but getting upset, getting angry then walking this way and that, and was somewhat agitated. She really did not know what she wanted to do except to go home but did not want help despite her friends and some guys trying to help her.

Her friends eventually gave up as she kept telling them to go away so they did because we were there. We stayed with her not least because some chaps seem to take too much of an interest, possibly just wanting to help, but we could not be sure. So, we spent an hour persuading her to allow us to walk her home. She reluctantly told us where she lived. She would not take flip-flops, she complained of being cold, but did not want a coat. She also needed assistance standing and had no sense where her house was. She spent a lot of time going back and forth and we were not sure if we were helping. We asked CCTV to keep eyes on us as we tried to help her and considered phoning the police. CCTV told us no police were available. She kept changing her mind as to whether she trusted us or wanted our help and would then go in the wrong direction. She eventually got a phone call from her partner and we were also able to talk to him on her phone. He could not come out as their children were in the house. She seemed slightly more inclined to accept

help from us but still needed a lot of persuading. Slowly but surely, we got her to her home where her partner was waiting outside. We suggested she would need warming up as she had been out in the cold for some time. He thanked us and took her inside. It took over an hour to walk her home but she got home safely.



A lady was having trouble with her sat-nav, she had ended up in Eastleigh instead of Bitterne, and we were able to help her with directions.



We met an older chap who was interested in archaeology. He was catching a train back to Winchester. He had been a carpenter by trade and said he was not a Christian but liked what we did and we had a nice chat and he said to us afterwards as we parted "God's blessing on us" which was interesting.



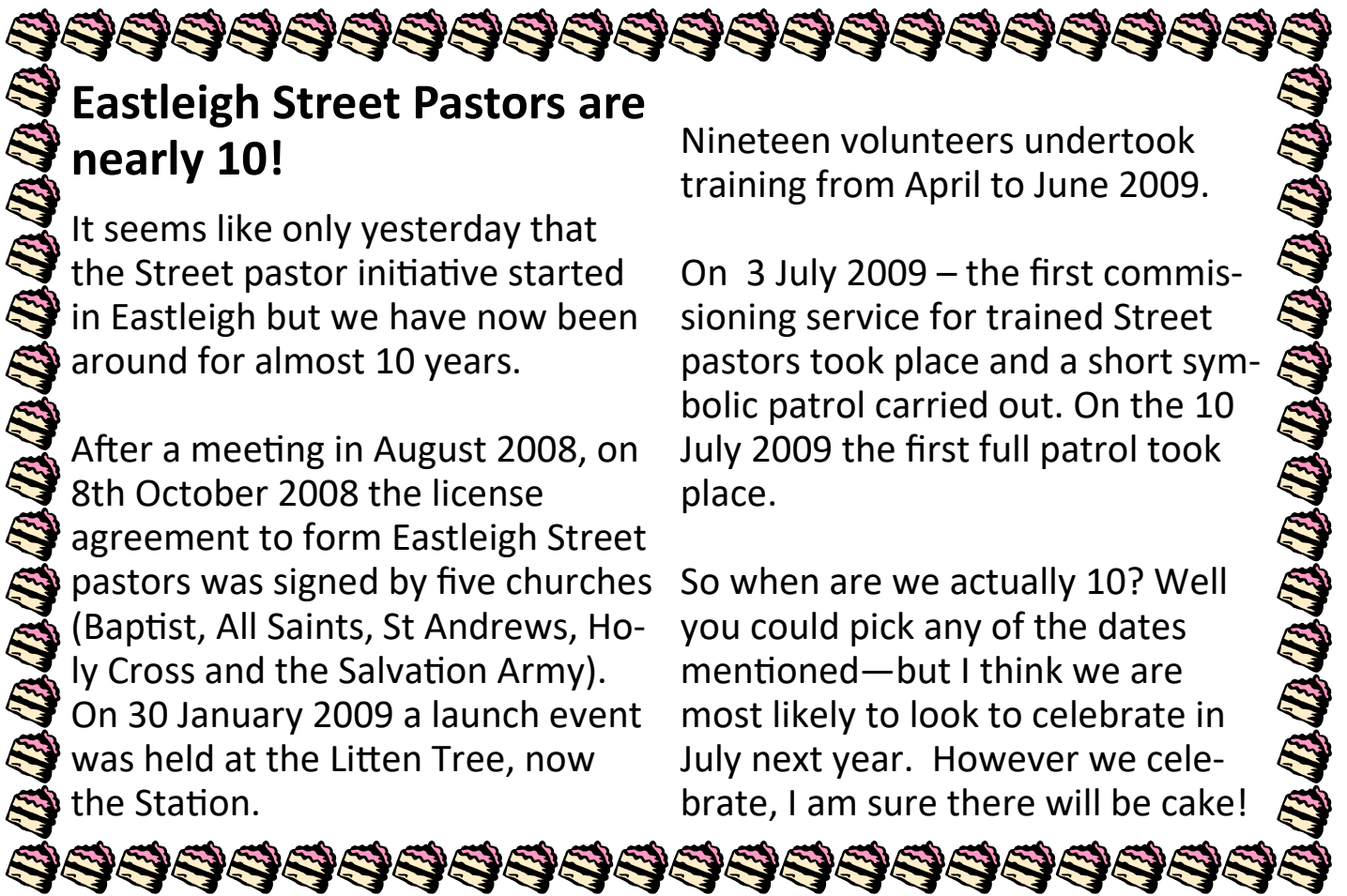
A lad who we had seen earlier appearing to have a minor argument walked passed us down the middle of the high street – we were worried he might be aggressive, in fact he called out and said thanks for all you do.



