



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 8
June 2013

E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk
www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

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

In March we came to the end of another joint training course with the other three areas in Eastleigh. Going through the training again I realise just what a great grounding in the issues of today that the course gives you. Also, just how lucky we are to have experienced knowledgeable people who are prepared to give their time to pass on that knowledge and experience - a big THANK YOU to them all. Although the training is quite time consuming, about 50 hours of time in total, I am sure you would find it of great use and interest, and not just on the streets on a Friday night. If you are considering becoming a street pastor, we will be running training again in the autumn, starting on 21 September, but there may always be chances to train in adjacent areas before then if you can't wait!

We give a big welcome to Ed, Tracey and Jan who graduated from the latest course and pray God's blessing on them as they serve Eastleigh. Thank you for volunteering.

I am also grateful to volunteers who carried out extra patrols on Halloween, Guy Fawkes, Christmas and New Year's Eve and the Saturdays before Christmas and New Year. Some of also took part in the Christmas parade and did a short patrol (more of a swim if you remember the weather!). We also provided stewarding for the Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Another thank you should go to the police and local authority for the faithful way they continue to serve the community. Please pray particularly for the new Safer Neighbourhoods team members, and in particular Melvin Hartley the new Community Safety and Emergency Planning Manager, and also for Simon Tribe the new head of Eastleigh and Romsey police.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Den Graydon and Steve Smallwood at the Eastleigh Christmas Parade

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between August and December 2012. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.



We saw two boys playing around with a shopping trolley. They quickly stopped when they saw us. We advised them to calm down before they broke the window.



Realising we were Christians she spoke proudly of her family being Catholic, how she wanted her baby to be christened and to marry the father. So this child had parents with the same name, a family! One of the friends called, come on, “no” she said “I’m having an important chat”. We could see a real determination and she expressed it the more she talked, “that’s what I am going to do”. It felt like she wanted to do these things but needed an incentive. I think she got the incentive right there and then. Amen.



We were surprised to see a baby rabbit running towards us on Blenheim Road being chased by a tortoiseshell and white cat. The cat gave up the chase but we don't know what happened to the rabbit.



At Leigh Rd/Mkt St Junction, spoke to 2 older teenage girls. One said she said she had a bottle of Vodka in her bag. We warned of the dangers excess alcohol can cause to the liver. She said she expected to

be dead by the age of 20. We said that her life was more valuable than that, and that God loved her very much. She told us not to preach and then asked a series of questions about faith.



Crossing the road by Tesco’s entrance a lad called out “Hello” he was on his own so we joined him. But no sooner had I sat down, when his friends appeared, so now they were about 8 of them. The biggest lad was quite off, not wanting to have anything to do with us, but as we kept talking he bit by bit softened up, to the point he was the most interested and really thanked us for listening. Wow. Praise the Lord.



We offered to pray for him. He explained that he didn’t believe but, if we were going to pray, we should pray for his wife. After we left him we stopped around the corner and prayed for him and his family.



The four of us set off together and met a drunk man by McDonalds, he fell over and had a small cut on his lip. We supported the man’s arms and helped him return to the Travelodge and up to his room.



We met up with two girls and four lads,. One, a black guy, said he was an atheist

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because Jesus was not black. He said we all come from monkeys and he didn't like the Bible. He ended up asking for a hug and went away happy with his mates.



Talked to a group of people including a man, who told us he was to go to Prison in October, he reeled of a list of crimes. He was very drunk, his companions were clearly looking out for him, 2 men and a girl in their late teens early twenties. We promised to pray for him which he appreciated.



Outside MacDonald's we talked to a teenage lad who said how he had punched a metal post in a moment of anger because of something said between him and his brothers, his metacarpal bone was probably broken as it was now clearly swollen. But due to his chivalry or the dozen cans of beer he had consumed, it wasn't bothering him. (until tomorrow!) We advised him to get it seen, he then thanked us for not calling the Police over who were near by, as he'd already seen them.



We met the rest of the team at the bus station with a girl who goes to Eastleigh College. She had missed her bus so we took her to the train station. once she gets to Southampton she could use her student bus pass to get home. She had £2.50 with her so we gave her £1.10 to get the train ticket which cost £3.60.



Wells Place: Met a group of teenagers on a bench seat; gave them lollies. Then a

friend called them over leaving just one young man. Spoke to him about work with computer games but currently works stacking shelves. We encouraged him to pursue his studies and take small attainable steps.



