



# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

...to the third Eastleigh Street Pastor's newsletter.

It is hard to believe that it is just over a year since a few of us gathered together in the Eastleigh Salvation Army Citadel to formally constitute Eastleigh Street Pastors. The 7 April sees the first Annual General Meeting and a chance to look back on God's goodness to us.



It also marks a new phase for Eastleigh Street pastors as six new trainees join those who trained last year. This has enabled us to cover later into the evening for two weeks out of four. Although the Flava nightclub has closed, Eastleigh's night time economy continues into the early hours, with the Litten Tree serving until 2.00am and then food outlets operating later still.



The new Street Pastors will be commissioned on 23 April with the service at 7.00pm at St Andrew's Methodist Church.

This newsletter contains: more tales from the streets; an article by a local journalist who came out with one of the teams; the chance to meet another Street Pastor; and, news of exciting developments in the wider region. I hope you find it an enjoyable read.

I, and the management committee, are so grateful to all who have supported the project—but particularly to the volunteer Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors. But most of all we give God the glory!

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood

Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors

## Stories from the Street

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



...a very cold night and the pavements were icy and slippery in places, ...Despite the icy pavements some girls still managed to come out in their heels, amazing, and some brave lads still managed to come out in shirts, with no coats



It was difficult to see as it was quite dark on the green so we approached 3 figures with caution. Turned out to be snowmen. Oh well!



Came across a car with the petrol cap hanging off. Rang CCTV who called the Police over.



A drunken man was propped up against street furniture eating kebab. We said good evening. He immediately engaged although initially appeared to be making unintelligible noises. He picked up on the fact we were from local churches and wanted to ask us what we believed. He said he had read the bible in prison and loved God. But he thought Jesus was just

God's tool. We had a long discussion. We explained as best we could who Jesus is and what he means to us. Although his manner was variable and he repeated a lot of what he was saying we got to a point where he agreed that it was what was in your head and heart that mattered and he shook my hand.



Spoke to three men who described themselves as the 'Last of the Summer Wine'; they were returning from a night out in Winchester.



Spoke to man whose relationship had broken down in the last year, He explained that the situation was making him depressed and that he now had nothing to live for. He wanted to know what he should do. He had an Anglican background so we provided him with details of how to contact a local vicar and encouraged him to come along on a Sunday morning. After he left we prayed for him.



We talked to a lad near MacDonald's, discussing Faith, Science, Creation and Physics. He said he was very appreciative of Street Pastors contribution to the commu-

*a girl called out  
"I love you guys"*

nity. We broke away, on passing MacDonald's a girl called out "I love you guys" the lad with her came over for sweets.



...approached a group of teenagers in Lawn Rd, and they legged it, probably thought we were police !



Saw a couple arguing...so we walked with them a while and they seemed to calm down a bit towards each other.



She was wearing high heels, and we offered her flip flops, but she kept declining, three or four times, in the end I asked the lad to give them to her, and she accepted them from him.



A drunken man stopped us and said he did not believe in religion, he believed in humanity. He said he had sent a big donation to the Haiti fund, and he believed in helping people, he also enjoyed telling us his thoughts, lots of hand shakes, and a kiss on the cheek..... ugh, didn't see it coming.



We walked over to the rec. Three lads came running out of the play area and immediately asked for lollies. They then ran off as they had seen the other SP team to get sweets from them too.



Spoke to two women in their 30s who were talking to the Police: one was very drunk and falling over. The Police asked us to keep an eye on them and call them if we needed any help. We helped the woman up and got her to the Chinese take-away so that she could eat something.



Spoke to a man whose sister had died. Clearly he had loved his sister very much, but had been holding back his heart from sharing with anyone, I think seeing the name on our jackets prompted him to speak.



...We talked about caring for each other, and I mentioned that we had come across groups of people drinking in the past, and it seems that when one of the group is to drunk and falling over, the others walked off, and left them to fend for themselves. A couple of the youths seemed a bit disturbed at the thought of being deserted by friends.

*We give God praise for all the contacts and experiences He has given us. We also found one man almost unconscious through drink lying on the Rec ground. Praise God we found him when we did.*

*We continue to have many positive reactions from the community of Eastleigh. We have also seen so many needs—there is so much more that could be done!*

# A Night on the Town

January 9, 2010

*The following article is by journalist Stephen Slominski and is reproduced by kind permission. It can be found on the web site [www.eastleighnews.co.uk](http://www.eastleighnews.co.uk).*



Yesterday night, one of the coldest of the year, a small group of local church goers prepare to walk Eastleigh's frozen

streets in order to help or talk to anyone who might come their way.