We returned home with the birds singing!



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



Eastleigh Street Pastors are nearly 10!

It seems like only yesterday that the Street pastor initiative started in Eastleigh but we have now been around for almost 10 years.

After a meeting in August 2008, on 8th October 2008 the license agreement to form Eastleigh Street pastors was signed by five churches (Baptist, All Saints, St Andrews, Holy Cross and the Salvation Army).

On 30 January 2009 a launch event was held at the Litten Tree, now the Station.

Nineteen volunteers undertook training from April to June 2009.

On 3 July 2009 – the first commissioning service for trained Street pastors took place and a short symbolic patrol carried out. On the 10 July 2009 the first full patrol took place.

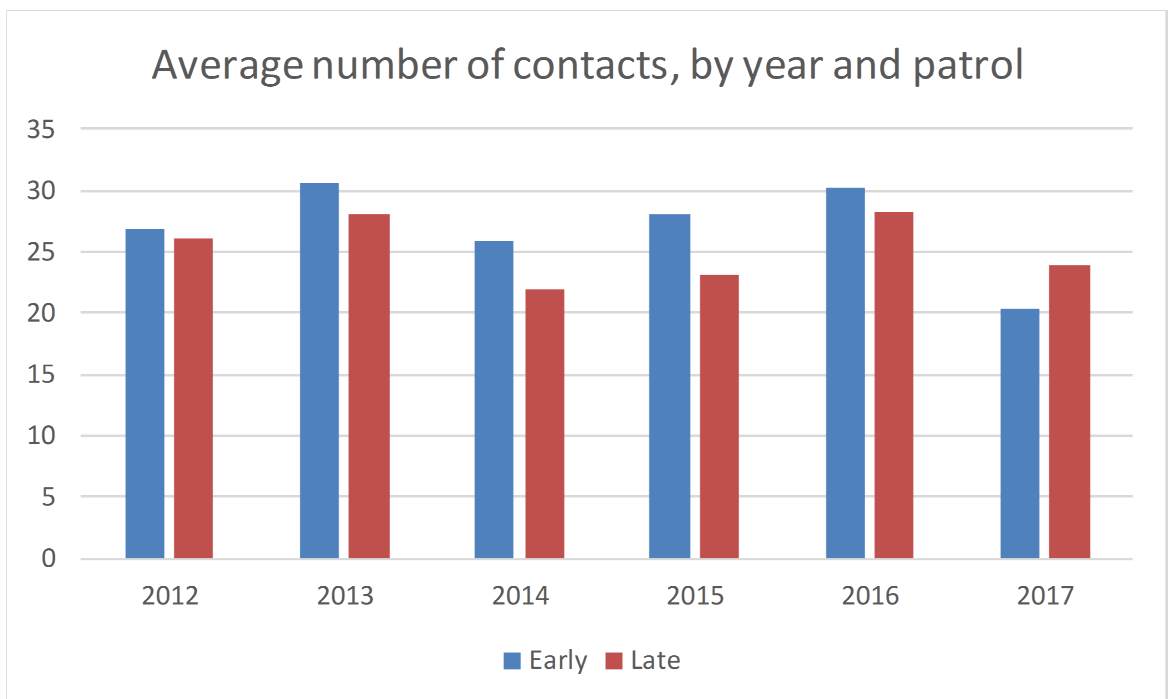
So when are we actually 10? Well you could pick any of the dates mentioned—but I think we are most likely to look to celebrate in July next year. However we celebrate, I am sure there will be cake!

