



**Eastleigh**

# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

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

In the last 6 months Street Pastors have been out on the streets every Friday. This is despite our number of active volunteers being as low as it has ever been, back to when we began in 2009 with 19 volunteers. Each Friday there has also been some reason for us to be out there. Whether it is: keeping someone safe; calming situations; providing a listening ear; or, those reminded by seeing us that they have previously been helped—I have the privilege each week of reading the team reports showing the difference God can make through us. See inside for just one report.

We saw the closure of Street Pastors in Chandler's Ford not so long ago and now sadly Hedge End, West End and Botley have had to close too through lack of volunteers. I have been very grateful to HEWEB for their support over the years, in particular providing training venues and support. But also I will miss the wisdom and care of their driving force Frank Parker. There can be a season for this sort of work and neither of those areas are perhaps traditional street pastor type areas. I strongly believe Eastleigh is different. We have a small night time economy with a number of pubs, including The Station which closes at 3am at the weekends. However, there will come a time without new volunteers when we will need to review whether the Church in Eastleigh really wants to support this work. Full details of our training can be found inside. Please do consider if this is a ministry for you. We would be happy for you to join us to observe a patrol if you want to get a sense of what we do. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator  
Eastleigh Street Pastors



Street Pastors on patrol on a wet night at the end of June 2021. The pink bag contains extra PPE.

# Stories from the Street

*The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have recorded between February 2020 and October 2020. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.*



We spotted a young man sat leaning up against a car in the car park adjacent the playground. He was drunk and slumped over. We checked to if we could help. He threw up twice which woke him up out of his stupor. We chatted to help bring him round. He did not want to give his name. With his agreement we helped him up to a bench and gave him a bottle of water to open and drink as and when he wanted it. He was slowly becoming more aware. His friend then turned up with pizza from Dominoes and was going to take him home in his car which was the one where we found him. With some assistance he got into the car and the friend took him off home.



A lady in tears and young male nearby. Separated them and discussed issues of 3 years of marriage, a baby and no appreciation. Calmed down both and escorted to Taxis.



Further along High Street lady thanked us for what we do and said SPs had given her flip-flops in the past. She gave us all hugs!



Walked down the High Street and saw a man crouched down in a doorway; he said he was ok. .... Came back to the crouching man and tried to encourage him to talk, then two of his mates came by and hauled him up; one of them carried him on his shoulder. They all thanked us and said they would be ok getting home.



We noticed the two males trying to get entry to the Station PH but had been stopped by the door staff after being advised by CCTV. We stopped down from the Station and the two men were still arguing with the door staff and filming them on their mobiles. The male with the cap then approached me insisting that the door staff were breaking the law by not letting them in, and not providing their names or badge numbers. I explained that the door staff were correct in their actions\* and then spent the next 15 minutes receiving verbal abuse from him till they got bored and decided to move elsewhere. He was in drink and did not pose any threat, however he was not up for a reasonable discussion. *\*For info Door staff do not have to provide names or numbers under section 19 of 'Private Security Industry Act 2001' due to chances of violence against them.*



On 20th March 2020— Decided under circumstances no sweets were to be handed out. Radioed to CCTV and informed them that it was only one team out finishing by 10.00pm. From 9pm until 9.45pm Back out, High street, all pubs had now closed. Dominos, same youths on corner we had seen earlier, dispersed when they saw us. Quick patrol, now ghost town so decided to go back to base and finish.

***Quick patrol, now ghost town so decided to go back to base and finish.***



From our first report back out in July 2020—The only time someone breached distancing guidelines was when a woman ran across the road from the Spitfire after closing and threw her arm around one of us and thanked her for supporting her last year when she had been assaulted by her husband.



Back to high street and outside Spitfire saw the landlord, had a good conversation and he said since reopening average age of clientele is much higher than before.



