



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 21

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www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

...to the twenty first Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter.

This newsletter is a little later than usual and the world is now in some ways a little different than it was when I last wrote in December 2019. For the first time in over 10 years we have had a sustained period when we chose not to patrol. This was by no means an easy decision, but once the pubs were closed and action was taken to help the homeless by government, together with the need to follow the guidelines and limit contact, we stopped patrolling after 20 March. With the reopening of pubs on Saturday 4 July we put out a pilot patrol and then began regular patrols on 10 July. Our new normal is to have a single team and initially to patrol from around 8.30pm to around 12.30am each Friday. However, one of the pubs in Eastleigh is already taking the decision to open until 1am, so we may patrol a little later. For various reasons our number of volunteers are now depleted to around 17, having been in the mid-20s. We are very grateful that our three trainees who partially completed the training in spring have joined us—and God is already using them, as you can read from a short piece by Darren in the news letter. We have also been able to hold management meetings and our AGM by zoom.

So let us not be downhearted, but press on. We welcome a new Chief Inspector for Eastleigh Marcus Cator, do remember him and all our wonderful police officers in your prayers. Training for Street Pastors will be running in October and November (see inside) and we really could do with some new volunteers. Could God be calling you to step out in faith?

Blessings,
Steve Smallwood,
Coordinator



The 2020 AGM by Zoom

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between January and April 2019. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



Crossed over and spoke to two ladies sitting outside La Fenice. They had only ever seen Street Pastors in Bournemouth!



Met a man living in a local ex-offenders hostel. He helps his mother look after 5 horses for his sister who is in Korea. He is now going to church occasionally and praying. He works as a roofer and is hoping to move to Southsea as he doesn't get on with people in the hostel. His mum was expecting test results re a tumour on her lung. He hadn't heard from her so was going back home to find out. We said we would pray for her.



We helped a man trying to get into the Travelodge, but the Travelodge reception did not respond to him. He said he had booked the room earlier in the evening as he was travelling down the M1 and told them when he would be arriving. We pressed the call button several times, rang the phone number on the door several times and banged on the window several times, but no response. Called CCTV and asked if they had any suggestions, then looked up the phone number for the Travelodge at Ham Farm. The man phoned Ham Farm, they said they had a direct phone number and would ring it. Mo-

ments later, the receptionist came to the door and all was ok.



Chatted to a male by the park who was waiting for his Pizza. He did not believe in God but appreciated what we did. Chatted re God, Aliens and computer games.



A man wanted us to remember him to Veronika (one of our former Street pastors) as he thought she was extra special. He had also been listening to Christian lady speaker Joyce Meyer on TBN-UK and although he liked some things she said he did not believe.



Found young lady by the old post office. She was a little drunk and had been crying as she was upset her night out had not gone to plan. This was the second time since becoming a new mum 7 months ago she had been out with so called friends but they had left her to look after herself after a Southampton club said she had to leave as she was too drunk. She had managed to get a taxi back to Eastleigh. We talked and walked her home to. She was very grateful. Radioed and thanked CCTV who had alerted her to us.



Gave sweets to couple on their way Winchester; They said Eastleigh SPs were better than Winchester SPs! [Sorry to Mark who is the coordinator in Winchester!]



A chilled young man shook our hands and thanked us, he seems so different from the

He did not believe in God but appreciated what we did.

angry lad he had been a couple of years ago.



Three men talked about the respect they have for SPs, and we talked about encouraging people to be kind to each other.



Walk down Mitchell Rd. See man moving black sacks in basement Car Park to Hampshire House. Go to investigate and find 3 homeless Romanian people constructing beds from cardboard at back of car park. Have friendly chat with the two males and one female (incl husband & wife) from Romania (one spoke reasonable English but other two's English was poor). They said they had been in Eastleigh a week and prefer to sleep rough as the married couple are separated in hostels. Talked about options for finding accommodation as they said they only have casual work. Report incident to CCTV.



