



**Eastleigh**

# Newsletter

Edition 5  
March 2011

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[www.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.streetpastors.org.uk)

## Welcome!

...to the fifth Eastleigh Street Pastor's newsletter. The 2nd April sees the second joint graduation service for Street pastors from the four areas operating in the borough of Eastleigh. Eastleigh have four people graduating. It is great to see people come forward to serve the community in this way. A further course will be run later this year and if you are interested please contact me by e-mail or use the return slip at the end of this newsletter.

Since the last newsletter regular patrols have continued. A particular highlight was having a team out on new year's eve, which was much appreciated by the local police. It has also been great to get to know Paul Bartolomeo, who took over Eastleigh police from Diana Boyles. On the latest training course he, and a colleague, delivered an excellent training session on the local police and we are very appreciative of receiving a further substantial gift from the police to help with our costs.

We also held our first Eastleigh prayer walk at the end of October (see pictures). The leaflet for the walk is on our website, so maybe you and your friends would like to follow the prayer walk. We hope to organise another one in a few months.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood,

Co-ordinator  
Eastleigh Street  
Pastors



Prayer walkers set off from Wells Place. Praying at Grantham Green (inset)

## Stories from the Street

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



We were asked by an older man (50s) with a younger man 30s whether we had (as Pastas) any spaghetti bolognaise! We had a short chat and they appreciated what we did.



Spoke with a woman who was waiting with, two small children, her daughter who was performing at The Point. She was very interested to hear about SPs and wanted to know why there weren't any in Winchester where she lived . [\[Note Winchester Street Pastors have been formed and training will start on 9 April!\]](#)



A woman was walking near the playground with two large dogs when the dogs started to fight. The lady started to scream as the dogs started to bite each other's necks. As the woman was now very distressed, one of us stepped in to help by taking hold of one of the leads and attempting to pull the dog away. Eventually the dogs were separated and one of us held on to one dog whilst the owner took the other dog home. The woman returned and was very grateful for the help that we'd given.



Met four teenagers. After we'd talked about SPs, one of the men wanted to talk about God and why he didn't believe in him. His girlfriend was trying to explain why she believed in God. We left them to their discussion.



Met a man whose father was just out of an operation, the father had cancer all over his body, and has about three weeks to live. The man said God is a load of rubbish, we did not want to preach, but listened, we said we would pray for the man, and his mother and father.



Met up with fellow SPs by the Chamberlayne Pub, they were going to walk a girl home, she had just lost her phone. We did try ringing her number, but no reply. A lad appeared whom she knew, and he volunteered to walk home with her, the girl was happy to go, and thanked us for caring.



Chatted to two couples sitting on the wall by the Railway Man statue, one of the men was desperate for a drink of water, and was so thankful when we were able to oblige. Also gave out some sweets and flip flops to a lady who had spent £130 on high heel boots that were so uncomfortable to wear.

***The woman returned and was very grateful for the help that we'd given.***

We then came across a group of 3 very drunk friends. 2 girls one boy heading for a train to Winchester. The girl wanted to know about us and as she was struggling to stand up we went with them towards the train station. One SP was ahead with the group encouraging them to walk on the pavement rather than the middle of the road. Outside of the bank they all fell over each other in the road. SP had to warn the traffic.



Back of High Street to Market St, met a man and woman shouting at each other by Poundland, a couple of ladies were following them and also shouting. We managed to talk to one of the following ladies, who walked back to us and asked for a hug, she seemed to calm down after.



We went back passed the Bus station and spotted a woman hobbling to a seat we went over and talked to her. Her leg was not healing now 18 months on from falling. She asked about us and what churches we were from. We then asked if we could pray for her leg she said I've got to go now but yes do pray, she got into a taxi to go home, we prayed for her before we moved on.



Returned to find the younger woman complaining of having been spat upon. We insisted on walking both women home. The woman said she had just emerged from a long abusive relationship. She expressed an interest in church and we told her about the Messy Church at the Methodists. We said they were special & loved

by God.



Met a guy who was coherent but drunk and unsteady – he was trying to find his way to a local guest house and was heading in the wrong direction. We walked him to the guesthouse. He was in Eastleigh for a wedding.



Walked back across Leigh road. Lots of kissing couples (maybe there is something in it being a full moon!). Walked down past Superdrug a young man and women were kissing quite passionately - we asked if they were OK and the man turned to us and said he was so close to the window as he was just trying to read the opening times (we thought it was the first time we had heard it called that!).



Spoke to group of teenagers at the bottom of the stairs who were about to go home. One of them asked if he could borrow a mobile to phone his friend who was coming to pick him up. We lent him the SP phone. We spoke to the group for about 10 minutes as they wanted to know who we were and why we were out so late at night.



