



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 25

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Welcome!

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

It has been great in the last 6 months to welcome three new Street Pastors to the streets of Eastleigh. Vicci, Iain and Adam are great additions to our teams. Read more about Vicci's story in this edition. We hope a fourth person can complete their training in the Autumn. I am sure they would love others to come and join them. More information on the training can be found inside. Also in this newsletter are some statistics about the year 2021 which were presented at our Annual General Meeting.

Since the last newsletter we have continued to patrol regularly each Friday. The town does seem quieter now than prior to pandemic times but, each time we are out there is always a reason for us being there. From providing simple encouragement and a hot drink to the homeless to ensuring that those leaving drinking establishments are safe, people seem to appreciate our presence.

Also in this newsletter are some statistics about the year 2021 which were presented at our Annual General Meeting. At that meeting the management committee were reappointed. This gives me a chance to say a grateful thanks to all who serve on the management committee for the help and support they give. I want to say a particular thank you to the two Martins — Ward and Lloyd — who as chair and treasurer respectively are so helpful and supportive in keeping Street Pastors running in Eastleigh.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator
Eastleigh Street Pastors



Street Pastors on patrol just before Christmas 2021. The pink bag contains extra PPE.

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have recorded between October 2020 and May 2021. This period included some time off the streets when we were back in lockdown at the start of 2021. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



We followed the trouble group up Market street as they were shouting at each other, noting several smashed bottles we cleared up later and replanted flowers that had been ripped out.

The group was 6 in number and in their 20's. They dispersed at the top of Market St.



On lower level of the car park we came across 2 young men and a woman listening to music. Chatted and gave the girl a plaster as she'd cut a finger.



We had a long conversation with a man and his mate who was on a mobility scooter. The man talked about his attempt to end his life and how he changed his mind at the last moment (he had apparently climbed halfway up a crane). We talked about meeting up with the community minister at Wells Place or getting in touch with ManGang through Facebook. The man in the scooter said; everyone had thoughts about suicide at some point in their lives.



Outside the Pet shop we met a lady, she was in drink and complaining about older people in Eastleigh not wearing masks, chatting, and spreading the virus. She was looking after her dad who had terminal cancer and she had issues of her own. We took some time to chat to her as quite depressed and make her feel wanted. We offered to pray for her and her Dad which really touched her.



Had long conversation with one male Afro/Caribbean who thanked us for being out, and said it was the S.P's who helped him several years ago when he split up with his partner and was on point of 'self destruction'. Two of his mates appeared with 2 crates of beer. One of which was a Catholic and quoted a verse in Latin. They all thanked us and went off.



Group of five lads. Socially distanced shared sweets (said their catching was good and if they wanted to play cricket the church had a team) Three other young people came along who new them and briefly formed a larger group. We moved away and picked up two vodka ice bottles from round the bench.



CCTV called and said they were concerned about a man who had been sitting in the bus station for about three hours.

We had already spoken to the man earlier but we spoke with him again; he was a care worker who had had an operation on his leg seven weeks ago. We said we could help him walk as he lived nearby, but he did not seem keen.

[He] said it was the S.P's who helped him several years ago when he split up with his partner and was on point of 'self destruction'

We suggested a taxi, and we asked if he had the money for one. He said he needed to get some from the cash point nearby; We supported him to walk the few yards as he was unsteady and walking painfully; he smelt of drink. One of us went over to the taxi rank and asked the driver to pull up at the bus station which he did.



Outside Spitfire had a long chat with a male in 20's who was discussing his elderly Nan who he had started caring for then had to place her in a home. Long discussion on hugs, Covid, charges, welfare, Christmas, and relationships.



We gathered at WPC and chatted about the way that the shift would in many ways be 'exploratory' in the sense that it's the first one after the latest lockdown. We had a re-cap of the 'Dos and Don'ts' given the current situation and equipped ourselves with sweets and PPE.

We decided to go out as a whole team but to be careful not to 'encircle' people in an unhelpful way.



Back to rec where we met 6 males mid 30's all drinking from cans. Had long conversation with them as to what S.P's do . One commented that he had noticed that

even before covid Eastleigh had become a quieter town.



We walked on down towards Fleming park meeting a group of six ladies celebrating one of their birthdays - one drinking a cocktail from what looked like a fishbowl. They were all dressed as singers and one of us guessed all six.



We gave fruit pastels to 6 lads and two girls on a bench by the bandstand; all very friendly; but we could smell weed. Checked on five younger girls 16 ish on the bandstand, they seemed ok but did not want to talk, they had cans of beer.