Met two young men carrying / sharing a bottle of Vodka. It was virtually empty. Supposedly both had the same name and one was 18 that day and the other 17 the next day. They had been to a party and chatted to us for some time. They were a bit lively and now needed to get home to a nearby town. We took the empty bottle and then 3 transport police came by. One of them offered and took the bottle from

us for disposal and asked the young men to leave the station if they were not waiting for a train. We walked with them off the platform and chatted further in front of the station. The younger man felt the need to get down on bended knee and propose to one of the female Street Pastors! We waited a time with them while they got someone to come and pick them up.



A young girl was crying with a male and it transpired she thought her shoes had been stolen, she was wearing a friend's trainers and he was in socks. We provided flip flops and then her friends turned up with her shoes that she had left in the Station Pub.



People were gradually drifting out and going home. Moved to talk with three lads who were messing around (one was climbing the tree) outside the museum, which quietened them down and they set off for home.



While in Wells Place we heard CCTV saying bottles were being smashed by McDonald. As we approached we saw a number of youths walking away from McDonalds and towards Tesco. We saw smashed bottles but decided to follow the youths, we lost sight of them by Sainsburys. ..Back to McDonalds to sweep up about 5 bottles, we were joined by the Swan Centre security and another man who also swept up. Picked up 3 more bottles.

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

God's at work in Eastleigh —Darren Holt on his first shift

I had a pretty amazing week as I start on my journey as a Street Pastor. I spent the first half of the evening walking around Grantham Green with Dave talking to the younger members of our community and the second part of the evening in the town centre with the rest of the guys mixing with some more livelier customers.



The first half town centre team made conversation with a homeless man and his Rottweiler. Now I didn't get to speak to him that evening but I have seen him walking around and his sleeping spot is on my morning walking route over Lakeside. My conversations have been limited as I have always bumped into him while walking my dog. His dog is very placid but as we have a rescue dog (only since February) we are still getting used to her and didn't want to get too close.

Anyway on Sunday before church I normally make the kids a sausage and bacon breakfast barm cake* so I made an extra one and took it over to the man at Lakeside along with a flask of coffee and some dog food. Again my conversation was limited but I know he was very appreciative and every morning since when I make my sandwiches for work I make an extra set and take it over with a replacement flask of coffee (he leaves the empty one out for me) and some dog food. It is great talking about it with the children and they have been choosing some of their favourite snacks to share with him... My young son's chocolate circles are the best.

I spent the latter part of the evening on Friday observing and I wanted to thank Marianne for her supportive words, she was a late swap so it might be a while before I get to thank her in person. In conversation with a customer she was asked a number of questions with some great responses from her.. one response from her that will always stay with me is "If Jesus was alive today... he would not be in church he would be out here on the streets with you....." that along with meeting this man and his dog made me realise that we really can and do make a difference even if it is with small steps at first.

God is definitely at work in Eastleigh!

*A barm cake is a soft, round, flattish bread roll from North West England, traditionally leavened with barm—Darren is a Northerner, but we are very happy to have him. Ed

How did we do in 2019?

At our AGM held on zoom on 3rd June, as has become traditional, I ran through some of the statistics on the calendar year 2019.

We spend 47 Friday nights on the street (out of 52 Fridays – three planned as no patrol). We also did two extra patrols: one for the light party around Halloween and New year’s Eve—which of course was partly in 2020!

We keep a record of the amount of time actually on the street and there were at least 857 person hours spent on the streets in 2019, only slightly lower than the 2018 figure of 890. The 2019 amount will have been slightly higher as we had missing information for one patrol. It also does not include the time spent preparing, taking a break and debriefing at the end of the shift—so it is probably over 1,000 person hours given to the community by the church, with maybe a little more on top given by the management committee and the time spent writing reports by team leaders.

What was reduced was the amount of time spent praying at the church by prayer pastors, which fell from 143 to 74 person hours. We know many support us in prayer—but we would love to have more people involved in praying for us. We had around 2,706 contacts—these are people who we interact with in some way—in many cases no more than a fleeting check

