



***Eastleigh***

# Newsletter

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## Welcome!

...to the sixth Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter. It has been a while since there has been a newsletter for Eastleigh, although I hope you all enjoyed the borough newsletter produced in July, hopefully there will be a new one of those early in the new year.

The new training course commenced on 12 November, and of the 17 people involved seven are training with a view to joining Eastleigh patrols. Please do pray for them, the training is quite a commitment. It is great to have more people involved and this hopefully will allow us to do one more late night and strengthen existing teams. There is a real need to help people and keep people safe between midnight and 3am in our town. Another prayer need is for the Rev Tony Parkinson, chair of the management committee who is unwell and likely to be out of action for a while—please pray for him and for the management committee as a whole as we share the responsibilities and in the longer term for new management committee members to be identified. This newsletter includes all the usual features, stories from the street and meet a street pastor as well as a piece by a local councillor and a short article on various events since the last newsletter. I hope it keeps you informed of the project.

Blessings, Steve Smallwood, Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Trainees with Eustace and Sharon Constance at the new training 12 November 2011

## Stories from the Street

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



We took him to MacDonalds for a meal and some coffee. We stayed in MacDonalds for a while as he had his meal and we chatted with him. He said this was the first warm meal today.



Outside the Litten Tree two guys were wrestling on the ground, they seemed to be mates, but one of them was angry. We offered lollies, and this seemed to help a little, we noticed that a couple of girls seemed to know them, and we asked for their moral support also.



A couple asked us which church we were from, and we were able to say that the SPs out tonight were from four different churches, this seemed to surprise them. He asked who was in charge, and one of us replied God.



Approached by exuberant young man who wanted sweets, quite drunk, he grabbed one of our Pastors in a bear hug. Police told him to put her down!



Lots of people outside Litten Tree and there seemed to be a commotion. Seemed to be an argument between two groups of lads. We stood and observed and prayed as it was difficult to work out where to intervene. About 6 doormen from the Litten Tree stepped into the group and quickly dispersed them.



We reached Tesco's where about 10 teenager girls were talking, some surrounded us saying 'who are you'? Realising we were non threatening, they called their friends over, were all ears and very open, about 20 mins later they were so enthusiastic they hugged us before moving on.



Met 3 teenaged girls and 3 lads who asked for sweets. One of the lads was having a bet that he wouldn't talk until the following morning so, he asked for sweets by miming.



A lady talked to us about how she met SP's in Southampton who prayed for her and her 2 sons. She said she doesn't have a religion as such, wasn't Christened, but believes in a higher power. She asked for a group hug and we offered her a gospel leaflet which she was happy to take.



***They mentioned that one of the SP's had gone down the zip wire with them.***

At Bus Station met young lady (20ish) who had been to the Cinema. 4 young men in early 20s ask for directions , and eyed the woman up, so being concerned for her safety we hung around for about ten minutes.



One of the lads saw a shopping trolley and brought it over to the group. He was going to push someone around in it, but we said we would take it back to the shop, so they let us take it away.



Chatted to a group of 4 girls, year 9-12 teenagers, sitting in the shelter. The same group that had been seen by Street Pastor's last week. They mentioned that one of the SP's had gone down the zip wire with them.



Back into the town and down Market St heading towards base two Police asked us if we would walk this mid twenties girl to her home at the bottom of Desborough road, this we did.



She was also celebrating her 17 yr old son, who is training to be electrician, getting a Sunday job. She was a single mum just bursting with pride and thanked us for listening.



A very drunk young man came over to talk to us and we spoke for about 45 mins. He wanted to know what SPs do and we explained what we do and how we help people. He explained that his Nan had nearly

died and that he'd prayed for her. We got him to call his mum to come and to ask her to come and collect him. We walked him to the Swan Leisure Centre and his Mum arrived about 20 mins later and thanked us for looking after him.