We walked down Market Street, and saw three men sweeping up glass from the pavement, the upstairs window had been smashed, we helped them sweep up with our dustpan and brush

*We continue to give God praise for all the contacts and experiences He has given us.*

## **Building relationships**

### ***God takes the little things we do.***

#### **A story from a Street Pastor**

I was driving home about 10.30 pm, when 3 youths shouted out my name, I stopped the car and went to see what they wanted. They needed a lift up to Chandlers Ford, so I volunteered to take them. The following day I noticed that one of the lads had left his bag in my car; after making a couple of phone calls I managed to find his address.

His mum answered the door, and I asked if her son was in, she looked at me and asked, are you Eric the Street Pastor? When I confirmed this she replied, that her son often spoke good things about me. It was a blessing to be able to say to her, that I had been really encouraged in the changes I had seen in her son, over the last year.

The first time I had met the lad was about a year ago, with Alan Howarth who was on his first night out with Street Pastors. We came across this group of lads who were threatening and challenging, they said, what would we do if they beat us up, what would we do if they injected drugs?

We said, there is nothing we can do.

We gave out sweets, they grabbed handfuls and they threw the wrappers on the ground, we just picked the wrappers up.

We bumped into them several times over the coming months, and started to see little changes, they became more civil towards us, they shared out the sweets, they put the wrappers in the bin, they shook our hands.

One of the lads threw a bottle, and it smashed over the pavement, we were not able to speak with them at the time, as they had run off. Apologies were offered at a later date for the bottle throwing. I was out with Veronika one evening, and the lad took a handful of sweets from us, he said he could be a Street Pastor; he subsequently walked along with us giving out sweets to passers by.

If the lads saw me in town during the day, they would often come over and talk to me, they often shook my hand.

I am often reminded of our training when Ian Hayes Anderson said, 'you will never look into the eyes of anyone who does not matter to God' it seems so rewarding when you search for the good that exists in people.

We do the little things and we give thanks for all the big changes that can only happen through the power of God working through the spirit.

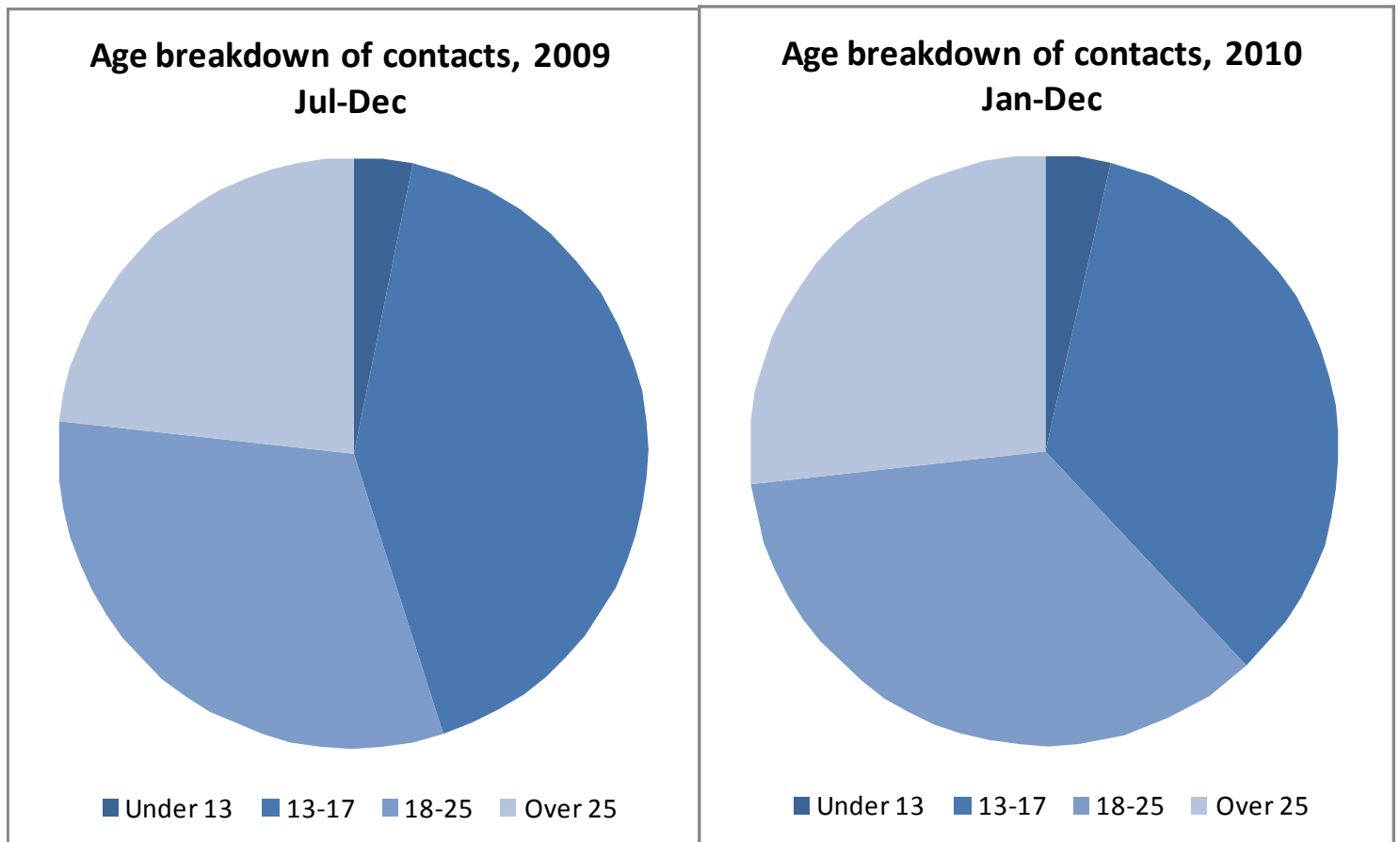
Eric (Eastleigh Street Pastors)

