



Eastleigh

Newsletter

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Welcome!

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

While the world seems to be almost back at normal it is clear that the economic situation is biting and the businesses in the night time economy are quieter than they used to be. It is a blessing for us that The Station pub has, since Christmas, been closing at 2am rather than 3am on a Friday, but it is also a lost hour of income for those employed. Please do pray for the businesses in our town. Some of our volunteers are feeling called to consider doing a Saturday night as well as Friday. It is reported to us that this night is busier than Fridays so we are going to experiment with an occasional Saturday patrol.

Even in the more peaceful evenings God has reasons for us to be out on the streets. What I love most about Street Pastors is that it is just giving over 4 or 5 hours of your time each month to say God use me however you will. It is also the church in Eastleigh acting together. We would love to have more people join us, maybe come and observe a patrol one night. Details about the latest training can also be found in this newsletter.

The newsletter contains some of the statistics presented at our AGM for the year 2022. Also in the last few months one of our Street pastors went and volunteered at the Coronation and Windrush Anniversary events, see inside for more details. We have had a few people who have had to stop patrolling for health or personal reasons. Do find out who the volunteers are that are part of your fellowship and maybe offer to be prayer support for them.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator
Eastleigh Street Pastors



Pictures from the Windrush event, Les Isaac speaking (credit Maggie Saunders)

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have recorded between November 2021 and April 2022. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



To Station Pub spoke to door staff and noticed girl mid 20's outside very distressed. Approached her and she said her friends were inside pub, she had come out for a smoke and door staff would not let her back in as she was intoxicated. She kept calling for her friends and one did come out and gave her her handbag.

Back to Station Pub and she was still calling for her friends. The young lady was drinking from a bottle in her handbag and was getting more and more worse for alcohol. She then went to Market St which we followed. To bus station and then to Southampton Hill where she needed to relieve herself. We kept a safe distance and she wandered to Lidl's car park. We noticed when leaving bushes, she had dropped her handbag. I retrieved bag and we checked contents, being bunch of door keys. passport and bottle of drink which smelt of strong alcohol. Passport contained 2 emergency phone numbers which we tried but both were unavailable.

She was now walking up Twyford Road heading towards Ham Farm. I rang the other half of the team to let them know where we were and what was happening, While on phone several people approached them and asked if they had seen their friend the other team told them of where we were. We got as far as the bus

stop by Albert Road. Her friends appeared in a car, and I recognized the one that gave her the handbag earlier. We gave them the handbag back and we exchanged phone numbers so if she was found we could let each other know. Were heading back into town when her friends rang to say that they had found her and thanked us for going that extra mile for her safety.



Two girls, one with her dad .wanted a selfie with us. She told us about her collection of Street Pastor flip flops!



Made some hot chocolate and took this to the homeless couple who were sitting at the foot of the Swan Centre stairs.



We met a man with his sleeping bag near the pet shop. His girlfriend was angry with him; so, he decided he would spend the night on the streets. We agreed to bring him back a drink.



We found a young man on a seat on Leigh Rd depressed with Family issue. Tried to encourage and give some guidance as only 18, in college and studying well. He had just been watching Spiderman with his friends and there seemed to be lots of little issues. Hopefully we helped.



Chatted to a young man outside Dominos who said he'd been meaning to visit a church. We gave him some details and invited him to one of the local churches.

Were heading back into town when her friends rang to say that they had found her and thanked us for going that extra mile for her safety.



Walked across to the railway station – noticed a guy in a red coat aged in his 40s asleep in the lift. We checked through the window that we could see he was breathing and no sign of injury. Took the decision not to open the lift and wake him....Went back to railway station. Man still in lift, still asleep but had moved round. No obvious issues so left him to sleep.



As we walked back noticed what looked like a domestic between a couple – both quite drunk. We watched the lady hide in a doorway while man walked off. We spoke with her she asked if we had her purse and bag but then she went and picked it up of the ground in one of the shop doorways opposite. We watched her and the man walk off and radioed CCTV to keep an eye.



Heard CCTV say there was a disturbance outside the Spitfire; where we met an angry man. He said he had been racially abused because he was black; then evicted from the Spitfire. We stopped with him for a while as he shouted at the staff; at one point one of us held his hand. We spoke to the manager of the Spitfire who said that he was evicted because of his behaviour. His friend came out (ex-forces) and also tried to calm him down, we were then able

to walk to the taxis with them both. Police cars were driving by at the time. We all felt the angry man was suffering with his mental health.

