



Eastleigh Borough Newsletter

Supported by:



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Welcome...

...to the second joint newsletter for all four Street Pastor areas in Eastleigh Borough.

In this newsletter there is news from each of the four groups as well as a contribution from a volunteer who has recently undertaken the training to be a Street Pastor. Much has happened since the last newsletter. We have seen continued economic problems with cut backs to budgets in many areas, rising unemployment especially amongst the young and also older workers, and last summer's riots. Yet God is working through his church. In Eastleigh Town in the week of the riots, as well as the Friday (when we had 7 Street Pastors out as opposed to the usual 4 or 5), patrols were carried out on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday night. Thankfully Eastleigh remained peaceful. However we had many conversations with people about the situation and spent time reassuring people. We know that the authorities were also grateful for our extra presence on the street, particularly the police who were attempting to carry out higher visibility policing while at the same time having officers called up to areas where trouble was taking place.

Mention of the police also gives an opportunity to thank the Hampshire Police Authority and Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership for recent gifts of funds to the schemes in Eastleigh Borough. These gifts are much appreciated and help us towards the cost of training, uniforms and administering the scheme.

Blessings,
Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator
Eastleigh Street
Pastors



The Class of 2011/12 Neil Hayes leads one of the training sessions

News from Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath

The past term has seen a number of changes for Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Street Pastors. Recently, some Street Pastors have stepped down for a season in order to commit to other things. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Neal and Naomi Hayes, Sam and Nicki Furmage, and Nick Blakely for their service and the energy and enthusiasm they brought to the teams! Due to this change, the teams going out each Friday evening have moved around slightly and some Street Pastors have joined new teams and have been getting to know new people within the larger group. We are hoping to extend the number of Street Pastors in the Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath area in the future in order to add to the existing team. If you are interested in this opportunity and would like to find out more, please contact fair oak@streetpastors.org.uk for more information.

Our School Pastor project continues to go from strength to strength. We now work with 4 of our local schools and are involved in running a wide range of programmes, including; morning and afternoon patrols, one to one mentoring, lunchtime drop-ins and learning

support. We have 18 volunteers aged 21-75, giving at least an hour a week to serve our schools and the community. We have had several visits from groups in other areas who are interested in running School Pastor projects. It has been encouraging to reflect on the progress we have made over the past two and a half years and share the vision of School Pastors more widely.

Amie Davis

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News from Hedge End

I've recently returned from a visit to the new Lifeboat Station at Bembridge. The crew there has been called out only 3 times since the beginning of January and 2 of those were false alarms. And like the Bembridge Boat we have had a quiet winter too. Mind you, our patrols don't cost £5,000 a time nor do we have to swim....much!

During the summer and autumn we were involved in assisting at an acci-

dent involving a teenager and a van in a car park in Hedge End. We also called police to a vehicle incident at Junction 7 on the M27 involving 2 foreign drivers.

The winter hasn't been entirely uneventful as we were able to assist police in finding 2 missing teenagers one dark, cold Friday evening in January. I must say we have been surprised how late some primary school age children have been allowed out after dark. We have escorted some home at 9pm on Friday nights.

Most of our Friday evenings are very peaceful and it's at those times that we have to remind ourselves that we are there for others and not for ourselves.

The teams have had a great response from offering hot chocolate during cold winter nights and that has also brought appreciative comments from parents in the wider community. Of course Fruit Pastilles are still our main conversation starter!

Our presence at the Botley Carols in the Square event in December was a good opportunity for us to make ourselves known to more of the local population. We are looking forward to this coming Jubilee and Olympic summer and

will try to get involved with some of the larger community parties.

I have found that being a Street Pastor has made me more aware of my community and caused me to be more concerned for its safety. For instance one of things the police ask is for us to remove glass from the streets. Bottles can be used as weapons and I often pick up any I see lying around and put them in a bin. I've also been heartened to read in one of our weekly reports about a Team Leader who found a confused elderly man wandering close to a busy road near to midnight one Saturday in February. He was able to keep the gentleman safe and call the Police to reunite him with his family. Street Pastors are never off duty it seems!