## Some Statistics on 2010

Each week a simple record is kept of the time spent on the street and the number of people with whom we've come into contact. Contact can be wide ranging from a 30 second exchange of greetings to a conversation of an hour, however week by week this gives a picture of our work. In 2010 there were over 2,300 contacts made. Some of these will be the same people seen week by week but many are unique. What other church initiative brings so many people into contact with Christians?

The teams spent almost 700 person hours on the streets, although the volunteer time is even greater as that does not include prayer, breaks during shifts and writing up notebooks, nor the dedicated work of the team leaders writing the reports. That time also does not include the dedicated team of prayer pastors, to whom all the Street Pastors are extremely grateful. Around 270 person hours of prayer have been spent at the church, but that does not include the many who pray at home for us.

This year we started doing late nights and as part of this we have started carrying flip-flops. A running total of how many we've given out has not been kept but it must run to around 50 pairs. The late nights have also slightly changed the age profile of those we see, increasing the numbers 18 and over—see comparison below between 2009 (part year) and 2010.





**Meet a Street Pastor!** The fifth of our regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet Corrina Bishop

**Occupation:** Community paediatric physiotherapist and mother

**Church:** Eastleigh Baptist Church

**Tell us a little of your Christian story** I was born in the UK and spent part of my early childhood in Dubai, a far cry from the Dubai of today! Basically a town in the desert. We attended church though out my childhood but it wasn't until I went to University in Manchester that I made my own decision to follow Jesus.

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

Whilst in Manchester there were various street projects taking place and whispers of a far greater idea for reaching the streets throughout England.

I came to Southampton initially attending Highfield church before getting married and moving to Eastleigh. I would occasionally read an article, hear something on the radio or TV about these 'Street Pastors' .

**Why did you volunteer?** Each time I heard about Street Pastors I would think 'I am going to do that one day' . For that reason when it was mentioned at church for the first time I could not sign up fast enough! Being pregnant was not going to stop me!

**What is being a Street pastor Like?**

Being a Street Pastor has been very wet and cold at times but has also been a wonderful, exciting and real opportunity to be salt and light on the streets of Eastleigh.

The words of my favourite hymn are;

'Freely ,freely you have received,  
Freely, freely give.

Go in my name and because you believed,  
others will know that I live.'



Being a Street Pastor is a chance to Go out in the name of Jesus and physically give some love back onto the streets. Some nights you do come back feeling a little sad about things but always glad you were there for God to use.

I have come to the conclusion that when all the exterior factors are indicating that it will be Q night (you are not allowed to say the word 'quiet' to the police!), for example, cold, wet, end of the month, or good night for TV . then it will be madly busy out on the streets. You can just never predict it. I have become known for my tour of Eastleigh's car parks and for possibly making a little too much noise on the zip wire on Grantham Green! But that's another story- I took the blame when the police arrived! Whoops!

Ultimately, I am just a person going for a walk on a Friday night armed with a fabulous committed prayer team , Jesus and a packet of lollypops!

Fancy a stroll?

*Many thanks Corrina—the love and care you show on the Streets is great. Do you have a question you would like to ask a street pastor?*

*e-mail [Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)*



# Street Pastor Graduation Ceremony

April 2nd 2011, 11.00am  
St Lukes Church, Shamblehurst Lane South,  
Hedge End, SO30 2US

Ascension Trust speaker: Rev Les Isaac

All welcome

## EASTLEIGH STREET PASTORS

Annual general meeting  
and prayer meeting

April 13th 2011 8pm-9pm

Salvation Army Eastleigh

### Another Volunteer Opportunity

Would you like to volunteer to help at the new Eastleigh Borough ENERGY Youth Centre, 79 Leigh Road, Eastleigh? Ideally volunteers should like teenagers and not be upset by noise and occasional bad language. They ask volunteers to work alongside trained Youth Workers to help deliver Youth Work sessions and building positive relationships with young people, plus helping

set up and clear up, run tuck shop area help with sign in register, and general policing of the building. On site training will be given plus the opportunity to access appropriate HCC children's services training if you so wished.

Please contact Steve Smallwood (e-mail [Stevewsmallwood@aol.com](mailto:Stevewsmallwood@aol.com)) for more details and an application form. You will also need to undergo a CRB check by the Council.

## 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 next Annual general meeting is on April 2011. 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)



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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