



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 23

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www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

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

When I wrote the previous newsletter in mid-December 2020 we were patrolling regularly. Having completed a short patrol on 24 December, with the imposition of another lockdown we took the decision to cease patrolling. This was a difficult decision, but with no hospitality venues open and thankfully no visible homeless in the town there would have been little for us to do. Further we did not want to encourage mixing or people to be out. With the opening of outdoor hospitality we began patrolling again in April 2021, on our usual Friday just from around 8.00-10.30pm. From the opening of indoor hospitality in May we began patrolling later in the evening where we had sufficient volunteers.

We are now quite depleted in our volunteers, with only enough to put together 4 teams where only a year or so ago we had enough for seven teams. So I do really want to emphasise that if you are feeling any sort of call to the work of street pastors please follow it up. Some of the training is now on line which will hopefully make it easier for people to attend. Full details can be found inside. Also inside this issue are some of our statistics from the year 2020 presented at our AGM recently, as well as our usual stories from the street.

I want to finish with a personal note of thanks to Iain Grew who has been chair of the management committee for the last 6 years. I have really appreciated his wisdom, help and support as well as his ability to get to grips with policy issues with the Ascension Trust. Iain is hoping to join us on the streets as a Street Pastor—why not join him in training!

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



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 recorded between August 2019 and January 2020. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



Meanwhile another lad came to talk to us about his mum who had died at the age of 45, he was distressed and said there was no God, but he seemed willing to keep talking to us. His friend came over and said he should go, but the lad wanted to remain and talk with us.



Called in to McDonalds and spoke with the shift manager, who seemed pleased to see us and thought that it was a good idea for us to make our presence known. .



Picked up 11 beer bottles in a couple of piles by the bridge in the railway station car park, there was also an empty nitrous oxide canister nearby.



We went to the Railway Institute where people were coming out in fancy dress after a function or party of some sort. We chatted to a group that had been celebrating a young lady 21st birthday. One lady was sober as she was driving, but the others, especially the guys, were drunk. We gave out lollies and a pair of flip flops to the birthday girl.



Saw male lying in doorway of Pets Corner, High Street. Unconscious and not responding to pain, (Airway repositioned and placed into recovery position). Pupils responsive but very shallow breathing. Ambulance called. We got information from Station door staff that they thought he had been there around an hour—also found out he was diabetic. Waited with him whilst monitoring approx. 20 more minutes. Now not maintaining airway, poor capillary refill forehead and fingers had lost circulation, blue. Placed on back and he started to come around, confused and in drink. Sat on window ledge and discussed situation, slowly as confused and in drink. Ambulance downgraded, after 5 minutes another male approached who knew him and pulled him up. After explaining to this male not a good idea to leave yet, he agreed but he decided he wanted some food and they went off to Monet. Advice given and ambulance cancelled. We saw him a bit later drinking a couple of cans of coke and eating, so all good.



Three lads stopped us for sweets, one of them said he was thankful that we had helped him when he was drunk and in a bad place recently. We asked if he had learned anything from that episode, he is now trying not to drink so much.



We prayed for Peace and it was one of the quietest ends to a night we have ever seen!



Chatted about religion and college with a group outside McDonalds, one girl was

...one of them said he was thankful that we had helped him when he was drunk and in a bad place...

very interested in church discussions. All from Chandlers Ford and differing backgrounds and aspirations



Down high street spoke to a man— he asked us to pray that Millwall get 3 points



A distraught woman talked to us about the emotional strain of working with troubled children. She was having problems with her partner and drink. We listened and offered words of comfort, she hugged us and said we were her guardian angels.



Homeless man thanked us for the pot noodle and drink. He had heard how another homeless man was now in a house and was asking for help for himself. He said his life was complicated and did not want to talk about it now. We gave him contact details for Two Saints and the Wells Place team.