We noticed an older woman and a younger man trying to make a phone call in the phone box outside Sainsburys. She was drinking from a bottle of what appeared to be wine and was very intoxicated. He as much younger and so we hung around to keep an eye on the situation. Eventually they asked if they could borrow a phone as they were stuck in Eastleigh having missed a train to Bournemouth. After a quick call they concluded they were stuck and were unsure what to do as they only had £21 and a taxi to Bournemouth would cost £78. We managed eventually to get them to agree to check out how much a taxi back to Winchester (where they had come from) was. It turned out to be £20 so they took this option.



By the end of July 2020 we observed “Not much social distancing noticed and little mask usage.”



Spoke to 2 lads late teens by bench in park for 30+ minutes on religions, Christianity, and beliefs. 1 lad had struggled at school as they had limited him to only attend Geography due to his behaviour. He has now a thirst for knowledge and was grateful we would speak to him. Both lads in drink. We took him an Alpha intro booklet later but did not chat then as he was with two girls.



Returned three trolleys, picked up twelve bottles and swept up a broken bottle. Spoke to three lads with bottles in the car park, and asked them if they could bin their bottles, we have swept up broken glass. They assured us they were taking their bottles home, and we watched them get in their car.



Four ladies by the Tanning Saloon, one drunk and being sick. It was her first night out after having a baby. Water and tissues supplied. Friends were looking after her.



Spent time with a group of under 18s near the bandstand drinking beer. We talked about sweeping up bottles and kiddies playing in the park. They assured us they were not like that and they would bin their bottles and cans. They talked about college and Covid.

*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

*All timings and subjects still provisional*

Fri eve, 25th March, - Knowing Your Community Part 1

Sat, 26th March - Roles & Responsibilities (always face-to-face)

Sun, 27th March - Street Craft 1 inc. Listening Skills

Fri eve, 8th April, - Knowing Your Community Part 2

Sat, 9th April - AM Good News PM Mental Health

Sun, 10th April - AM - Safeguarding, PM - Police

Fri eve, 22nd April, - Urban Trinity

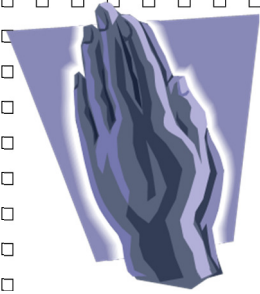
Sat, 23rd April - Drugs and Alcohol Awareness

Sun, 24th April - Understanding Exploitation, Listening and Communication Skills, Prayer training for SPs on patrol

Some of the above training may be taken online. This may be on Saturday mornings 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 4 March 2022.**



## 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. 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.

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.

## The Management Committee

The main change after the 2021 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 Autumn 2022

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

# Being led without knowing

This story from earlier this year illustrates how God can use us on the streets. We rarely find people just lying on the street (except for the homeless—see the next article) but on this night God used one person who we helped to lead us to another.

As we walked towards Tesco; we noticed an unconscious looking male lying on the ground. We spoke to him and shook his shoulder, he responded fairly quickly - he appeared to have been in a drunken sleep. We encouraged him to stand up and gave him water. He lived in in a direction that would mean walking up Twyford Road. So we said we would walk with him. We walked up Market Street and through the bus station. The intention being to use the underpass to cross the road. The male was apologetic and said he thought he would never have to use Street Pastors. We assured him that was why we were here. He was sobering up fast and walking much better. As we approached the underpass we saw unconscious male lying on the ground.

One of us tried to speak to him and shook his shoulder, he was tearful having lost his bank card, money and phone. The other male we had been escorting wanted to help , but one of us encouraged him to stand back. He now decided he wanted a cash point and ran over to the Sainsbury one, then came back to us—showing how much he had sobered up from barely being to walk straight. He waited a few minutes but there were no taxis; so he decided to walk back on his own. He thanked us for helping him and thought our time would be better spent with the other male (who he had led us to by us helping him in the first place). We were happy he seemed to be in control of his actions as he crossed the road and walked off.

We asked the other male if there was anyone we could contact on his behalf. He gave us his

mum's number in who lived in Dorset. His mum then gave us numbers of a couple of people locally who might help him, but there was no reply. The male could not tell us where he might have lost his belongings. He had gone on a train from Weymouth with mates, they stopped off in places for a drink; somehow he had lost his mates and phone. He also suffered with some anxiety issues and milt autism. We were left with the dilemma of how to get him home We thought of paying for a taxi for him, but there was a queue and no taxis.