Bus station empty except fat pigeon sat on the floor not wanting to move

Later—Checked and found pigeon still sat in bus station so David put him in the bushes by Barclays out of harm's way.



At the end of report where we dealt with a very drunk man alerted to us by CCTV—Collectively; we had spent almost 12 hours hours of time between us keeping him safe. Thank you CCTV for looking over us.



The lone girl we had seen earlier was now happier and with her boyfriend.



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

Friday 7, Saturday, 8, and Sunday 9 October 2022

Friday, 21, Saturday, 22, and Sunday, 23 October 2022

Friday, 4, Saturday, 5, and Sunday, 6 November 2022

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 for an application form and for more information.

Applications by end of Sunday 25 September 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 to discuss with others outside the prayer team.

At the moment we have one church with a small group who regularly pray. In the past another church has used their small group network . All who have been involved say it has been encouraging for those that have taken part. 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.

The Management Committee

There are no changes to our committee after the 2022 AGM . Martin Ward continues as our very able chair. Iain Grew, our former chair, is now trained and on the streets with us. 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

Uniform monitor: Jeanne Don

Training dates in Spring 2023

There is likely to be further training in Spring 2023 but we are still awaiting these.

Vicci's story

My name is Vicci and I live in Chandlers Ford. I recently went through the Street Pastors training and now I am on a team that goes out on the streets of Eastleigh on a Friday evening.

After spending my whole life in the grip of anxiety and depression - a chance meeting with an old friend who I knew was a Christian changed my life. She picked me up, threw me in her car and took me to her church in Romsey where I was welcomed with open arms. I found God and it felt like the weight was lifted off of my shoulders. With God and the church's help I beat the fear I held over life. I am so much more confident and know I'm not in the battle alone.

I felt that I was being called into some sort of ministry - especially to use my newfound skill of public speaking however didn't know what this would be. During lockdown my relationship with God grew stronger and I knew I had to work with people that would not be able to walk through the doors of a Church to get the help they needed. Whilst in Ripon with my pastor - I heard from the Lord about "Flip Flops" and street pastoring. This was when I realised my calling and I felt a fire being lit in my heart. Meeting Steve (Eastleigh's coordinator) and talking through what Street Pastoring involved - I knew this was what God wanted me to do.

The training programme is really well delivered. Although 3 full weekends may seem a lot - it goes by very quickly. It is great that all the teams in the area train together - includ-

ing Southampton Eastleigh and Winchester. During the training I developed a close bond with the other trainees which helped us learn and handle some of the trickier issues that we had to know about. The great thing about the Street Pastors is the wide range of people that God calls to do it. The different stories and experiences our group of trainees had were inspiring - and we all came from different walks of life. The passion of the people delivering the training was incredible - and the role playing wasn't that bad either!

I have now been out on patrol a couple of times as part of one of the teams. As I go out with the same pastors it's been great to hear their experiences and Although Eastleigh isn't the busiest place - there are quiet times it's great to be able to walk around and sense the feeling of peace in the area. The chance to talk to people we meet and hear their stories has been an honour.


























Vicci in her uniform—photobombed by her cat!

I would say that if you think that God is calling you to be a Street Pastor then don't let anything put you off trying it. 6 years ago, I would not have thought that someone like me - anxious, fearful, unable to talk to people I didn't know etc. would be able to put on the uniform and spread God's love but here I am. Going out on an observation patrol with one of the teams is a good way to see what we do first-hand and confirm your calling.

Vicci's story, and calling to Street Pastors, is amazing and it was a real privilege to be part of it. Great to have you on the team Vicci.

If this inspires you to train, or even just to want to know more please see page 4 and contact us. Steve

 EASTLEIGH	2020	2021	
 Friday nights on the street (out of 52 Fridays 2020, 53 in 2021)	36	36	
 Extra patrols	2	0	
 Person hours on the streets	505	426	
 Person hours of prayer while SPs on the street	130	40	
 Contacts	969	735	
 Average contacts per shift - Early	22.1	23.7	
 Average contacts per shift - Late	21.6	15.8	
 Pairs of flip-flops	10	5	
 Bottles removed	239	137	
 People helped	15	18	
 Anti-social incidents	11	9	

2021 On the Streets

The statistics above were presented at our recent Annual General Meeting on 27th April 2022. As in 2020, we were off the streets for part of the year because of lock-down. Even though the streets were quiet more people were helped than last year. Prayer was down though. Please see the continued request for people to be in prayer teams while we are on the streets on page 5. This can be done on zoom although we would love to have people join us at our base, the Wells Place Centre.

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 27th April 2022 on zoom, and the next will be in April 2023—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



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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