The next day we received a thank you message from the angry man “Hi good afternoon, want to start by saying thanks the support last night. I know I should not be feeling the way i am. But I have found a positive about it. Last night was the first drinking I had in 6 and a half weeks. And the last for a long time. So me not drinking again. There will be no reason for me to go there. I really thanks all for walking me away and support me. Thank you”



A lady, of what looked like a ‘body building’ couple, stopped to see who we were as she felt the need to check we were not police. She was busy blowing up a balloon over and again. Having told her that we were street pastors she held up a very small plastic bag with white powder and said that she did not want to lose it, laughed and went off.



Walked towards Tesco but heard shouting from High St calling for Street Pastors. Door staff at The Station had spotted us and a lady called us for flip flops. Lovely doorman helped her get her uncomfortable shoes off.



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, 6th, Sat, 7th, and Sun, 8th October 2023

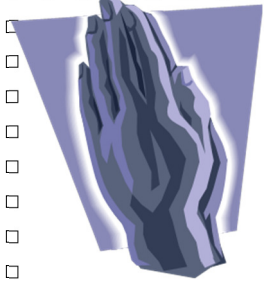
Fri eve, 20th, Sat, 21st ;and Sun, 22nd October 2023

Fri eve, 3rd Sat, 4th, and Sun, 5th November 2023

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 24th September 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 a couple of changes to our committee after the 2023 AGM . Martin Ward continues as our very able chair. Howard Sheffield has stood down as Thrive church rep. 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: 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)

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

A lovely story to end with

Someone who Street pastors had helped in the past responded to someone on FB who was having suicidal thoughts. When one of our Street Pastors, Eric, also responded this person who we met replied “ Eric please go and see this man, please please please do it. It will work for you I promise, it did for me, I was the same but managed to pull through with the help of this kind hearted guy. Good luck”. To hear someone helped by Street Pastors and the church in Eastleigh who has come through and recommending us to others is so encouraging. We rarely get to hear how we change lives. As always, we thank our Lord.

Coronation & Windrush

Maggie tells us about volunteering at these events

I volunteered because I thought it would be great to be present at the Coronation, I certainly will not get that opportunity again! Regarding the Windrush Anniversary and Walk of Witness I thought I might learn more about what it was like for the Caribbean migrants and their families who made Britain their home. When nursing I always enjoyed meeting other nurses and I was looking forward to meeting other Street Pastors.

I was a bit anxious at the Coronation with all the security.

At our briefing we were advised to look out for suspect back packs with visible wires! It was also a miserable day and we had to be at our meeting place by 8am. I

was looking forward to the Walk of Witness as it was a beautiful hot day and we were meeting at a sensible time!

At both events we were assigned to teams and given our location. At the Coronation we ended up in Green Park, we couldn't get to Piccadilly Circus as planned due to road closures. It was raining much of the day but we were able to chat to people who were very happy to be present at such an event even though they were not able to see anything apart from on the big screen. Some came from as far away as Australia, just to be there. At the Walk of Witness we were given a position on the walk, and walked from



Maggie (left) with her team at the Coronation in the rain

Waterloo Station to Southwark Cathedral in very high temperatures. Again we were able to chat to people, many of whom were Christians and to hear about the struggles their parents had and many still suffer in the same way today. Many joined the newly established NHS and others found work on London transport and other areas of industry. All were represented at the event.

My fellow Street Pastors were all very friendly. We were able to share of our own experiences of Street Pastoring in the places where we volunteer.

My lasting memory is the service in Southwark Cathedral where homage was given to the Windrush Generation who
























responded to an invitation with their hopes and dreams but instead of being welcomed were faced with intolerance, inequality and injustice. One interesting conversation sticks in my memory of a guy who told me his mother

would have been a millionairess had she stayed in the Caribbean! Also another SP a descendent of the Windrush Generation was in fear of being questioned by the press who were present on the walk, as her parents had not talked about their past at all.

I felt it was a privilege to be at both events, I love meeting different people and hearing their stories. I guess through hearing first hand the struggles of the Windrush Generation it has taught me that there is no place for racism and prejudice, and we should all be more tolerant, and fight for equality and justice.

2022 On the Streets

The statistics below were presented at our recent Annual General Meeting on 18th April 2023. 2022 saw our first complete year on the streets since 2019.

 EASTLEIGH	2021	2022	
 Friday nights on the street (out of 53 Fridays 2021, 52 in 2022)	36	52	
 Extra patrols	0	1	
 Person hours on the streets	426	655	
 Person hours of prayer while SPs on the street	40	66	
 Contacts	735	1206	
 Average contacts per shift - Early	23.7	24.4	
 Average contacts per shift - Late	15.8	14.5	
 Pairs of flip-flops	5	10	
 Bottles removed	137	247	
 People helped	18	19	
 Anti-social incidents	9	13	

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 18th April 2023 on zoom, and the next will be in April 2024. 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