



Eastleigh

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Newsletter

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E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

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

This month we celebrate 10 years of service to the Lord and our community. On the 10th July 2009 the first patrol set out from Wells Place. Of the four volunteers on that patrol, only Howard Sheffield remains a Street Pastor, but there are a few of us who have seen the whole 10 years — 6 of the 19 who originally trained. Some 67 street pastors have served on the streets of Eastleigh in the last decade and I am grateful to every volunteer who has stepped forward. But, as ever we need to continually refresh our teams and so do consider whether this is an initiative you would like to get involved with. Details of the next training are inside on page 6.

One of the delights of the last 6 months has been to see Eastleigh Street Pastors and the volunteers involved acknowledged by our community. In January, The Eastleigh Borough Community Safety Partnership awarded us, and the other Street Pastor groups in the borough, a certificate in recognition of outstanding service helping to keep the local community safe at night. Then, as part of One Community's volunteers' week celebrations our volunteers were also recognised with certificates thanking them for their contributions.

We praise and thank God for the privilege of serving him, and for His goodness to us, over our first 10 years.

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 January 2018 and June 2018. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



Went and prayed outside the betting shop that had been robbed the previous Wednesday. Prayed for staff and also for those that committed the robbery. A couple of couples going past acknowledged us as we stood there.



Towards the bottom end of High St we found a man lying on the ground with a large pool of blood. A few people were around including the manager of the Station pub. Two of our team were nurses and took charge. The man had tripped and fallen face first busting his nose. We got him up and sitting forward. He was a little drunk but coherent. We checked him over and also the Station staff kindly brought out paper towels and water to help clean him and some of his friends up. Because it was a head injury and the force he had fallen we agreed that an ambulance call – which had already been made by a female passer by – was correct. We decided to move him up to the bench a little further up High St so he could sit forward. We noticed the manager of the Station kindly washing the pavement down. Two members of our team checked a girl sitting at the side of the road was OK. She was a friend and didn't like the sight of blood – but was OK.

An ambulance eventually came and we handed his care over to them.



A South African came to preach to us about the problems with religion. He asked what church we were from, and he was kind of confused when we said we were from three different churches.



Met a guy who seemed quite keen to chat. Spent nearly ½ hour talking with him. He's been on Alpha but quite antagonistic towards the church although positive about what we were doing.



Eight motor bikes were racing around and doing wheelies on the ground floor of the Swan Centre car park, a number of youths and girls were gathered there too. We informed CCTV, and then went to speak to them, we gave out sweets and tried to encourage them to go home. The girls were waiting for a lift, we spoke to some of the riders, they said they were going to Hedge End; they made a lot of noise before driving off.



We met a man who we have not seen for some time. He was feeling good today, and he talked about how one of our ex-SPs had helped him in the past.



At Rail Station spoke to two Rail Community Support Officers, they advised us they were waiting for a friend of ours, intrigued

“He was amazed that between us and the Transport Police officers he had come across people who cared about him. .”

we waited as well. Train arrived with the man and another officer. The man was unsteady on his feet and apparently had not taken his medicine today. They handed him over to us to escort him home. We had an interesting conversation re his expedition today to find real people, he had also fallen over on his face earlier. He was amazed that between us and the Transport Police officers he had come across people who cared about him.



We were with the boisterous lads, and were joined by three men who engaged one of us to talk about the theory of evolution and the bible. A male nurse who was feeling depressed asked for some words of encouragement. We talked about Psalm 34, ‘The Lord is close to the broken hearted. We had lots of hugs and handshakes from the lads before they left.



We met an ex-army guy now in private security abroad who was drunk, he told us about his life, money, tours abroad and his divorce. We took him towards the Taxi rank, on route we found a £5 note. At the taxi we negotiated with the driver to take him for the fare of £10 to Chandlers Ford. John had only £8 so we added in the found £5. We saw the Taxi a bit later and the driver was happy as there were no issues.



A lady by one of the pubs said how thankful she was to Winchester Street Pastors, they had helped her aunt walk from the Guildhall to the train station when she was drunk. When her aunt got to Eastleigh train station, she was met by the Eastleigh Street Pastors, who helped her walk home.



Call from supermarket security about an abusive man who was being refused entry as he had been caught stealing there last week. We went to assist and chatted to the man whilst his wife went in and bought a crate of beer. The security guard was appreciative of our help.



A couple had been out celebrating the lad’s 24th birthday, the girl thanked us for helping her when she was a drunk 18 year old. She said she is far more sophisticated now!



Approached by young lady who asked us about the work of Street Pastors and said she was a lapsed Christian. She told us about an incident that happened the previous day in the Cathedral Grounds in Winchester. She had been sitting alone on a bench in which a couple approached and asked if they could talk to her ... and ended up praying for her. God is definitely on her case!



