



Eastleigh

Newsletter

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Welcome!

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

A lot seems to have happened in the country over the past 6 months. The sad death of our longest serving monarch, three Prime Ministers at the last count, and myriad national and international issues. Yet a couple of things have not changed. Jesus is still our heavenly King and Eastleigh Street Pastors have continued to serve the community on the streets of Eastleigh. One of our team also helped with the crowds during the Queen's lying in state—you can read more about that in this issue. We also welcome the fourth trainee from last year to the streets. We currently have around 20 active street pastors and another couple trained but not patrolling at present. But we need more! More information on the training can be found inside.

The need for our presence on the street has never been greater. There is a hurting and lost generation, but our presence reminds them that there is a different path. We never go out to preach but often conversations turn to deeper aspects of life. Memories of church, or memories of relatives who were believers are shared. Comfort is given, sometimes joy is shared.

We really value those of you we know pray for us but would love to develop more of a prayer life around our work. The management committee would also value your prayers in particular as we consider changing the constitution to become a Charity Incorporated Organisation. And thank you to those who read this newsletter, it was a great encouragement that someone came forward to help with meeting minutes. If you enjoy it (or don't!) please let me know. Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator
Eastleigh Street Pastors



A picture from one of our December patrols. Although the town appears quiet there is still much for our teams to do.

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have recorded between June 2021 and October 2021. This period started slowly with the return from Lockdown in April 2021. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



Heard group of 5 refused entry to Station on radio, followed to Wagonworks as door staff alone, no issues group moved on and left town.



Had a quick break as there was a call on the radio for the Street Pastors saying a man had fallen down at the end of Mk St and was bleeding. We head out and found him there with 2 other members of the public keeping an eye on him. Seems he had fallen over intoxicated and banged his forehead. We ascertained that someone had called an ambulance and opted to stay with him and the other 2 who were happy to continue to wait for the ambulance. We provided some wipes etc. so he could clean the wound a little. We spent the rest of the shift waiting for the ambulance, calling to check it was on its way and chatting with the man who had fallen. We chatted with passers-by. After a while he was able to get to his feet and the wound had stopped bleeding. Whilst clearly intoxicated he was able to hold a conversation. With the ambulance not turning up after an hour we asked whether he would prefer to get a taxi home (Bishopstoke). He

was happy to do that so we helped him walk to the taxi stand and made sure the driver knew where he was going.



A tearful girl was sat near the Bingo Hall waiting for an Uber, one of us was able to talk with her; we suggested she should wait by the bus station. Another of the team spotted the Uber parked by the Sainsbury car park, spoke to the driver who then drove up to meet the girl.



Down High St, stopping to speak to man in his 40s, outside the Spitfire who want to thank us for taking him home blind drunk a few years ago. He recognised us as the ones that carried him back and said he has not been like it since.



Back down high street to Dominos noticed 2 girls, 1 walking bare footed, decided to approach with a pair of flip flops, which they accepted. We asked if they could help or walk with them to their home. At first they said no but they said they were being pestered by young males who wanted to walk them home. So they agreed and we walked them home.



The drunken Hedge End man was outside the station , we said a taxi was the best option. We walked to the taxi rank with him and we negotiated a £20 fare that was agreed to.



Outside Swan Centre 2 homeless males well intoxicated, 1 threw empty whisky

When we said we are volunteers from Churches and the only payment we get is from the satisfaction of helping people in need she could not believe us...

bottle into bin and missed, we cleared up the broken glass. They still had bottle of vodka with them.



Call from Wagon Works to us for a Female who had lost her friend and was needed assistance getting home. We went in and were directed to the upstairs lady's toilet where we met a customer who had called security as a girl was distraught and being sick. Door staff were there recording, and we tried speaking to the distraught lady. Eventually throughout the night we managed to find out that she had been in an abusive relationship for a year, split up 4 weeks ago. She was lying on the floor, Trousers and top undone, hitting walls, toilets, doors and tried locking herself in a cubicle. She was drunk, cold, and claiming she wanted to end it. When we started getting her talking and she realised we were not a threat and did not know her ex, she took a fleece and we managed slowly to take her downstairs and out the back of the pub into the CP behind the Travellodge...[Part of a longer story that ended safely in the end]



Chatted for some time to 2 men outside The Spitfire about the Christian faith. We left them with a booklet. We then chatted

to the owner of a fast food shop for some time. He confided that he'd lost a child that week (sick since birth) and we commiserated and took a few moments to pray for him.