They are the 'Street Pastors' and they have been doing so every Friday night since July. It has been claimed that their presence on the streets of Fair Oak has resulted in a 20% decrease in incidents of crime & disorder.

I have been invited by coordinator Steve Smallwood to see them in action for myself.

My companions for the night are from different backgrounds and denominations. Howard is a structural engineer, Alan is retired and Eric is a support worker. They insist they are not on a mission to preach or proselytise and tell me they have been motivated by their faith to volunteer to serve the community.

As we prepare to set out the pastors pack their equipment. It's possible we may find casualties tonight with people suffering

from the effects of the cold or a fall, so they take a first aid kit and a phone that connects them directly to the Emergency Services.

They also pack some sweets to give out to youngsters as an 'Ice breaker' and oddly enough, pairs of flip-flops.

It was explained that after a night out in high heels, some women would slip them off and try to walk home barefooted. The thought of anyone attempting to do so tonight causes me to shiver. It's almost -10 out there!

As we walk along, the pastors acknowledge every passerby with a smile and a greeting. Some hurry on, others stop to chat. We stop to talk to people working on the pub doors and in the takeaways. All of them seem to appreciate someone taking an interest in their welfare. A doorman reveals how he commutes daily from Chichester to work at the town's new bowling alley.

Our route takes us through snowy, deserted car parks, playgrounds and service roads. All the while the pastors are looking out for people who may be experiencing a crisis in their lives and are in need of a sympathetic ear or rough sleepers who are just passing through, but may need more practical assistance in the cold weather.

In a service road they stop and point out an area where they say teenagers regularly gather to share booze. While there we are

hailed by supermarket shift workers who are unloading a lorry. One tells us how he has seen drunken girls as young as 14 urinating in the vicinity.

“It’s disgusting” he says. “I’ve got a 17 year old daughter, she doesn’t do things like that.”

As we move on we approached by three youths who politely ask if we have any sweets. As they move off one appears to be drinking from a beer can.

A pastor shakes his head “He won’t get very far with that, the Police will stop him and pour it away.”

Although the town is quiet there are still plenty of people around determined to make a night of it – despite the arctic weather. Dozens of young people are milling around the Town centre dressed in little more than party wear. Youths in short sleeve shirts escort mini-skirted girls, some bare-legged and in flat sole pumps.

In order to look cool in Eastleigh these days, it seems you have to be absolutely freezing.

The behaviour is boisterous but good natured. Its noticeable how many people begin to moderate their language as we approach. This was particularly true of the groups of shivering smokers standing outside the pubs whose conversation would become respectful, almost...reverential.

“Are you here to take us home when



Street Pastors talking to door staff outside the Wagon Works public house

we’ve had too much to drink?’ asks a young man genially

“Yes” adds another “and they don’t even get paid! “

All seemed appreciative of the Pastors, if a little confused as to their purpose.

Suddenly there is a shriek of ‘sweeties!’ as a party of teenage girls spot us and attempt to run along the glassy pavement “Don’t run!” Alan warns. The teens pay no heed and resemble discombobulated toddlers as they wobble and slide towards us to claim their prize.

As the sweets are handed round the girls are reminded not to drop the wrappers. Most do not. One girl defiantly throws down her wrapper and moves on.

‘That’s OK, I don’t mind picking it up for you’ Calls out a pastor as he retrieves the discarded wrapping.

A few minutes later the girl comes back and apologises. (cont page 7)

**Meet a Street Pastor!** The third of our regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet **Alan Shepherd**.



**Occupation:** Retired

**Church:** St. Andrews Methodist Church

**Tell us a little of your Christian story**

Church connection was made through the Boys Brigade - made a member of the Methodist Church during my teens. I joined the RAF when 18 and through a Christian Fellowship at Colerne Air Force Camp made my commitment to Jesus and was baptised by full emersion shortly afterwards.

**How did you hear about Street Pastors?**

Through the notices at Church and by a fellow Street Pastor, Eric Hyom.

**Why did you volunteer?** I Wanted to reach out into the community and share God's love in a practical way, and be part of the ecumenical team

**What did you enjoy most about the Training?** All the training was good and thorough - with interaction - role plays - video clips- demonstrations, for example First Aid, - and a wide range of topics - a lot to take in - enjoyed the jokes!

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

relatively quiet and peaceful and mostly people accept us and are happy to share in general conversations.

**Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol** A young lad we were able to help, who's sister had recently died. This had a big impact on his life and made him think of spiritual things, and he wanted to find a church in the area where he lived.

