



**Eastleigh**

# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

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

As we approach the end of another year it is a time for both looking back and looking forward. Although we have not yet completed the statistics for this year, we continue to have some significant conversations. And while statistics can tell a good story it is the individual stories that demonstrate how God is working in our town. We never give too much detail of our stories so we can protect the confidentiality of those that we help, but a particular highlight for me was ensuring a woman got home safely. The encounter included her kneeling and praying—crying out her heart to God. While we don't preach, God uses our presence to work in people's lives. It was also lovely that the lady acknowledged our help in an e-mail the next day.

For the Ascension Trust and the wider family of Street Pastors this has also been a significant year, with 25th and 15th birthday celebrations. When Les Issac started the Ascension Trust in 1993 he asked himself three questions : If I believe that the good news of Jesus is practical as well as spiritual, what does that mean for the mission of the Church? How relevant is the Church to our twenty-first century society? How effective are Christians at engaging across cultures and with their local community? These are still relevant questions 25 years on. Ask them of your fellowship and yourself. If you want to know more about our society and community come out with us to observe what we do, join a prayer team at our base or consider becoming a Street Pastor. You will find serving in this way: will engage the church in Eastleigh with our current world; give love, care and help to our town; and, you will undoubtedly find it will challenge and grow your faith.

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 July 2017 and December 2017. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.*



Went up High St and noticed a disturbance outside one of the pubs. Went and found there was shouting and potential fight between two guys and two brothers. One of the brothers was angry as he had been insulted by one or both the other two guys. A good number of friends and his brother were trying to get him to just leave it. We assisted in keeping the guys apart and eventually the two guys went off in a car driven by a female waiting at the kerbside who came and helped also persuade them to go home.



Gave out lollies to a group in Market St, and we heard shouting by the kebab shop. About 15 people, split into two factions, were looking for a fight. The doorman was calm, and just seemed to keep people apart. A lad also tried keeping people apart, he did it with humour. We informed CCTV, but later we were able to phone back and say all was calm. We had stopped with this group for over half an hour until one lot went for a taxi, and the others went in the opposite direction. We gave a lolly to the peace-making lad, and said it was awarded for peacekeeping.



Outside McDonalds male acted drunk, then proceeded to lie down very gently and slowly. His voice was not slurred and he appeared to be faking it. He wanted to set his alarm and go to sleep on the pavement. He was advised to go home, assisted to feet and he stumbled along playing to the onlookers. We followed him around corner where he straightens up, sped up and walked 150 yards down the road, opened a gate and went into a house on the right without hesitation.



Walked round down past bus station and went back to speak to man on bench. He was fine, waiting for members of his family to come out of bingo. A former publican, he said he had had 4 pints and a brandy – he seemed fine!



A man knocked on the door of Wells Place and wanted to talk, he offered to share his chips. He had been to prison twice, once for manslaughter, he had punched a man for groping his girlfriend, and the man died. He talked about the vision he had of Jesus, he said he had connections with All Saints Church, but had only been a couple of times. He asked us to pray for him, he stopped with us for about half an hour.



We had a long chat with an Irish lady outside one of the pubs about religion and God. She believed in God but not in organised religion.



A lad who had been in prison asked if we knew the sycamore story in the Bible. For-

***“They thought that Street Pastors did a wonderful job.”***



Unfortunately, one of us recognised that he meant the story about Zacchaeus the tax collector. The lad told us his interpretation that he remembered from the prison chaplain. Zacchaeus would pay back ten times the amount to anyone he had cheated.



Walked down to the Leigh Rd precinct had quite a long conversation by the clock with two men about the politics of homelessness and whose responsibility it was to care for people. They thought that Street Pastors did a wonderful job.



A lady talked at length about how Street Pastors had helped her three years ago, she was very thankful.



Approached by two ladies who said their car was parked in Sainsbury's car park but the shutters were down. After a series of conversation with CCTV Control we made contact with the Sainsbury staff who raised the shutters and freed the unfortunate ladies.