Walked back, passing other team talking to three lads, and were called over by older man outside local pub. They wanted us to come in and look at the hand of a guy who had punched a wall. Hand shape clearly suggested a break. We said to elevate the injury and to get him taken to A&E. The injured man seemed drunk and was still drinking a beer! There were 4 or 5 older people we spoke to in the incident, including the manager of the pub. They were grateful for our help and advice and we said we would pray for the man.



Met a group of 10-15 teenagers in the play area. On approaching one of them told us that we weren't wanted; until one of the others spotted we were SPs and asked for a lolly. The lad, who told us we were unwanted, was too cool to ask him himself so he got someone else to ask for a lolly for him.



People beginning to go home with one guy calling out that he loved us. We said we loved him too but he maintained he loved us more!



We stopped off at the pub to ask about the guy from last month who had

punched a wall. He had dislocated, rather than broken bones in his hand. They had been reset and he had plaster on for a while but he was doing well.



We gave out sweets and picked up broken glass from a bottle smashed near one of the gates into the play area. All the youngsters helped pick up litter and some glass.



Saw a man being sick against the wall. So, we offered water and some tissues to his friend. Whilst we were talking to his friend the man being sick shouted "Are they Street Pastors?". After we confirmed that we were, he returned to his vomiting. We didn't offer him a lolly!



We met a woman who appeared very agitated whilst talking on the phone. When she finished we asked if we could help. She explained that she was lost and wanted to get to her home in Derby Rd. We offered to walk her home however, when we reached the corner of Wells Place, she recognised McDonalds and said that she now knew where she was and could find her way home.



Then we started to move off but one of the fair ride operators said hi. He then started (without us barely saying anything) telling us about his `struggling with life` girlfriend who was in London where they lived with their 10 month old child (she had just sent him a text while we were there). I felt this may have been the first

time he had shared this, he just didn't know how to help from so far away. We prayed for him.



A girl by the Litten said she loved SPs, and we met a man who asked if we were with the police. When we said no, he then said so you are like Dominos without the pizza.



CCTV thanked team for actions at Istanbul Grill – they thought it was all going to kick off. We thanked them for watching over us and hoped the rest of the night would be peaceful.



As we came back through the bus station a teenaged girl asked for our help. She told us that she'd fallen out with her mum and had been living with a friend She hadn't eaten and she could no longer stay with her friend. She wanted to go home but didn't know if anyone was home. We offered her our phone and, as she didn't know her mum's number, she called her brother but he wouldn't tell her anything. At this point the other SPs phoned and we briefly explained the situation and the told us they'd pray for us. We suggested she phone her brother again and ask him for her mum's number. After much persuasion he gave her the number. As she phoned her mum, her bus arrived. Her mum agreed that she could come home so she boarded the bus.



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

# Riot Reassurance, Halloween Happiness and Refreshment

This summer saw some awful scenes on the streets of our country. The riots took place during carnival week in Eastleigh. As a response to the situation Street Pastors in Eastleigh volunteered to do extra patrols. So 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.

For the first time we also had volunteers out on Halloween which, whether we like it or not, has increasingly become an event in this country. Again we were there to reassure and ensure safety for all. This patrol was well received, although if we do it next year we think we need to start c6.00pm rather than 7.30pm.

The start of October saw a mini heatwave and the first ever Eastleigh Borough refresher morning for volunteers. Around 65 Street Pastors from across Eastleigh borough met for fellowship and learning on Saturday 1 October at St Thomas's Fair Oak. We were reminded of some of the principles of street pastors, considered how we can best use peaceful nights and there was a question and answer session with the co-ordinators. However, for many the best thing was an impromptu simple communion service we held as part of the morning. The feedback from the event was very positive and it was so encouraging to see just how many people are involved across the borough.