A girl was in a trolley and being pushed by a couple of lads, we went to speak to them as they did not look safe. The girl got out the trolley and ran off, leaving her phone behind, we managed to get the phone back to her.



Met a man and two ladies just come out of pub both wanting to chat. One lady very appreciative of us and gave us hugs. Man told of uncle having died recently and shared his experience of dealing with that. Grateful to us for chat and work we do.



We were engaged in trying to keep to two sparring groups separate. One of the lads had an unprovoked punch and was determined to get his own back. Friends on both sides kept the two individuals apart and we also helped calm down the situation. The two groups left in opposite directions – CCTV were aware and alerted the pubs of the alleged assailant.



Met a group of late teens / early 20's (4M+3F) outside McDonald's. One lady had heard of Street Pastors in her RE lessons at School, but was now at college. She previously had had a ban from the pubs but having been allowed back in had again been expelled. She was quite philosophical about it.



A girl shouted she was going home. We then noticed two lads (who were not in the original group) going off in the same direction. We followed. It was obvious that the girl was receiving unsolicited attention, so we told the lads that we would walk her home and thanked them for their "help". Caught up with the girl and she asked to be walked back to the taxi rank. We got her into a taxi home.

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?

Friday eve 7pm – 9.30pm, Sat all day 9.30am-4.30pm, Sunday all day 9.30am-4.30pm

Required Modules Face-to-Face

Fri eve, 8th October, - Knowing Your Community Part 1

Sat, 9th October - Roles & Responsibilities (always face-to-face)

Sun, 10th October - AM - Police, PM - Mental Health 2021

Fri eve, 5th November, - Knowing Your Community Part 2

Optional Regional Recommended Training

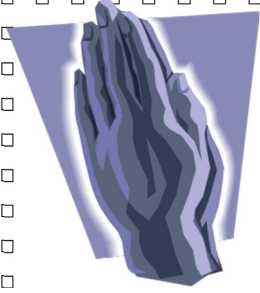
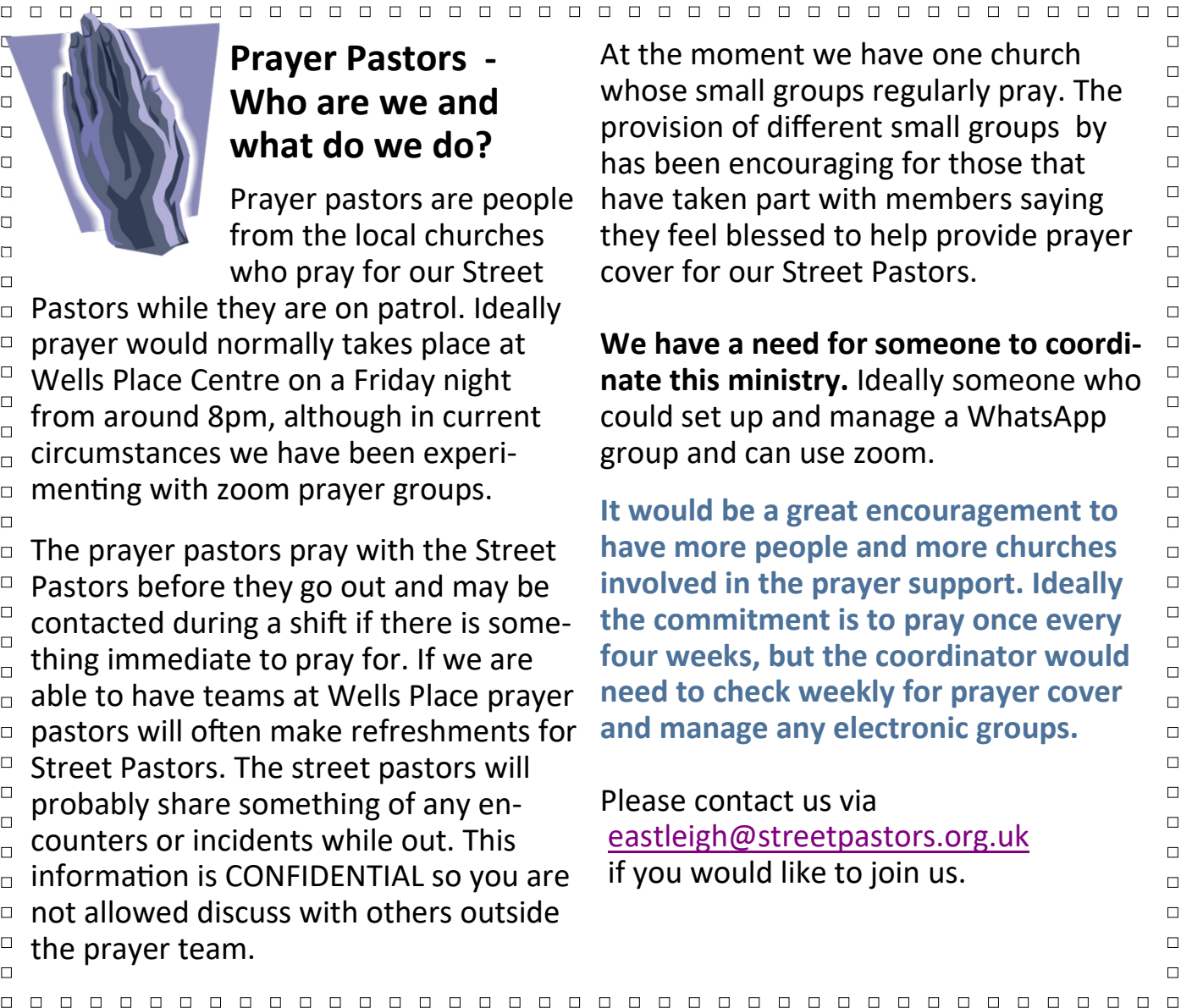
Sat, 6th Nov - Safety on the Streets Prayer on the Streets

