



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 20

December 2019

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www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

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

At this time with the end of one year and the start of another we both reflect and look forward. We can give thanks for God's blessing on your work over the past year, with every patrol having a reason to be out on the streets, as shown by each report. We can also give thanks for the service of celebration we held in July, a video of the service can be found on our website. You will also find a short article in this issue on how Eastleigh Street Pastors started. We were sad to see Chandler's Ford Street pastors cease at the end of August. However, we are very grateful to the four volunteers who have transferred to Eastleigh from Chandler's Ford. Tim, Marianne, Liz and David have been a real blessing and help fill some gaps in our teams from those who have had to step down.

But now is also a time to look forward. We have two key challenges. We really need a few more volunteers to train and we also need people to come forward and be prayer pastors at our base. You will find it is time well spent for the Lord. For the first time in 10 years we also have a financial challenge as the fees that are charged by our umbrella organisation, the Ascension Trust, will be much higher in the future. We will need to find around an extra £350 next year and £700 each year after on top of our current income to support our work. Across the 16 churches that are part of Churches Together in Eastleigh that is not a great deal of money. We are considering a number of approaches to meeting this challenge but please support and encourage your fellowship to give.

Blessings,
Steve Smallwood,
Coordinator



Rev Les Isaac speaking at our 10th anniversary celebration

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between July 2018 and December 2018. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



We saw an elderly man approx. in 70's sat on bench just staring at his wallet, as we approached he hung his head in his hands. We asked if all was alright, he stated he was drunk, however he did not appear to be drunk. He did not know where he lived, kept dropping his wallet and other items. He seemed distressed and did not know where he was or where family were. He was also intermittently crying. We explained who we were and managed to assist him in the right direction towards where he thought he lived. He had no address on him or phone or numbers of any support lines. Eventually we worked out he had been placed in some residential accommodation. We took him there and found his room. We left him there with some water and an invite to the Catholic Church on Sunday.



On the way back at one of the pubs we said hello to an older man smoking outside but he seemed a bit confused as to who we were saying he had done nothing wrong (!).



Back to the High Street just after 3 am; we saw crowds of rowdy people, with sporadic fighting going on. We saw someone who we had met previously walking towards

the conflict, and encouraged him to walk away. We walked amongst the conflict, and the security staff from one of the pubs also tried to keep order. A lad holding a bottle was involved in a scuffle, the security men tried to get the bottle from him, but he threw it on the road and it smashed. We swept it up as there were still girls in bare feet.



A man in his 40s stopped us and asks if he could talk to us. He explained he was suffering from depression, and talked about other personal issues. We chatted to him at some length. We told him that all SPs are Christians who believe God loves us, and Jesus died for us to pay the penalty for our sin. We said that guilt is one of the major cause of depression and that we can be free from guilt because God loves us so much. And that we can look to God for our esteem, and not to family or friends. We prayed together and suggested if he wanted further help he could go to WPC during the week and ask to speak with a Pastor. He thanked us for chat & prayer, gave hug as we parted.



Investigated the commotion from the Swan Centre car park; two lads were using cones as megaphones and shouting to people on the street. They told us that they were protesting because they had nothing to do in Eastleigh.



We were greeted by a man smoking. He quickly comes down steps and engages us in conversation (after putting his ciggy out!) He tells us how his partner had a

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pacemaker fitted 3 weeks ago, and the excellent recovery she is making at home. He told us that he is a catholic but rarely goes to church. However, he had lit a candle and prayed in the hospital chapel. We said we would pray for his Partner to make a full recovery ... and that he would be able to stop smoking.



As we went past one of the pubs the landlord came out and asked us to take home a drunk male who had been asleep inside to a road in Eastleigh. As he could barely walk we supported him all the way back to his house. We used his key for him, and he wanted to be left alone then so we retired after giving him some advice.



One lad threw a bottle of water across the road. He looked up and saw us looking; he then went over and picked the bottle up; put it in the bin and then he apologised to us. We thanked him for binning the bottle.



We saw a lad being pinned up against the wall by Sainsburys, but when we went over to see them, the lad against the wall said he had hiccups and he was being helped get rid of them!



The railway police were at the train station, they told us about a lady who lived in Basingstoke; she had fallen asleep on the train ending up in Eastleigh. They had tried the Travel Lodge but there were no beds for the night, so they asked if we could help her. We said to her that we could take her to WP for a hot drink. We walked by a taxi and asked how much it would cost to Basingstoke, he said £70 - £80, but he could do it at a discount. We asked how much, and he said £50 which the lady accepted.



Walked to the railway station. As we crossed the road a group of older ladies came out celebrating winning a darts match – they loved what we do!



We then got radio request from CCTV to check a lady at risk as she was falling about and had gone into the road and been hit by a car. Found her on the pavement on her phone to her boyfriend abroad. Left her for a while, then went up to her and asked if she was okay. She ended the call and assured us she was okay despite having some grazes on her hand and wrist. She did a selfie with one of us and thanked us for our concern as she was on her own. She was a little drunk and now going home, and we walked and talked with her to help her get to a taxi. She thanked us again and said she herself cared for others and the environment. She gave us all a hug and thanked us again and got a taxi. We radioed and thanked CCTV.

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



★ What a Cake!

★ As part of our 10th birthday celebrations Ruth Wright of Heavenly Inspired Cakes prepared this lovely work of art. ★ Flip-flops are one of the things we give out on the street to those walking in bare feet. ★ Thankfully they are not platform flip-flops! It was a beautiful and ★ tasty treat.