Walking in the High Street we were detained by four guys outside JKS Winebar, they wanted to know what we were about. On learning we were all Christians they couldn't cope, why why why they asked, it doesn't add up to anything. One said he did go to church some 10 years ago, and then started with the questions. If there really is a God then why this that and the other. Then, I have just one more question, which was followed by, I have just one more no two more questions. It certainly got their minds thinking, digging up all these questions. Amen.



There was a lone young woman sitting on the steps of the charity shop next to Iceland. She said she was OK. Another rather loud group were slowly trying to move up the road. One of the guys from this group began to bother the girl, we encouraged him to move on. She did not need or want further help. She was in control and not drunk.



We saw a girl, whose heel had got stuck in grating, sat on the ground a few yards from the Litten Tree. She was being helped by one of the doormen. We went over to see her, she seemed drunk. She took some

Flip Flops but declined any other help. We followed at a distance and saw her stagger and lean against a doorway. We then said that she needs help to get home, can she phone someone? She then phoned her friend who agreed to meet her at the Istanbul grill, we walked with her to the Istanbul.



Met lady with a group outside Stones. She asked for some fruit pastilles, and had been given some flip-flops by the SP in Winchester on a previous occasion. We gave her a packet of Love Hearts and then she proceeded to read the words on 3 sweets as she gave them back to each of us – a way of expressing her thanks!



We went off down the High St and met a young man who had served in Afghanistan. He wanted to talk to us so we just listened.



We met a group of lads who remembered one of us from when SPs had seen a fight a couple of months ago. We shared some thoughts on diffusing situations and not getting angry at others comments.



We met a couple wearing fancy dress. The girl was freezing and had no shoes on. So we offered her flip flops and a thermal blanket – she eagerly accepted the offer.



One young man said he was a Goth by lifestyle. He said he was banned from a

local church supposedly for wearing black and looking different. He talked about being called Satanic and doing a pentagram. It was a bit muddled. He said he was an atheist but liked to find out about other people's faiths. We had a good friendly conversation. They both respected other people's beliefs and thanked us.



One lad, said he wanted to give up smoking and drinking to get back into his sport. We encouraged him, although one of his friends didn't think it was a good idea. The lad appreciated our support.



Talked to two ladies, one suffered with OCD, she has the need to keep cleaning and bleaching. We were able to talk about her problem and therapies available.



We gave some water to a girl who was eating chips with a guy outside the Kebab house and said she was really thirsty.



We continue to give God praise for all the contacts and experiences He has given us. This comment from one of the reports also says something about why Street pastors is such a God given initiative: 'Interesting just how many people need to be out, even on a very wet night like tonight. It's like the town rather than a house is their home, the weather's irrelevant because there's so much more space outside and people to meet you wouldn't otherwise meet. '

GAMES PASTORS 2012

John 20:21 says: “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book” and I feel that trying to condense my 9 days experiences as a Games Pastor into one page (or possible two,) is an impossible task, even before I begin! But first let me say thank you for your encouragement and support while I was in London. I had a great time and I don’t know who was blessed more, the tourists or me.

Games Pastors, or shall I say GPs, were just part of the “More Than Gold” organisation which was helping Churches and Christians to serve as the Body of Christ during the Olympics & Paralympics. The GPs were drawn mainly from the Street Pastor network but our role was a lot different to the usual Friday or Saturday nights, though we followed similar procedures of going around in 2s or 3s. And one of the blessings was working with a handful of Christians from across London, and hearing their testimonies.

I was asked to serve in the City of London Team and roamed from St Paul’s Cathedral to Tower Bridge both north and south of the River Thames. I even got to see some of the Olympics on a Big Screen as part of a huge crowd in Potters Field beside Tower Bridge. I also saw part of the actual Men’s Marathon and the lasting memory is the sound of many Church bells, including St Pauls’, ringing joyously for what seemed like hours.

So what did we do? Well we chatted to many people, hundreds of them, well thousands if you consider that there were over 300 GPs, and the Lord certainly gave us divine appointments. I spent quite a lot



The City of London Games Pastor Team

of time at Fenchurch Street Station, and our best opportunities were with the temporary staff there for the Olympics. We were able to build relationships with them as well as with the Station Manager and the shop keepers on the concourses of Main-line Stations. On the streets we took lots of photos of tourists (on their cameras,) gave away pin badges of the Olympic Mascots, and I had taken a supply of sweet lollies to give away, and many other helps.