We gained his trust and did something we do not do as Street Pastors. We agreed to give him a lift if he could walk to Wells Place, which he did very well. As we walked back we dealt with a girl who was shouting at some lads by Dominos, we interrupted her by giving her flip flops. She seemed to calm down a little as she put them on. We gave the male a lift to his step-mother's house on the outskirts of Southampton We waited with him until the door opened and he went inside. We then texted his mum saying he was safely indoors. She thanked us by text.

We took a route we would not normally have done because of the first male. Who having been quite drunk and very unstable became rapidly better. We were able to tell him that far from him needing to be sorry for using us he had been used to lead us to someone in greater need. In all this we were able to perform an act of kindness for a male who was a stranger to our town and had no money or phone and was highly vulnerable. We were also able to reassure his mother of his safety. The thank you text from her was a joy. Although we had to break our rule on lifts, our training ensured that we all travelled safely.

We often pray as we go out that God will light our feet and guide us to those who he wants us to help. We should not be surprised when he answers, although sometimes those answers can come in unusual ways. As we reflected on the evening we could see God's hand in all that happened.



# Helping the Homeless.

Many of you will have noticed that the issue of homelessness has returned after the initiatives that took people off the streets when the pandemic first started. We have had messages from members of the public asking us to help homeless people they have seen. As Street Pastors our main role is to care and listen and help where we can. We will ask if those we encounter would like a hot drink or are hungry—we have developed a pot noodle ministry, a quick and easy way to give some hot food. We often have a small supply of blankets/sleeping bags donated that we can give out too. We also try and signpost those we encounter to appropriate services. We certainly don't give money, nor do we have ready access to accommodation.

Homelessness is a complex problem. You don't have to be sleeping rough to be homeless: sofa surfing is a form of hidden homelessness whereby friends and family offer a sofa or spare bed/space in their house as a temporary measure. As such, the reasons and personal needs of each person in need of help are complex and no one approach suits all.

There is a lot of support available for the homeless however assistance cannot be forced on someone who is homeless. They may not make the choices we would make, but, unless they are sectioned under the Mental Health Act or break the law, they can choose to live how they wish. [Eastleigh Borough Council](#), the BID Town Rangers, charities and Street Pastors all do what we can to help.

## So what would be my advice to those that want to help?

- ⇒ If you feel able, do talk with those you see on the streets—they are human beings and being noticed and treated as such is important for them. Listen to what they say but be aware that sometimes their perspective will be different from yours.
- ⇒ If you feel you want to help directly I would strongly suggest not giving money, also do not just buy food and give it to them—we know much food just ends up not getting used. If you are talking to them ask them. They may have other simple needs—a phone top up, a battery for a radio, something for their pet.
- ⇒ Notify the authorities—especially if they have just appeared. I have the [StreetLink](#) app on my phone which allows you to report anyone I see. Doing this may be particularly helpful for those sleeping in local countryside who may be harder for the authorities to spot.
- ⇒ Support national and local charities that are doing something to help. These include: [Two Saints](#); [Winchester Beacon](#) (formerly the night shelter); [Society of St James](#); [StreetSupport](#); [Fledge](#); [Crisis Shelter](#); [DePaul](#); [Emmaus](#). Also the local churches have a ministry—for example Toby Dodson the community minister at Eastleigh Baptist has a ministry helping those who find themselves in crisis particularly through addiction. Do speak with him or Eric Hyom from Holy Cross if you want to help more locally.
- ⇒ Please pray—in your personal prayers—you may even be bold enough to ask someone if you can pray for them as you talk with them (sensitively—if they are starving hungry and soaking wet then prayer may not be what they feel they need!).

A [BBC article](#) sums it up well:

What are the best ways of helping homeless people?

1. Alert the professionals.
2. Give time, not money.
3. Or give small things.
4. Remember furry friends.
5. Remember the 'hidden homeless'



Image source:  
<https://pixabay.com/users/vinsky2002-1151065>

## 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](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