



***Eastleigh***

# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

...to the third of a minute (twenty -second) Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter.

In August's newsletter I wrote "So let us not be downhearted, but press on." Street Pastors have continued to patrol on Friday nights, including through the second lockdown. We are grateful to our partners at Eastleigh Borough Council and Hampshire Police for allowing us to make that decision to continue—we would have stopped if they had asked us to. There is always a balance, as we certainly do not want to increase the risk of spreading the virus. That decision to continue proved worthwhile and, although our contacts have been down, our presence has been welcome and we have had a few conversations of significance, including hearing of a past suicide attempt.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, we had no volunteers for the Autumn training. However, those that trained with us in the spring were able to train and have mostly completed their training. We will need to work out how to commission them at an appropriate Churches Together in Eastleigh event. We only have around 18 active volunteers. Spring training will commence in March and will start to reflect the introduction by the Ascension Trust of an more centralised set of online training. However, as part of the Southern Area network we are aiming to keep a large chunk of the training local and face to face. We really could do with some new volunteers. Could God be calling you to step out in faith? We also need a volunteer to help coordinate prayer for us.

There is more information in the newsletter. For that, no training is required, so a good way to get involved without that commitment. May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a HEALTHY 2021.

Blessings,  
Steve Smallwood,  
Coordinator



Street Pastors on patrol. The pink bag contains extra PPE.

# Stories from the Street

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



A couple of people outside Spitfire – one man said a lady needed help but she said she was OK!



Outside the station met a couple. The man was sober but the woman was staggering rather. We said we would walk with them to the taxi rank. Really good conversation with the man who was a widower.



We saw a man walking through the Costa alley, he said he'd had a bad night, but meeting us cheered him up.



Walking back past the Grantham pub we met a man and his dog who stopped for a long chat. He was ex-forces and a doorman in London. Appreciated what we do as SPs – although seemed to think we should learn self-defence. Seemed very knowledgeable about how to handle people and talked about how he handled an agitated man who was deaf, when a younger bouncer had suggested 'decking' the person!



Man in orange railway work clothes came and asked if we gave out piggy backs! I

said only the ladies! He was fine, although he had had a few drinks.



Watched 4 suspicious 18yr old youths, 1 in shorts and all sober hanging around and ducking into alleys. They did not appreciate us watching them and accused us of following them, when asked if they were ok, they left the area.



Back down high street noticed male 30ish lying in alley way. Said he was ok and to leave him, now raining. He said he was going to sleep rough for night, lives in Southampton and was going to see his kids in morning who lived in the town. We got him to move into Standfords door way out of rain and gave him a space blanket. E also went back to base and got him some warm clothes.



Walking back towards Spitfire we met someone early 30s, talked about some churches and their members not being friendly or nice towards him because he works as a drag queen, and would we be negative towards him too? Assured him we wouldn't be! Talked to him about his work, where and what he does.

Asked for us to pray for him, he is wanting to put on a stage show and was stressed by it, needed funding and people to support. Told us some jokes! We prayed with him, including for greater tolerance and acceptance.



Went back to Spitfire and met a man in his 50s, who we had been asked to help by

*We prayed with him, including for greater tolerance and acceptance.*

the door staff.

we took an arm each and, although very unsteady, helped walking back to his home.

On the way back and on his doorstep he disclosed to us about his time in the army, in the infantry, some very difficult times during postings to N Ireland in the '80s, and disclosed that he had killed more than one person during this time...described how this 'haunted' him constantly, one of the reasons he drank so much, and that he had never spoken to anyone about it. Described great difficulty in doing this as a 'proud squaddie' in his work and service for his 'Queen and country'. He talked about the breakdown of a marriage and difficult relationships with his child, and job problems as a result of this.

We talked at length with him, noting the support available to servicemen, including 1:1 and support groups, asking whether he wouldn't consider continuing what he had started to do this evening, and talking further, towards 'freeing' himself from the memories and burden he had buried deep. We talked with him about God knowing all that he had been through, and loved him.

Ultimately left him after seeing him into his flat. Walking up the stairs to his door and he said that it had 'actually felt good' to talk to us about this, and we asked him again to please consider talking more, to someone who could help him further.



We saw a drunk lady in her 40s being held, dragged by a male half her age whilst a group of young males shouted abuse at her and made rude comments.

It transpired that the male was a friend of her nephew, he was in drink as well and the lady wanted to get away from him and assault the males.

We informed CCTV and we moved the male and female down Market Street.

She wanted him off her and we managed to separate them as he was not helping and was making the situation worse. He would not go away and we were concerned as he was not a relative, she was vulnerable, and he was inappropriately holding her. Eventually another lady walked up and knew her. We had calmed her down by then as she had been kicking and hitting the male and having panic attacks. Without the male we walked her home to a flat above the shops. She was happy to be home and a friend was waiting for her.



Spoke to very grateful lady who had previously had SP flip flops, her boyfriend who remembers and loves one of our former SPs Veronika, and another lady who gave us all a hug of appreciation.



A lady came out of restaurant to thank us.



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

**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  
*To gain an insight into what it is to be a street pastor why not come on an observation with a patrol. To book up a convenient date just contact the email below.*

### **When does the next training take place?**

The training will operate over 2 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 5 March, All day Saturday 6 March and Sunday 7 March

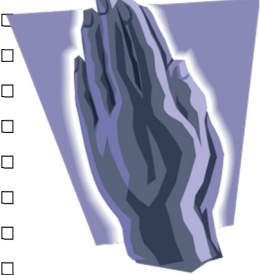
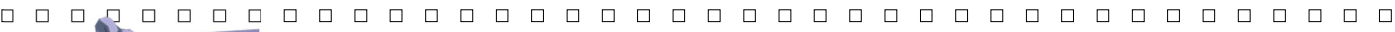
Venues Friday Eastleigh, Sat and Sun To be confirmed

Friday evening 19 March, All day Saturday 20 March and Sunday 21 March. All Venues To be confirmed

The above training will then be followed by some online training. This may be on a Saturday morning over zoom or possibly on videos.

Email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) for an application form and for more information. **Applications by end of Sunday 19 February**





## Prayer Pastors - Who are we and what do we do?

Prayer pastors are people from the local churches who pray for our Street

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.

**We have a need for someone to coordinate this ministry.** Ideally someone who could set up and manage a WhatsApp group and can use zoom.

**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, but the coordinator would need to check weekly for prayer cover and manage any electronic groups.**

Please contact us via [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) if you would like to join us.

Pastors while they are on patrol. Ideally prayer would normally takes place at Wells Place Centre on a Friday night from around 8pm, although in current circumstances we have been experimenting with zoom prayer groups.

The prayer pastors pray with the Street Pastors before they go out and may be contacted during a shift if there is something immediate to pray for. If we are able to have teams at Wells Place prayer pastors will often make refreshments for Street Pastors. The street pastors will probably share something of any encounters or incidents while out. This information is CONFIDENTIAL so you are not allowed discuss with others outside the prayer team.

## 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 Autumn 2021

There is likely to be further training in Autumn 2021 but we are awaiting further roll out of the Ascension Trust's online training This will hopefully make it easier for some to take part in the training.

## 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](mailto: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