Street Pastors for across Eastleigh Borough at the refresher training session on 1 October 2011

## EASTLEIGH STREET PASTORS

Annual general meeting and prayer meeting -come and hear what God is doing and support the work of Street Pastors April 18th 2012 8pm-9pm then refreshments

Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church Eastleigh, All welcome

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



**Church:** All Saints Church of England  
**Tell us a little of your Christian story** My Christian story began in 1992 when I attended a Billy Graham Mission beamed to Andover by Satellite. At the end of the presentation by Billy Graham, I was convicted of the need to come forward and commit myself to the Lord Jesus Christ. A member of Andover Baptist Church appeared by my side, and from that moment my journey on the Christian way began, the Lord showed his love for me through the friendship and fellowship I experienced during my journey to membership in Andover Baptist Church. I feel truly blessed and privileged to have been a part of the fellowship at Andover and I still think of my friends there with affection and thankfulness. **How did you hear about Street Pastors?** Eric (Hyom—who helped set up Street pastors in Eastleigh) came to All Saints and spoke about Street Pastors.

**Why did you volunteer?** I had been thinking and praying for some time about the need out there and how we could go forth and meet it. I was convinced that as Christians we should be interacting with the people who need the love of God outside our cosy Church environment rather than walling ourselves in our cosy Churches.

**What did you enjoy most about the Training?** The example of Christians working together regardless of creed to meet an urgent need. **What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night?** It can range from verging on riot to completely quiet. Since working as a Street Pastor I have been struck by the way that women conduct themselves when drunk and I

have seen them at the heart of some of the troubles we have experienced, in fact the impact of binge drinking and the effect it has on people has been an eye opener. **Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol** A surprising aspect of our work is the respect and affection for Street Pastors that people have displayed. When I was involved in one particular incident which was moving towards threatening my personal safety, people involved in the incident rounded on the individual concerned and said "do not even think about hurting our Street Pastor", and he immediately stopped his threatening behaviour and we successfully calmed the situation. **Has being a Street Pastor changed you?** It has increased my faith and trust in God in a big way. When we are out I am always conscious of the Holy Spirit working in me to meet the needs of any situation we may become involved in and I know that God will always provide the words and guidance we need. **Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor?** I do have fears, particularly when we first started and the biggest one is not being able to meet the needs of individuals we meet, to do or say the right thing that will help in the situation concerned. **And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you** I am a seeker **after the truth and the Way.** *Many thanks Alan, your wisdom and life experience are invaluable to us. If you have a question you want to ask e-mail [Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)*

# Street Pastor Graduation Ceremony

3rd March 2012, 11.00am

Venue: All Saints Church of England (to be confirmed)

Ascension Trust speaker: to be announced

All welcome



## A message from Councillor Chris Thomas

Well Christmas is almost here, the town is bright and sparkly and the thoughts of many of us turn to Christmas and its meaning. It is a celebration after all. Meanwhile, it is also a time of reflection of what has happened in the last year.

I have met up, during Friday evenings, with many of the street pastors. I have seen them meet with local residents of all ages who are in town. I am glad to say that generally issues in the town have reduced significantly. The town is a safe place to visit and enjoy the evening economy which has grown with the development of the leisure complex as part of the Swan Centre and I put this down to the activities of the Street Pastors and the Police.

On one occasion I was able to help in my own small way with a case that was brought to me by the pastors on duty one evening of a young lady who had been the victim of domestic abuse. I am glad to report that the young lady in question is now rehoused and is bringing her life back into perspective. I am sure we all wish her well.

Sadly, the general economy is getting worse for reasons that are outside anyone's control, however, the town has continued to thrive with a below average number of empty shops and above average footfall. You can all help here by shopping locally. Supporting local traders keeps the shops open and people employed. Eastleigh is a thriving local shopping experience let us all try and keep it that way.

For the future, I have always been a glass half full rather than a glass half empty person, probably because of my mother's Presbyterian outlook on life. Trust, Thrift and Grace being all important. The next few years will be difficult, of that there is no doubt, but, I continue to believe that Eastleigh will survive, improve and all things being equal will continue to be a great place to live.

Please do say hello when you see me out and about,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Councillor Chris Thomas, Chair, Eastleigh Local Area Committee

## 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 18 April 2012. 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