



**Eastleigh**

# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

...to the thirtieth Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter.

At the end of a year which has seen civil disorder in some places, continued issues around homelessness, and no end to the squeeze on finances for many, the importance of changing the atmosphere and providing hope is never more important. Churches together in Eastleigh supports some amazing initiatives such as [Christians Against Poverty](#) and the [Eastleigh Basics Bank](#). Alongside the ministry at [Wells Place Centre](#), where many community support groups meet and there is also a dedicated community minister, many other churches in Eastleigh provide support. The church in Eastleigh has so many ways to show our community the love of Jesus. Street pastors are part of that ministry too. We can sign post people to these many initiatives as well as ministering to them directly. I particularly love the fact that we represent the church in Eastleigh—not one fellowship but all the different churches. But we only do that if we have volunteers from all the churches. Of the current 20 Street pastors we have around 8 churches represented. But there are many fellowships in Eastleigh without someone serving in this way. It would be lovely to have more churches involved in this ministry.

We had no one want to train on the autumn training, which was disappointing., however we have had two street pastors join us from other local groups which is a blessing.

Also inside is important information on how our governance is changing to being a Charity Incorporated Organisation. I am very grateful to the management committee for their diligent work on this.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator  
Eastleigh Street Pastors



The management committee working on completing the Charity Incorporated Organisation documentation.

## Stories from the Street

*The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have recorded between April 2023 and September 2023. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.*



A man spent some time chatting with 3 of us sharing his experiences with AA and family issues.



We went back out with some hot chocolate and cookies for the 2 women sleeping rough. They were out of their tent and welcomed us and showed us their 'set up'. We chatted for a while, hearing something of their story and their challenges.



We then noted a young couple (20-25 years approx.) and the female had taken off her shoes and was walking bare footed. After noting this we approached them and offered a pair of flip flops which was very welcomed. The couple were offered sweets and we conversed with them for a while before they made their way to the taxi rank.



The Spitfire doorman pointed out a drunk man sleeping in the Monett alley. Two of us went to talk with him and encouraged him to get up, he then sat on the bench nearby. One of the staff from a takeaway came over and offered a bottle of water. The man disappeared down the alley, and we followed him to the Halifax. He lived in

Southampton and had been separated from his friends, we walked with him to the taxi rank. One of us was able to talk with the taxi driver and he went off.



Past a group at far side of the rec drinking vodka and shots. Met three young men smoking and drinking bottles of beer. Stopped and had a chat with them - one apologised as he had used the Lord's name in vain! Discussed upcoming Eastleigh Unwrapped event with them. Carried on back through park and up High Street to Spitfire pub. Spoke to bouncers - very quiet inside. A chap came out and greeted us by hugging and kissing us all! Intoxicated but friendly.



...He was breathing, conscious and responsive but he was not capable at that time of getting up and walking home. Over the next 45 minutes he became more responsive and started to converse with us answering simple questions. We ascertained that he had been out with friends who had since gone home and he only lived locally, he was on his way home. He was very welcoming to the support we were giving but kept saying that he didn't want to waste our time. We replied saying that we were here to help him get home safely and we would stay with him until he could get home.

After about an hour we managed to convince him to get up and suggested that we would help him walk home. He was swaying slightly but used the walls/fencing to assist with his balance. We managed to get him home and he was very thankful.



***He was now on an addiction course, was 280 days sober and doing much better ..after several hugs wanted to pass on his thanks to the two ladies I had been on patrol with at the time.***

Outside bowling two of us spoke to a female sat on the steps as she had hurt her knee. Her family were inside still playing bowling and she just wanted to rest her knee. We offered and she accepted prayer for her knee.



We could hear a woman shouting angrily by the war memorial. She said two lads were disrespecting the memorial. Two of us walked over to the lads who were by the bandstand, they had finished school and were just chilling, they weren't responding to the woman's taunts. They said, had we not turned up, they would have called the police. The woman walked off after a few minutes.



As we were walking away from Grantham Green we met some of the lads we had seen in town on bikes and scooters. One appeared to have a bottle of alcohol. Another said he wanted the vodka his brother had bought. It appeared they were looking for someone and did not engage with us. I think they were somewhat surprised to see us there. They went off going away from town.



Decided to call it a night as was getting on for midnight. As passed Station pub - a

chap with long hair was sat on bench on other side of road being sick. Friend was holding his hair as to avoid it being soiled. Gave them water and wipes.



By Iceland we were stopped by a male I recognised as we had helped about 6 months ago when he was in a bad place, supplying food and drink and a shoulder at WPC. He was now on a Christian addiction course, was 280 days sober and doing much better. Had sorted his Police issues out and after several hugs wanted to pass on his thanks to the two ladies I had been on patrol with at the time. Some more advice and chat provided.



Four lads opposite Monett called us over, they were worried about a female who was sat in their car and being sick. They had just met her after she had finished her shift. She was fine one minute, then she collapsed into their car being sick, possibly from a spiked drink. Checked her pulse, which was weak but fast at around 120 bpm. At 1.05am we called an ambulance. The lads called her boyfriend's parents, who she lived with, they came in two separate cars. She continued to be sick, but was unresponsive to our questions. She eventually came out of the car and laid down on the pavement, we went to get a quilt. Her boyfriend arrived and stayed with her. The four lads who had called us over, stopped with her until the ambulance arrived at 02.48 am. They had shown genuine care to their friend. Once she was in the ambulance we left.