How many people do you meet on a Friday night?

As part of putting together the statistics from our reports for the AGM we looked at the average number of contacts per patrol.

While it can be difficult to decide what is a contact and, therefore, there can be some variation in reporting, averaging helps iron out some of those differences. The chart below shows that on average we've seen around 20-30 people each patrol over the years.

That may be a simple short conversation passing the time of day (night!) to ensuring someone's safety and wellbeing.



Meet a Street Pastor! In the eleventh of our series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors I decided it was time to introduce myself! So This time we meet **Steve Smallwood**.

Occupation: Civil Servant at the Office for National Statistics

Hobbies: Eastleigh football club, cricket, spotting old cars, watching too much TV!

Church: Eastleigh Baptist Church

Tell us a little of your Christian story I was sent to a very old fashioned Sunday School which I hated and refused to go to when I was about 7 or 8. But I then became friends with the son of the Baptist Church minister and started going to their Sunday school. I made a commitment at Spring Harvest when I was 17 and was baptised later that year. Both myself and my wife were very involved in Hornchurch Baptist church until my job was moved out of London and we moved to Eastleigh.

How did you hear about Street Pastors? I heard about Street Pastors back in Hornchurch but really not fancying patrolling in Romford and so did not get involved.

Why did you volunteer? When we moved it provided a clean slate in terms of time and I felt it was a way I could serve. Also I had done many 'internal' church jobs but felt a sense that I needed to grow my faith by looking at a more outward facing role. I was then asked if I would become the co-ordinator and get Eastleigh Street pastors running.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night? The streets vary from year to year, season to season and even by the time of the night. Each cohort of young people is different as they grow up. In winter some patrols can be very quiet, but the people that are out are more likely to have needs. Earlier in the evening we are mainly chatting to people, as the evening goes on it is much more about ensuring safety, ensuring that those in drink are safe and trying to calm situations and deal with



upset and hurt. Most people are very warm towards us and appreciate what we do and I have never really felt unsafe.

Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol: Each patrol is different. On a patrol a few months ago we had four different medical issues (a bad reaction to drugs/alcohol, a bad fall, and two fight injuries). Amazingly the team I was leading on that patrol were all medically qualified in various ways. It is great to see how God uses us by putting right people in the right place. The funniest thing is still the incident a few years ago when I was asked by someone if they could have my trousers as they could not get into a pub in their tracksuit bottoms (still trying to work out the theology with regard to Matthew 5v4 0!)

Has being a Street Pastor changed you? It has reinforced the need for constancy in our ministry and also has given me a great appreciation of the current pressures and issues in society that we don't see in our church bubble.

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor? No fears, but you have to be prepared to feel occasionally helpless.

And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you Puns, football, backroom, dedicated, (always) hungry!

If you have a question you want to ask a Street pastor about the role please 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! The training takes place alongside volunteers from other areas in the South—so a great opportunity for fellowship and to meet new people.

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?

The training will operate over 3 weekends currently planned for the following days and times:

Friday eve 7pm – 9.30pm, Sat all day 9.30am-4.30pm, Sunday all day 9.30am-4.30pm

Friday evening 14 September, All day Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September

Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Friday evening 28 September, All day Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 September. Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 12 October, All day Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October
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 31 August 2018.



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

Training dates in 2019 and 2020!

Training will also take place twice a year in 2019 and 2020 if you can't make the 2018 dates. Put these in your diary!

Dates for the Spring 2019 training are:

8/9/10 March 2019, 22/23/24 March 2019 and 5/6/7 April 2019

Dates for the Autumn 2019 training are:

13/14/15 Sept 2019, 27/28/29 Sept 2019 and 11/12/13 October 2019

Dates for the Spring 2020 training are:

6/7/8 March 2020, 20/21/22 March 2020 and 3/4/5 April 2020

Dates for the Autumn 2020 training are:

11/12/13 Sept 2020, 25/26/27 Sept 2020 and 9/10/11 October 2020

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 18h April 2018 and the next will be in April 2019. 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



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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