We watched a man as he walked back towards the rec, he seemed unsteady on his feet. We followed him, and we caught up

with him by the police station. We asked him if he was ok, and would he like us to walk with him. He said he was going to be made homeless soon. He was sharing a flat with another man who had moved out, and he could not afford to pay the full rent on his own. We pointed out the Two Saints Office, and said he should speak to them while he is still in the flat, they should be able to help him. He asked who we are, and when we said we were Christian volunteers, he said he felt very guilty as he was an atheist, but we assured him that God loves him. He was thankful that we had taken the time to listen to him, and we walked with him to his flat.



We met a man who had just got a pizza. He was in his 20s and had had a drink. He told us of his recent difficulties, losing job, girlfriend, home, etc. but he loves Jesus who has got him through all these challenges. He would like to find a church with his age group but feels his age group are not in churches. We shared about the churches in Eastleigh and prayed with him. While we tried to encourage him he in fact was a blessing to us.



A man was not happy as a girl he had met that night, who lived in the town, had taken his car keys and bag. He lived in the New Forest. He was drunk and should not have been driving anyway. He then took some of his frustration out on us because we could not “God magic” his problem away. We listened calmly until he went off.

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



# A thank you to our partners who watch over us!



At the Churches together service on a sunny hot Sunday in July we graduated Street Pastors for Fair Oak and Eastleigh. As part of our time on stage we organised a little message to the wonderful people who keep people safe in Eastleigh in the CCTV room.



## The Importance of PRAYER

**Ruth Sichel**

We left our base as usual one Friday evening on an early shift and asked God to show us where to go. Within minutes we received a call from CCTV and went straight to the Recreation Ground as there was a fair there and we had been informed that there was a gentleman there who had been drinking too much.

When we got there we tried to find out what was going on as the atmosphere was very tense. Our role was to listen to some of the people who were upset and encourage the gentleman to a safe place. The atmosphere was getting increasingly tense with a lot of young people as well who were getting very agitated and there was a real potential for violence. The police had been called. We escorted the gentleman out of the situation and found out where he lived and walked with him part of the way to his home and left him when we were sure he was safe from attack.

THERE WAS A MOMENT ! when I turned round and saw two people with their backs to us and it looked as if they were praying! I asked them if they were praying and they said yes! They were from a local Church and had decided to go on a prayer walk that evening.

I thanked them very much and told them that I believe the prayers they had prayed had really been heard as the potential for something really nasty to have happened was huge.

Prayer is vital in this ministry of going out on the streets. If you or someone else in your Church who would be interested in praying for the street pastors as they go out on a Friday evening please let us know.

**Meet a Street Pastor!** In the eleventh of our series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors we meet June Wilson. June has chosen to answer the usual questions in a lovely narrative below. June has been a fantastic addition to our teams. Her knowledge, wisdom and bright personality are a real asset to the church on the streets of Eastleigh.



Hi, my name is June.

I have been a Catholic since my baptism at a few weeks old, but I discovered my religion when aged 10 years, my mother told me with the words “keep it to yourself there are more important things in life than religion”

Well with some ups and downs in my faith I mostly did just that. Until aged about 30 years when my faith became more important to me, and at work as a nurse and in the Army Reserve forces I became more open about my faith.

I enjoy dancing twice a week, Salsa and Ballroom, otherwise since retirement I have become more involved in my Church and Faith, running a few groups from Children’s liturgy, Catholic exploration and House group, to name but a few. However, recently, I realised the Holy Spirit wanted me to reach outside my church and having heard a year previously about Street Pastors, I decided to step out of the boat and apply to be one.

Initially I was very nervous about this.

Would I cope in difficult circumstances? Would I be harmed? Would I be alone? However, I needn’t have worried. The Street Pastors course was excellent, equipping me with all I needed to know in order to be a Street Pastor. With the support of the group I patrol with I feel privileged to be able to go out and help when needed.

I have not being doing this long, but the people I meet while on patrol in Eastleigh are the most friendly I have met. We don’t go out to evangelise, but it is amazing how the street pastor uniform seems to draw people to us and they want to know about our faith. It’s wonderful.

I do think that if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, give it a try, you won’t regret it.