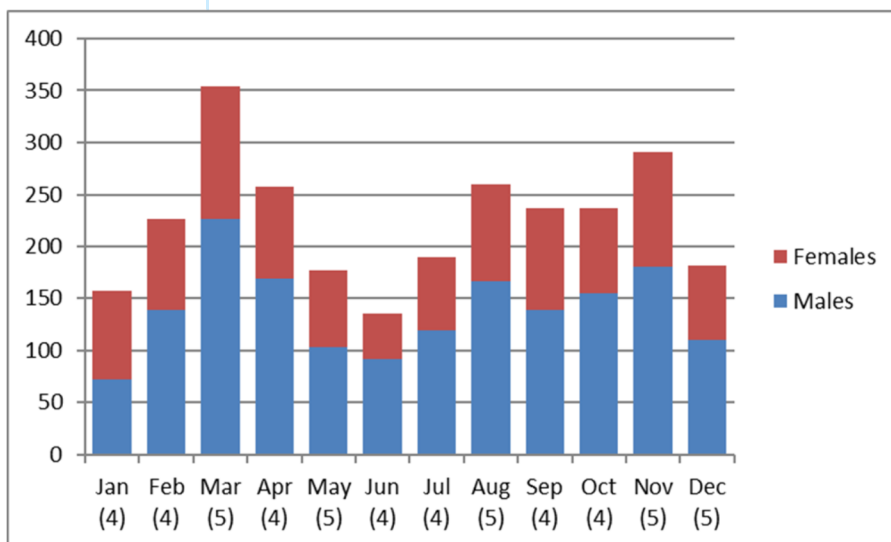
on whether people are OK. This was a little down from the previous year. Also down was the number of pairs of flip flops given out—maybe changing fashions in footwear?

The number of bottles removed was up at 319 compared with 209 in 2018.

The number of people we identified as being helped was the same as the previous year—24. These are people who we have provided extra assistance to, such as walking home safely or first aid. Note that we are not trained to provide first aid but we have a number of first aid qualified volunteers.

More pleasing in 2019 was a reduction in the number of anti social incidents which we witnessed or helped try to calm, down from 39 to 23.

Statistics don’t tell the whole story of what we do and the difference we make but they help show what we do to both the churches and our partners in the urban trinity, the local authority and the police. Our weekly reports are also much appreciated by them. The statistics for 2020 will undoubtedly be very different!



Number of contacts by month, number of patrols and sex, 2019



******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 9 October, All day Saturday 10 October and Sunday 11 October

Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

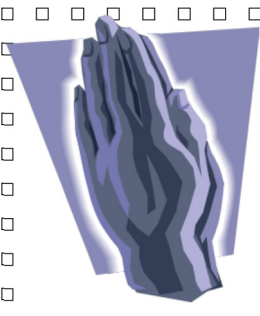
Friday evening 23 October, All day Saturday 24 October and Sunday 25 October. All Venues To be confirmed

Friday evening 6 November, All day Saturday 7 November Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat To be confirmed

All Day Saturday 14 November Venue to be confirmed

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

Applications by end of Sunday 27 September 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 normally takes place at Wells Place Centre on a Friday night from around 8pm, although in current circumstances we are experimenting with zoom prayer groups.

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 pray. The provision of different small groups by 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 pray once every four weeks. We are grateful to Katie Arnett who was coordinator for a while but that role is now vacant—could it be you?

Please contact us via eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

The Management Committee

This is almost unchanged but in particular we welcome Martin Lloyd of Thrive church as our new treasurer. We thank Katie Arnett who recently stood down as prayer pastor coordinator. We would love someone to join to give secretarial support.

- Chair: Iain Grew (Thrive Church)
- Vice Chair: To be appointed
- Secretary: To be appointed
- Treasurer: Martin Lloyd

Other committee members:

- Dave Savage (All Saints, CoE)
- Eric Hyom (Holy Cross RC Church)
- David Lockyer (The Junction Church)
- Martin Ward (St Mary's Bishopstoke CoE)
- Howard Sheffield (Thrive Church)
- Alan Saunders (Eastleigh Baptist Church)

In addition the following roles are not part of the management committee but attend all meetings.

- Prayer Pastor Coordinator: Vacant
- Street Pastor Coordinator: Steve Smallwood

Training dates in Spring 2021

Training will take place in spring 2021 if you can't make the autumn 2020 dates. As yet we don't have the dates for these confirmed. However, one exciting development is some of the modules are being developed and tested by the Ascension Trust so that some of the training can be carried out on line. This will hopefully make it easier for some to take part in the training. More news in the next newsletter!

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 3rd June 2020 and the next will be in April 2021. 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



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