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



★ Award from the Community Safety Partnership ★

★ At the 6th Annual Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meeting Eastleigh Street Pastors were among the ★ organisations and individuals recognised for their work. Pictured is ★ Chief Inspector Darren Miller presenting the framed certificate to ★ Steve Smallwood. We are grateful ★ for our partners in the urban trinity. ★



Sharing our experiences:

Millbrook Street Pastors Patrol.

By Mark Warwick

As a regular member of one of Eastleigh's Street Pastor patrols I am also interested in how teams in other areas undertake their work. With the kind permission of Mike Sarson I joined up with a team in Millbrook on 1st June.

The Millbrook patrol is evidently of a very different nature to that of Eastleigh, being within the area of a large outer-city housing estate as opposed to a town, hence part of my interest into how it operates and the 'path' that we take.

The team for our night was fairly large in comparison to my Eastleigh team. Five of us made up the actual patrol team and there were a further two Prayer Pastors back at base in the Church. What was also noticeable was that it was typically a much younger 'average age' within the Millbrook patrol team. The team also wore yellow fluorescent tabards while on patrol. This was to ensure that the team were more conspicuous for the CCTV crew. As a personal thought I felt this made us look more 'official', perhaps overly, and I thus felt less comfortable, and pondered how we might come across to others, especially those

wary of typical 'authority' figures.

The team leader and team made me feel very welcome, and also helped in my understanding of how things worked within the patrols in Millbrook and answering my numerous questions!

The team described how there were various 'routes' around the large estate that they used, with of course several well known hot-spots included, including McDonalds, the local Saints Pub, Lordshill shopping centre and the Ten Pin Bowl. The team also described that typical encounters and areas of need included those around misuse of alcohol and drugs and instances of aggression and violence, similar to those in Eastleigh.

After-thoughts following the night included how teams benefit from having a mixed age range as well as a mix of gender within them, to provide the best possible opportunity within encounters to 'connect' with the different people we meet while on patrol. We would, I feel, have benefited from having an older person within our team, as so often seems the case in Eastleigh when their typical warmth and likely minimally threatening presence so often provides a way-in when meeting vulnerable young people. *Continued on page 7*

Meet a Street Pastor! In the twelfth of our series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors we one of the key founders of Eastleigh Street Pastors, the legendary Eric Hyom

Occupation: Semi- retired – carer.

Church: Holy Cross Catholic church

Tell us a little of your Christian story My mother went into a coma, the doctors said there was nothing they could do, and she had a day or two to live. None of our family had a faith at the time, but we called for a priest. As the priest prayed, my mum's breathing relaxed and a few minutes after the priest left, my mum came round, she lived another eleven years. I was about fifty when my faith journey began.

How did you hear about Street Pastors? IA news article said that Fair Oak were looking for volunteers in 2007, I felt called and did my first patrol in Feb 2008

Why did you volunteer? Jesus loves me as he loves himself, he died for me, and I have the need to give something back. I would like my community to be a kinder and more caring place for my family and all my neighbours; I have to do something.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night? Mostly they are a friendly place to be. Homelessness – and sofa surfing are a tragic and recurring problem, we meet vulnerable people and drunks .

Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol: We have to constantly thank God for all the good things that keep happening. We go out week after week, year after year, we journey with people and build relationships. People know we are volunteers, they are affectionate towards us, they constantly thank us and say they respect us. We have been told many times, that we have

helped to change people's lives. When you search for the good that is inside everyone, it helps you to be hopeful of a more positive outcome. In the training; I was inspired by the thought that you will never look into the eyes of anyone; who does not matter to God. Every Street Pastor team I have been on just seems to work so well together, we are from different churches, we pray together and we pray for the guidance to do God's will.

Has being a Street Pastor changed you? I look on all my faults, failures and weaknesses, then I look in amazement at all the good things that just keep happening when we put our trust in God. The last eleven years have been a privilege and a blessing; God willing; I shall keep going for many more years.

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor? Although I have encountered many fearful situations, I can only say that instead of fear I experience a profound sense of peace that surpasses all my understanding. No Street Pastors have been hurt in Eastleigh .

And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you Thankful, hopeful, forgiving, resilient and giving.

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 13 September, All day Saturday 14 September and Sunday 15 September

Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Friday evening 27 September, All day Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September. Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 11 October, All day Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 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 Sunday 1 September 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

continued from page 4 This is as much a benefit as having younger people within teams, for example understanding current culture as well as potential longevity in the role!

Overall the experience in joining another team was worthwhile and one which I would highly recommend to others. It has the potential to keep us fresh and open to

learning stepping out from our usual team and area, and to see how God is guiding other teams' footsteps and the connections that He leads us to and needs us for in other communities.

Blessings and His renewal and nourishment in our work, Mark .

Training dates in Spring and Autumn 2020!

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

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 10th April 2019 and the next will be in April 2020. 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