Frank Parker

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News from Chandler's Ford

Chandlers Ford Street Pastors have been out every Friday night during the winter, listening, caring and helping anyone that they come across. Whilst in the main the streets and parks have been quiet, the Street Pastors have all had good interactions with many young people out with their friends often just talking and being. Having said 'quiet' there have been nights when there were 50 youngsters all out at the skate ramps enjoying being together. The Street Pastors have been welcomed and been given demonstrations of Rap dancing, a skate board exhibition and generally had the pleasure of being chatted to by excited youngsters.

We have also had encounters with a number of adults, including two who had been made homeless and had pitched tents near Asda. The Street Pastors ensured that they visited them and offered help and support in their circumstance.

We've been encouraged by some really positive feedback from the ACSO's (Accredited Community Support Officers) who are amazed at how well the Street Pastors have

been accepted, commenting at how eager some of the youngsters are to talk to us.

Our greatest encouragement is the continuing devotion of our volunteer Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors, and also the pleasure in welcoming a further 5 new Street Pastors who have just completed their training and been commissioned. We are also on the look out for a new coordinator to replace Paul Smith who has recently had to resign this role due to a new exciting job opportunity. Thankfully he continues to serve as a Street Pastor.

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News from Eastleigh

We are thrilled in Eastleigh to welcome seven new trainees from the latest training course. This enables us to have seven teams so that for three Fridays out of four we can cover from 8.00pm through to 3.00am.

The recession is clearly hitting the night-time economy of Eastleigh with the recent closure of the Loft and the snooker club. Please pray for those that work in Eastleigh that the economy improves and the right new businesses start up in Eastleigh. Even with these closures we continue to find a ministry amongst those in the town late in the evening: diffusing volatile situations; keeping young women safe and ensuring they get home safely; providing flip-flops and lollies; deeper conversations with those in difficulties—there is always plenty that God gives us to do.



But, even when the streets are peaceful it is still good to be walking round our community and praying for the things we see and the people we meet.

Looking back on 2011 we had a presence on the street of nearly 800 person hours on the street and were backed by over 300 person hours of prayer. We had about 2,400 contacts with people. We gave out around 60 pairs of flip-flops, helped around 20 people in other practical ways, for example walking them home. There

were also around 15 situations of anti-social behaviour where we helped calm the situation.

But behind the statistics are people, and even if we had only helped one person that would be enough. In fact we have been encouraged recently to see two of the people we helped in some way come back and thank us and other local organisations that helped them. It is not often in Street Pastoring that you get the privilege of seeing the longer-term change in people's lives where we have played some part.

One area in which we would appreciate your prayers is for the management committee that oversees the work. Two experienced local ministers will be retiring in the next year and will stand down at the next AGM on 18th April 2012. We are very grateful to Rev Tony Parkinson and Rev Richard Davies for all they have contributed and we wish them both well in their retirements (Tony this summer and Richard at the end of the year).

We welcome Chief Insp. Andrew Houghton as Eastleigh & Romsey District Commander. Please continue to pray for the police and the local authority and the good job they do particularly in these difficult times.

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A View from the Training

by Penny Symington

About a dozen of us from several different churches and districts within the borough recently completed our training. The first thing to strike me was the sense of togetherness among the churches. Street Pastors is truly an inter-denominational organisation. The course comprises of 12 sessions each lasting 3-4 hrs. Each session is led by a specialist in that particular field. The insight and knowledge of these particular trainers would be difficult to match.

We have been to 7 different churches from 6 different denominations, receiving a warm welcome at each. This has given us an insight into where fellow Street Pastors are coming from and a greater awareness of the local area.