Sun, 7th Nov - AM - Safeguarding, PM - Street Craft (listening, verbal and non-verbal communication skills, teamwork and environment)

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 for an application form and for more information.

Applications by end of Sunday 19 September 2021.



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 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

The main change after the AGM is we have a new chair Martin Ward. He has stepped down from patrolling but agreed to take on being chair. Iain Grew, our former chair, is going to take the opposite route, standing down from the chairmanship and the committee and training to be a street pastor! We have space to have more committee members—we would particularly appreciate someone with administrative skills to take on the secretary role.

Chair: Martin Ward (St Mary's Bishopstoke CoE)

Vice Chair: To be appointed

Secretary: To be appointed

Treasurer: Martin Lloyd (Thrive church)

Other committee members:

Dave Savage (All Saints, CoE)

Eric Hyom (Holy Cross RC Church)

David Lockyer (The Junction Church)

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 2022

There is likely to be further training in Spring 2022 but we are still awaiting these.

2020 in focus

In June 2021 we held our annual general meeting. One of the regular features of our AGM is the chance to look back on the previous calendar year. This allows a different perspective than considering patrols week by week and also allows comparisons with previous years.

Of course, 2020 was , from mid-March a year like no other. As can be seen from the graphic on the next page we mostly had much less activity. This was partly because we were out for fewer patrols, but even when we were the streets were often much quieter.

There were many months of the year when we didn't patrol at all. But there were some positives. The ability for people to join together to pray on zoom increased the person hours of prayer while we were on the

streets . Also the government initiatives to house the homeless at the start of the pandemic meant we met far fewer people in this predicament when we restarted patrols.