Then spoke to homeless lady in her tent, she said she was okay and was reading a book which some one had given her, she also said that people had given her several books, she also said that things were in motion, and she should have accommodation shortly. Gave her several lollipops which she said she would enjoy.



Her friend wanted to know how much we get paid for doing what we do. When we said we are volunteers from Church's and the only payment we get is from the satisfaction of helping people in need she could not believe us and thanked us for what we do.



It just left a few stragglers who we had light chats with, a male by the park who had had a domestic and was sobering up before he went off to his mates' caravan, and the usual suspects in the Spitfire and Station. Numbers were not too bad in there starting to approach pre-covid levels.



Swept up a broken bottle; homeless man came over to help.



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, 17th, Sat, 18th, and Sun, 19th March 2023

Fri eve, 24th, Sat, 25th, and Sun, 26th March 2023

Fri eve, 21st Sat, 22nd, and Sun, 23rd April 2023

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 26 February 2023.



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 welcome Heather Bevis who has agreed to take on administration around the committee.

Chair: Martin Ward (St Mary’s Bishopstoke CoE)
Vice Chair: To be appointed
Secretary:
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
Committee administrator: Heather Bevis
Others serving:
Uniform monitor: Jeanne Donohoe

Training dates in Autumn 2023

These are provisionally booked for Fri eve, 6th, Sat, 7th, and Sun, 8th October 2023; Fri eve, 20th, Sat, 21st ;and Sun, 22nd October 2023; Fri eve, 3rd Sat, 4th, and Sun, 5th November 2023—put them in your diary!

Serving those who mourn

one Street Pastor's story of helping with the mourning of the Queen.

With the crowds attending the queen's lying in state in both Edinburgh and London the call went out for Street Pastors to volunteer to help. One of our team Jenny Hawkins, felt compelled to volunteer. We asked her some questions to find out more.

What prompted you to volunteer to help with this event?

My main thought was that maybe I can help/ assist someone in need during this hard time of mourning.

How long were you in London?

I was in total 3 days in London (Saturday, Sunday and Monday).

How did you feel as you served?

I was excited and at first a little worried as this was the first time I had been alone in London. But it all worked out well. The atmosphere was great along the queue, people made friends and supported each other and Street Pastors were always welcomed by everyone.

Describe briefly what happened and what



Jenny among the queue –tower bridge in the background

you did?

On Saturday I met the team in our first HQ at 0800 (London City Mission near the Tower Bridge).

We were then put into teams of two and advised which area along the queue we should support. My team supported the queue from Tower bridge to Waterloo Bridge.

For Sunday and Monday we were stationed at the Central Methodist Church (near Winchester Abbey).

Again we were put into teams and advised of an area to support. Me and my fellow team member provided support from Tower Bridge to Lambeth Bridge on Sunday and on Monday we were a team of 6 and we supported the public on the Waterloo Bridge to the Lambeth Bridge.

What were the other volunteers like?

The other volunteers were very kind and

had a lot of experience to share with me. There were mainly local volunteers but 2 ladies came all the way from Derby so that they would be able to help on the Monday;. Most of them were Response Pastors and they inspired me to join the “Response Pastors”.

What is your lasting memory of being part of this event?

That I was able to overcome some of my personal boundaries and that I was able to serve the queen and the new King.

Any particular interesting/challenging/amusing stories from the volunteering?

We kept being called over by other Street Pastors who were actually waiting in the line to see the queen.

Also the public thanked us a lot for being there and supporting them. Strangely enough we had the public giving us sweets and biscuits on the go. [Street pastors are renown for carrying and giving out sweets—a great conversation started and a calming influence]

What has the experience taught you?

That anyone can be a volunteer, doesn't

matter who they are or from which background they come. Even myself who is normally quite scared of big crowds and quiet reserved was able to assist strangers in a different situation than normal.

You want to train to be a response pastor – what is that and why do you want to do it?

I feel like the Lord is calling me to help people and that is my gift he gave me. In emergency situations I'm able to stay calm and composed and therefore I think I

might be very well equipped to be a response pastor.

A response pastor is a street pastor who has received additional training to provide support to those affected by a disaster or crisis. Re-

sponse pastors can be called upon any day or night to support and assist where appropriate. Response Pastors were called upon for the Manchester Bombing for example.

Many thanks to Jenny for volunteering and for taking the time to share her story. And God can call anyone to volunteer—if you are interested in Street Pastors or Response Pastors do get in touch.



Jenny pictured with one of the teams she was placed with

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