During the course we were encouraged to go out and observe the Street Pastors in action. I did this one Friday just before Christmas. On arrival at Wells Place we stocked up with lollipops, flip flops, water, etc. ready to hand out to those in need. We then had a cup of tea and a chat about where we were going to patrol. Before setting off we spent a few moments in prayer. While out we encountered a couple of youngsters helping an older man, who was none the better for drink, to get to the train station to catch his train home. We had a chat with a doorman of one of the local pubs who was concerned for one of their clients and wanted us to keep an eye on him. We met a couple of homeless men who asked if we knew where they could get some cardboard boxes,

it was a very cold night – following a phone call we managed to provide some duvets for them. After an hour we went back to Wells Place to warm up and get another cup of tea. Departing with prayer again we encountered the Police and briefed them on how our evening had gone – it was obvious that there is a good relationship between the Police and Street Pastors, both respecting the other. At the bus station we met a young mum with a baby waiting for a late night bus. We stayed with her until her bus arrived. We then encountered another man the worse for drink, collapsed on the pavement. A couple of his friends reassured us that they would take care of him. The main impression I got from my night of observation was the sense of community that exists on the streets at night, and how people tend to look out for each other – certainly among the regulars to nightlife. What was also very evident was the way in which the Street Pastors are seen to be a friendly presence on the streets. Many young people were coming up for a chat because they had spoken to a Street Pastor before.

While we were out on patrol there were people praying for us. If necessary we could have contacted them and had the reassurance of instant prayer support. If I had to pick some highlights from the course they would be:

Sharon and Eustace Constance from the Ascension Trust – Full of enthusiasm which bubbled over. They live and breathe Street Pastors and their passion was tangible.

Ian Hayes-Anderson with his accounts

of real situations, including saving the life of one young girl who had collapsed unconscious. Also, his encouragement to be a good role model for those we encounter.

PSL (Parent Support Link) – a group set up by mothers of drug addicts to support family and friends of drug users - Inspirational.

The STAR project – educating young people about the dangers of alcohol. The only project of its kind in Britain - doing some great work.

Neil Hayes – on the dedication, compassion and care of social workers in

challenging circumstances.

Sergeant Chris Spellerberg and his insight into the role of the police.

As well as preparing you for Street Pastoring the course broadens your knowledge about local issues and services and highlights the links between different agencies. It also shows just how much voluntary work goes on.

More than anything you get a sense of community and everyone working together. I am looking forward to being part of the team – both Street Pastors and in the wider sense.

The new training course starts 10 Nov 2012 — so what does it involve?

The course is split into 12 units, the first two being taken on the opening Saturday, which is a whole day. The sessions are held in local churches around Eastleigh Borough.

Some sessions involve mainly presentations from the front and discussion, others, such as basic first aid, are more interactive. The course is designed to help equip you to serve on the street but you may find it develops your confidence and gives you skills and knowledge applicable beyond the role of a Street Pastor. The subjects are shown on this page. Those that have attended the course found it enjoyable and challenging. Do go and talk to those who have trained to find out more.

You would be welcome to attend the Roles and Responsibilities day without any commitment to find out if being a Street Pastor may be for you.

If you wish to be Street Pastor we ask that you make every effort to attend as much of the training as possible. Each management committee has the final say as to whether someone graduates to be a Street Pastor,

depending on suitability and course attendance. You will also need to complete an application form and you may be interviewed by the management committee and/or co-ordinator. We will also ask for two references, one of which will be from your church minister.

Roles and Responsibilities 1 & 2

Listening and Counselling Skills

Social background awareness

Knowledge of key agencies

—the Police

—Prison

—Social Services

—Education

Mentoring

Basic First Aid

Alcohol awareness

Drugs awareness

Local community

Youth culture

The Good news

The 2012 Graduation Service at All Saints Eastleigh



Main Picture

The graduating volunteers

Top Picture

Dan Wilton, at 18 our youngest
Street Pastor, cuts the cake

Bottom picture

CI Andrew Houghton and Rev
Adrian Prior-Sankey, the
Ascension Trust representative
at the service

If you would like to know more, be a Prayer Pastor or you would like to train to be a Street Pastor please e-mail , text, or ring the area in which you wish to serve with your name, address and a phone number (details under the articles in this newsletter). Please also indicate that you are happy for any such information to be held on the coordinator's computer.