*If you have a question you want to ask a Street pastor about the role please e-mail [Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto: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! 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 8 March, All day Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March

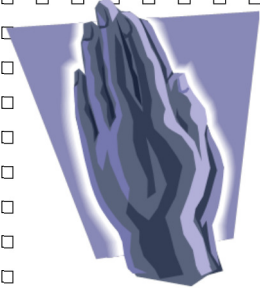
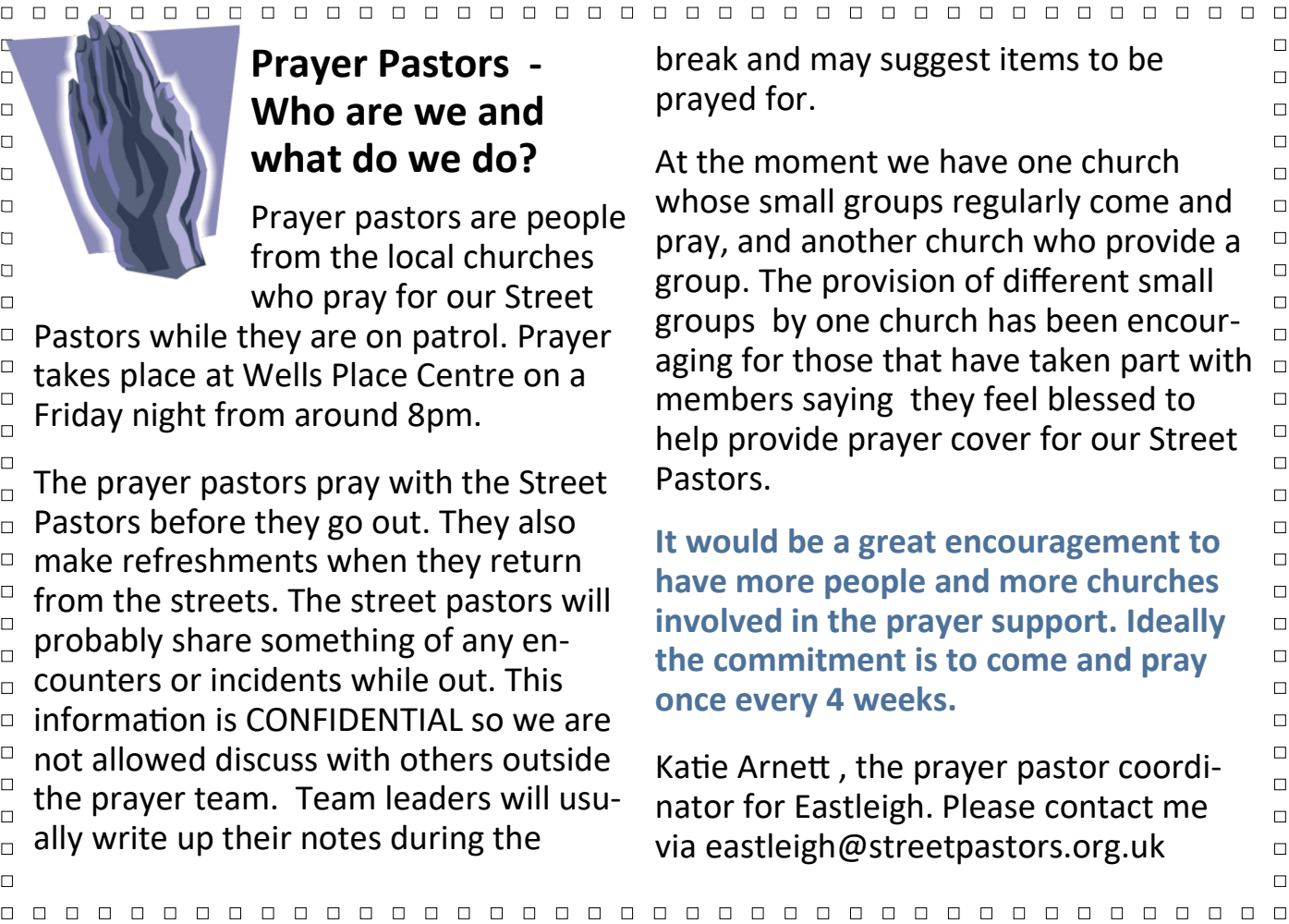
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Friday evening 22 March, All day Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March. Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 5 April, All day Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 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 Sunday 10 February 2019.**



## **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](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)

## **Training dates in Autumn 2019 and Spring and Autumn 2020!**

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

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 18th April 2018 and the next will be in 10th 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](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