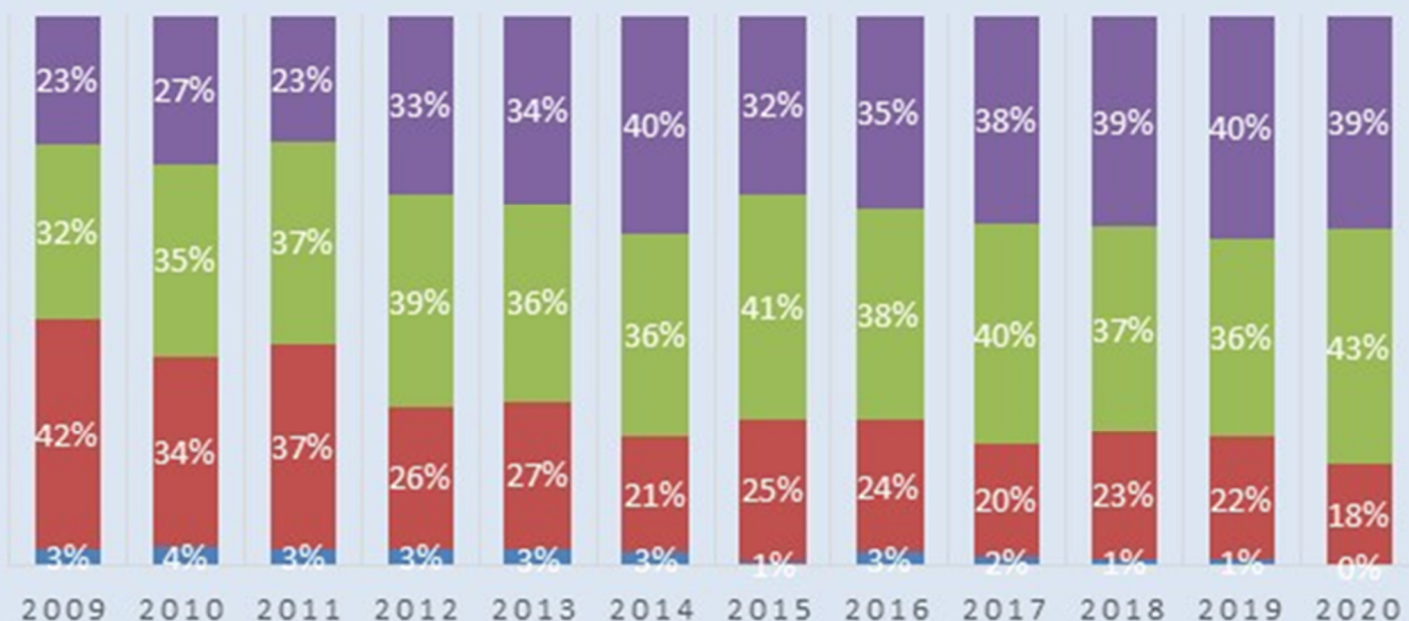
2020 also saw the continuation of the trend of having contact with fewer children.

Whether parents are keeping younger children in more than they used to, or the lure of devices are doing that for them, it is probably a good thing. Who knows what the remainder of 2021 and then 2022 will bring. The concern must be increasing debt and homelessness as pandemic safety nets are removed. This together with the mental health issues from the last 18 months will mean many more people needing care, a listening ear and whatever help we as the church in Eastleigh can give.

Do consider volunteering and being part of providing hope to the town.

PERCENTAGE OF CONTACTS BY AGE

■ under 13 ■ 13-17 ■ 18-25 ■ Over 25



























EASTLEIGH

2019

2020

	Friday nights on the street (out of 52 Fridays)	47	36	
	Extra patrols	2	2	
	Person hours on the streets	857	505	
	Person hours of prayer while SPs on the street	74	130	
	Contacts	2706	969	
	Average contacts per shift - Early	31.7	22.1	
	Average contacts per shift - Late	35.8	21.6	
	Pairs of flip-flops	30	10	
	Bottles removed	319	239	
	People helped	24	15	
	Anti-social incidents	23	11	

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 12th May 2021 on zoom, and the next will be in April 2022—hopefully in person. 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