In one of the stations, a National Rail employee told me that a young member of staff had turned up for work even though his girlfriend had just died. He said that other members had told him that they should not be there and he had been told to go home. He then confided that he was the person, and that he was afraid to go to her funeral, and we were able to talk about that.

One afternoon I was walking along Lower Thames Street within sight of the Tower of London when I smelt gas. I stopped and looked at my Games Pastor Partner and we both said “Gas” together! So I dialled 999 and asked to be put through to the Gas Board thinking I would report a leak and a white van

Cont on page 7

Meet a Street Pastor! The eighth of our regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet **Veronika Davies**

Career: Nurse, Silversmith, teacher (computer programming, business, domestic science) , wife and mother.

Church: Roman Catholic churches in the Parish of St Swithun Wells

Tell us a little of your Christian story I was baptised into the Catholic church. When I was 3 years old I refused to eat my semolina. My young nanny said shall I tell you the most amazing story in the world and she told me the story of Jesus. I cried when I heard about his death and applauded when he rose again. Ever since Jesus has helped me through my life. [And Veronika has had an amazing life—if you meet her do ask about her life story]

How did you hear about Street Pastors?

I heard about Street Pastors when it was announced in church. I had not heard of the initiative before.

Why did you volunteer?

I wanted to give my time to the community of Eastleigh. As a retired person without much transport I thought it would be easier to serve as a member of a team ministry.

What did you enjoy most about the Training?

Meeting a lovely group of people . I have made a new social group of close friends and become a surrogate grandmother to one couple's daughter.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night?

Mostly the streets are quiet, or rather peaceful—we don't tend to use the Q word as it is not one the police like to use! However, occasionally they can be chaotic. There are normally lots of lovely people

enjoying themselves, but sometimes you meet people who are

out of their minds on drink, or very occasionally worse substances.

Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol

We came across a large group of youngsters who were spoiling for a fight. We spoke with them and calmed the situation and it ended with handshakes.

Has being a Street Pastor changed you?

Yes, I have become more understanding, tolerant and sympathetic. I didn't understand what being addicted meant—that it is an illness. From outside you just expect people to be able to change their ways.

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor?

No! We are covered with prayer and God has us in his hand.

And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you

Reliable and dependable, always aim to give 100 per cent in what ever I do.

Many thanks Veronika. Your love and kindness is much appreciated, as is your willingness to serve (Veronika has done many more shifts than scheduled for as she is always willing to help out when needed). Many times you have demonstrated Christian love while serving on the streets. If you have a question you want to ask e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



****NEW Training course****

Begins 21 September 2013

Full days (9.00am-4.00pm) Saturdays. 21 September and 9 November

Half days (9.00am-1.15pm) Saturdays. 28 September. 5, 12, 19, 26 October.
16, 23, 30 November.

Covering topics such as: Roles and responsibilities; knowledge of statutory authorities such as social services; education and police; issues around drugs and alcohol; listening, mentoring and counselling skills.

The course is free and skills and knowledge are transferable to many other situations—not just Street Pastoring.

see www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk/training for more details and an application form or email eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk.

man would come along to investigate. Within minutes 3 police cars, 2 fire appliances and 3 ambulances arrived on the scene. I showed the Police Officer where we could smell the gas and he agreed, and we tracked the source to be from the ventilation system of an adjoining office block. They soon had the area cordoned off -at that point I made a rapid exit, but nothing serious happened fortunately.

It was a great experience to be out into the City to be a witness during the Olympics. The Olympics have brought a great buzz to the streets of London and it was such a privilege to have been able to be a witness for Christ in this role. We pray for those Christians that we met that they may be encouraged in their walk with Christ and thankful for the encouragement they were to us. We also pray for all those we had conversations with and for the

many seeds God was sowing - some when we weren't even aware of them. We hope for many that the highlight of the 2012 Games would be coming to know Christ!

Thanks again for your prayers & support,
Howard



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 17 April 2013 and the next will be Spring 2014. If you would like to become a member please fill in the form below.



Get involved!

Please complete the Slip below and return it to:

Eastleigh Street Pastors

c/o Wells Place Centre

Wells Place

Eastleigh SO50 5LJ

Or e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



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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 Co-ordinator