*We continue to give thanks to God for the people we meet and the way He uses us.*



# \*\*\*\*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*

**Weekend 1: 14th, 15th, 16th March**

**Weekend 2: 28th, 29th, 30th March**

**Weekend 3: 11th, 12th, 13th April (avoiding Easter)**

Email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) for an application form and for more information.

### Applications by end of Sunday 23rd February 2025

If you can't make the above, provisional training dates for Autumn 2025:

Weekend 1: 3rd, 4th, 5th October

Weekend 2: 17th, 18th, 19th October

Weekend 3: 31st October, 1st, 2nd November

**Happy Birthday to us! In July 2024 Eastleigh Street Pastors celebrated our 15th birthday. Other areas who celebrated their 15th birthday last year included Southampton, Rugby, Preston, Salisbury, Jersey, and Reading .**



## 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](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)

## The Management Committee

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

**Vice Chair: To be appointed**

**Secretary: Heather Beavis (Eastleigh Baptist Church)**

**Treasurer: Martin Lloyd (Thrive church)**

**Other committee members:**

**Dave Savage (All Saints, CoE)**

**Eric Hyom (Holy Cross RC 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**

**Others serving:**

**Uniform monitor: Jeanne Donohoe**

## Did you know?

That The Ascension Trust also publishes a newsletter that can be accessed on line. The latest edition can be found at the address below:

<https://portal.streetpastors.org/wp-content/uploads/Ascension-Trust-newsletter-January-2025.pdf>

They also have a shop where you can buy street pastor branded goods to support the work:

<https://acomshop.org.uk/>

## Eastleigh Street Pastors is Changing its Governance Structure

**Q. Why is Eastleigh Street Pastors changing its structure?**

A. *We have been encouraged by the Ascension Trust, the umbrella organisation for Street Pastors, to register with the Charity Commission as a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO). We would then become a registered charity. The Charity Commission also recommends that small not-for-profit organisations and charities register as CIOs.*

**Q. Aren't we already a charity?**

A. *No. We are an unincorporated organisation. Our constitution, provided by the Ascension Trust, governs how we operate and the governance of the organisation; but we are not a registered charity.*

**Q. What are the advantages of a CIO?**

A. *Becoming a registered charity would enhance our reputation and align us with similar organisations in the voluntary sector. There is a public expectation that community-based organisations are registered charities. This indicates a degree of regulatory oversight and demonstrates that we run to accepted standards. This provides confidence for stakeholders and ensures sustainability. It also attracts funding/donations.*

*The trustees of a CIO will not be personally liable for what it does and for its debts, provided its decisions are reasonable and lawful. A CIO offers limited liability—this means that in the event of liquidation or litigation, any debts will be paid out of the organisation's funds. Once these have been exhausted, trustees are not personally liable for any further funds.*

**Q. What will change when we become a CIO?**

A. *Everything stays the same in what we do on patrols. The CIO will appoint trustees who will be responsible for managing the charity. It was agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting that the CIO would use the "Foundation Model" constitution. Under this type of CIO, the charity trustees are the voting members and are responsible for making the key decisions. There will be a directory of non-voting members which includes all serving Street and Prayer Pastors and anyone who would like to be closely associated with Eastleigh Street Pastors.*

**Q. Will there be Annual General Meetings?**

A. *The trustees will call an annual meeting, and the chairman, treasurer, and Coordinator will present reports. The non-voting members will be able to ask questions and make suggestions on how the CIO is run.*

**Q. Why may it affect funding/donations?**

A. *Many grant-awarding organisations will only accept applications from registered charities. When necessary, the CIO can apply for grants from a broader range of organisations. The CIO can claim gift aid of 25% on personal donations.*






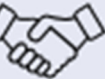






**Q. Will we have to change our financial arrangements?**

A. *Yes and No. How we have been doing the accounts with an independent examiner is acceptable for a small CIO. Yes, we must make an online Annual Return to the Charity Commission showing our total income and expenditure. The reports that we prepare for the annual meeting can be consolidated into the CIO Annual Report*

# Statistics 2024

Below are the highlights for last year, compared with 2023. Most statistics are very

similar to 2023. It was great that we covered every Friday. Sadly no prayer was recorded in the reports, although we know that people are praying for us.

 EASTLEIGH	2023	2024	
 Friday nights on the street (out of 52, did not patrol 29/12/23)	51	52	↑
 Extra patrols (2023 inc 3 Saturdays)	4	2	↓
 Person hours on the streets	660	589	↓
 Person hours of prayer while SPs on the street	11	0*	↓
 Contacts	1227	1214	↓
 Average contacts per shift - Early	22.1	23.3	↑
 Average contacts per shift - Late	19.5	21.1	↑
 Pairs of flip-flops	10	5	↓
 Bottles removed	249	206	↓
 People helped	19	20	↑
 Anti-social incidents	20	14	↓

\* no prayer recorded in reports

## 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 23rd April 2024 on zoom, and the next will be in April 2025. 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