**Has being a Street Pastor changed you?**

YES. a better understanding of sharing with others from young people to the more mature.

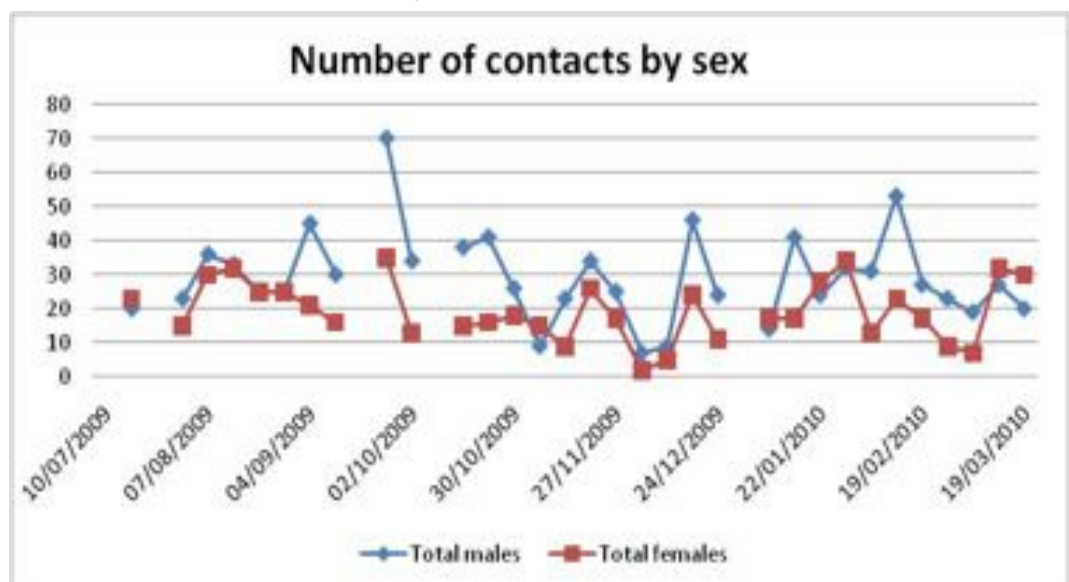
**And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you** *Funny*, but also *serious*: an *encourager* - sometimes *impulsive*, but also *cautious*

*Many thanks Alan—do you have a question you would like to ask a street pastor? e-mail [Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)*

## Over 1,500 Contacts made!

The chart shows contacts by sex since we began.

Note: Blank weeks missing data except 1 Jan 2010 when there was no patrol



“It’s only a small thing I know” Eric explains back at base over a warming cup of tea. ‘But maybe next time she’ll think again before she drops something in the street. It’s all about encouraging young people to take responsibility for their own actions’

Howard agrees “We sometimes come across a group of young people where perhaps one may have become incapable through drink. We will offer to help get that person home or phone a parent at which point we often find that a couple of youngsters will step forward and offer to take control.”

“Of course,” he added “We won’t leave until we are confident that they are able to return that person home safely.”

Although Police Officers would not con-

template walking the night streets without a stab proof vest and baton for protection – the pastors seem happy to rely on their faith alone.

But are things really that safe?

“Has there ever been any violence towards the pastors?” I wondered.

No, they reply. Some people can be aggressive at first but then quickly calm down although Eric was once pushed and jostled by a particularly angry young man.

Later it transpired the man had been having an awful time having lost a parent to cancer and was unable to come to terms with the loss.

“Often,” observed Eric “It’s the angriest ones that need the most help”.

## **News from around the region** by *Steve Smallwood*

A new training course has recently begun in the area. Although put together by Fair Oak and Horton Heath Street Pastors, and containing some new trainees from there, the course is also for two new Street Pastors Areas - Hedge End/West End and Chandler’s Ford. There is also one new trainee for Eastleigh attending and the six people who have almost completed the Eastleigh course are attending a couple of the sessions to save local trainers having to give separate sessions. It was a joy to attend and facilitate one of the sessions on this course and the idea of running joint training across the area is one that will be pursued in the future by the local co-ordinators. It is both much more efficient, but also much more encouraging to train in a larger group. There will be a joint graduation service on **Saturday 26 June at 11.00am** - speaker Eustace Constance from Ascension Trust - at Chandler’s Ford Methodist Church.

We wish the two new areas well as they prepare. Please pray particularly for those that have come forward as co-ordinators and also for all those training.

## 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. The first Annual general meeting will be on 7 April 2010. 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](mailto:Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)



.....  
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