The start of Eastleigh Street Pastors by Steve Smallwood

In the beginning was the Word...now we won't go that far back but we do need to start with the beginning of the organisation as a whole. Street Pastors was founded in Brixton, south London, UK in 2003 by Rev. Les Isaac. It was set up under the auspices of the Ascension Trust. It was a response to the crimes being committed on London streets, particularly crimes amongst the black community. The Street Pastor movement increased rapidly, mainly in inner city areas with night time economies. Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Street (BiFOHH) Pastors began back in 2007 as the first semi-rural scheme in the country. In 2008 other areas in the borough of Eastleigh began to discuss setting up Street Pastor groups. Churches Together in Eastleigh held a meeting in August 2008, inviting those interested in setting up Street Pastors to attend. The decision was made at that meeting to carry on. Later in the year I was approached by Chris Harvey to consider becoming co-ordinator. I realised if I wanted to be a Street Pastor someone was needed to set it up! It is worth at this early stage specifically mentioning Eric Hyom, who had

caught the vision for the work of Street Pastors and had become a Street Pastor with BiFOHH. His enthusiasm clearly stirred the church in Eastleigh. One of my major requests in accepting the role was that I did not want to be a fundraiser. It is worth mentioning at this stage just how financially blessed Eastleigh Street Pastors has been. There was sup-



port for the setting up of an Eastleigh town group from the local authority and particularly from the police. Not only had they seen the success of the scheme in Fair Oak but the head of Eastleigh Police – Chief Inspector Diana Boyles, was involved in the local church, worshipping at Chandler’s Ford Methodist church. Just over £8,000 in funds was made available between the police and local authority, more than enough to set up the group, with some further funds from local churches and £100 from a collection by prayer pastors in Portsmouth.

Churches’ together continued the setting up of the Agreement between Ascension trust and the churches in Eastleigh. The Certificate of Association was signed on 20th October 2008 by Les Isaac. Eastleigh having a membership number of 00079. I became the coordinator and began to set up the group. A management committee was also set up. It was chaired by Chris Harvey of Eastleigh Baptist Church, secretary of Churches Together in Eastleigh. Other committee members were: Dennis Chandler – representing Eastleigh Borough Council; Rev. Tony Parkinson (St Andrew’s Methodist Church); Margaret Moore (Salvation Army); Eric Hyom (representing Holy Cross); Rev. Richard Davies (representing All Saints Church of England); and, Chief Inspector Diana Boyles.

On 30 January 2009 Street Pastors in Eastleigh was formally launched in an event at the upper room in the Litten Tree pub in Eastleigh town centre. Speakers included Rev’d Les Isaac – the founder of Street Pastors; three volunteers – Eric Hyom, Jacqueline Brodrick from All Saints Church, and me; Revd Tony Parkinson; Diana Boyles; and, councillor Cathie Fraser on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council. Worship was

led by Catherine McElhinney from Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church. A video of some of the event can be found on our website.

At the event a request was made for further volunteers and a copy of the first training programme was made available. Other than in London, at that time it was the responsibility of each area to arrange training. Thankfully BIFOHH had already been through this process and identified appropriate trainers for the elements of the course. The first part of the course – known as Roles and Responsibilities 1 & 2, must be taught by an Ascension Trust Representative (ATR). This first session was run over a whole day on 4 April 2009 and subsequent sessions were run over 10 Saturday mornings. Our first ATRs were Sharon and Eustace Constance, who were part of the original Street Pastors teams set up in London. Many of the other trainers were local experts, including Neal Hayes (social worker), Jenny Rolph (counsellor), Heather Brider (probation officer), Mark Prowse and Richard Kelly (Quilley School), Pippa Stupple (Twyford Surgery), Diana Boyles (police).

The training was undertaken by 19 volunteers and was completed on 27 June. It was followed by a commissioning service on Friday 3 July 2009. Held at Eastleigh Baptist Church, whose Wells Place Centre has been the base for Eastleigh Street pastors since we began. Following the Service, a short patrol was carried out by all the trained Street pastors, introducing ourselves and our lovely new uniforms to the people of Eastleigh. The Ascension Trust was represented at the commissioning by Alison Murray, who would return to deliver the roles and responsibilities on our next training.

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****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 4 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 6 March, All day Saturday 7 March and Sunday 8 March

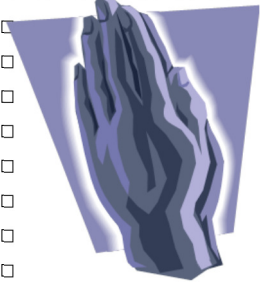
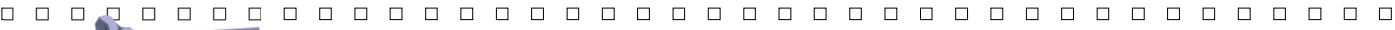
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed
Sunday 15 March

Friday evening 20 March, All day Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March. All Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 3 April, All day Saturday 4 April
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat To be confirmed

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

Applications by end of Sunday 17 February 2020.



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.

Please contact us via eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk if you would like to join us.

In time for the service, the first Eastleigh Street Pastors Newsletter was produced and distributed both at the service and to all the churches in Eastleigh. All the newsletters produced by Eastleigh Street Pastors can be found on our website. Each Newsletter (other than the first!) features some heavily anonymised stories from the Street as well as other features around

training and events in the town. It also sometimes contains a meet a Street Pastor feature.

As part of the publicity for Street Pastors Chris Harvey and Steve Smallwood were interviewed on the breakfast show on BBC Radio Solent.

The week after the Commissioning service the first patrol took place on 10 July 2009.

Training dates in Autumn 2020!

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

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



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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