



Newsletter

Edition 2
December 2009

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

Welcome!

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

Since our first newsletter in July we have:

- commissioned 19 Street Pastors.
- been out on the streets each Friday night between about 8.30 and 12.30
- received a positive reaction from the night time economy and the people of Eastleigh
- seen God beginning to work through our service and felt his protection
- arranged and started a second series of training

We also give thanks for financial gifts from two church groups and to Southampton Street Pastors who donated a box of flip flops to us. In this news letter you can find out more about what has been happening.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood

Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Our local MP comes out to see our work

On 3rd October 2009 the Street Pastors out that night were joined by Chris Huhne, MP for Eastleigh.

Street Pastors welcome those who want to come and observe. Please contact us if you would like to come out with us.

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in since we began patrolling on the streets. They are a selection of incidents from the weekly reports that we keep.



Met a group of 3 lads in their early twenties. All appeared under the influence of something probably drink. Two very amenable and talkative, the third, was volatile and difficult to read. He explained that he was on day release for drug dealing and he was not impressed that we were potentially removing his clients. He could not understand why we would do what we do and felt that there must be some ulterior motive, even suggesting that we may be giving out drugged sweets. Ended our meeting by shaking hands and insisting on a hug.



We walked round the back of the pub and talked to a young lad who was keen to talk about faith and God. He considers himself atheist, sort of, and he hasn't had any spiritual experiences. His best mate died a while ago, and that was one of the reasons for not believing, he thinks there is as much good as there is evil. He hates being preached to, and he hates politics, but he hopes if there is a God, then he will go to heaven ! Really nice guy.

Walked to "Hub". Saw no-one but door to west side store open so closed and secured/wedged with concrete block.



Saw 3 girls. Two got taxi but third walked off alone. We were concerned about her so followed discretely at a distance and found her collapsed. She hadn't realised how much she had drunk but she was most insistent she could walk (more like sprint!) on her own. We followed her until she was safely home.



As we came out of the play area we met a lad we knew and two of his friends. He told us he was sober and did not want to drink that night - praise God - every time we have seen him over the past few weeks he had been drinking.



A man came over, he seemed friendly but a little drunk he was swearing a lot, he shook our hands several times. He didn't have a good thing to say about religion, but liked what we were doing.

Chatting to a very drunk man outside a pub, said he was an alcoholic, he had tried help for his drinking problem but it wasn't

He didn't have a good thing to say about religion, but liked what we were doing.

working, he was very sad. Then he said how he had travelled to Eastleigh by train, until a friend came out of the pub and said “there’s oil pouring out of your motor bike”? He said “I was going to ride home if it wasn’t leaking oil”, the manager of the pub was standing there listening to us and said “no you wouldn’t I’d call the police”.



A lad from outside the area talked about expecting Eastleigh Boys to appear for a fight over something else that had happened earlier. He and 2 other lads were ready with bottles if necessary. They asked about our link with the Police and if we would call the Police. We explained generally we only do so in a life threatening situation. We talked about the courage to “walk away”. They were willing to listen but were worried about their reputation. We explained that walking away would give them a good reputation for the future so as not to have a criminal record.

Later during our tea break two of the lads came to the church—they wanted to thank us and they were glad no fighting took place but one had been fined £50 (for holding a broken bottle) which he said he didn’t do, but at least it wasn’t GBH or something worse.



Gave a bottle of water to a woman who had been sick.



A man nearby made comments about religion, he was swearing too, we went over to talk with him. After saying we were volunteers, he seemed to calm down and became more friendly, his girlfriend appeared and we chatted for a while.



Lady came out of pub for cigarette but was upset her boyfriend had been hit earlier. She was fearful they might get set upon when they walked to the taxi rank so we went with the her, her boyfriend and another guy down the back road behind the church to ensure they were safe.

Met two woman smoking outside the pub and spoke to them for about ten minutes. The previous week the partner of one of the woman had been beaten up outside the pub and the Street Pastors had escorted her and her partner down the alley beside the Swan Centre to Wells Place. She was very grateful for what the SPs had done and both her and her friend were very supportive of the work of SPs – they both repeated several times how they loved SPs.



We give God praise for all the contacts and experiences He has given us since July. We have had so many positive reactions from the community of Eastleigh seeing members of local churches doing something for the community. We have also seen so many needs—there is so much more that could be done!

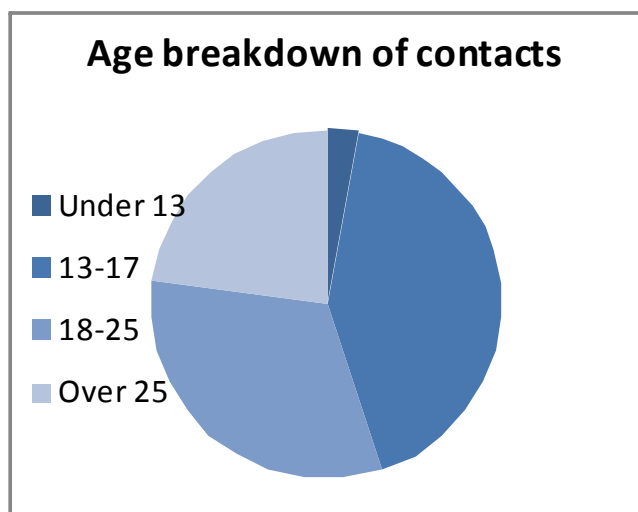
Over 300 Hours given to the community!

Some facts and Figures on Eastleigh Street Pastors up to the end of November 2009

Since Street Pastors began local church members have given over 310 person hours to the community. With 4 or 5 people out every Friday night for an average of around 3 and a half hours.

In that time we've spoke to over 900 contacts—some will be the same person but even allowing for that there must be well over 500 people who have come

into contact with members of local churches—many for the first time. The chart below shows the age breakdown of those contacts—many are young but over one in five are aged over 25.



The First National Street Pastors Conference

Report by Howard Sheffield

In November four of us attended the first National Street Pastor Conference which was held in Central London. In all there were between 400 and 500 delegated from all over the country, and also 12 SPs from Antigua, Les Isaac's Home Country.

We heard many speakers - Politicians (including Boris Johnson!), Church Leaders and Police speak with great support for the SP movement. There were a series of workshops too on such subjects as Gang Culture, Prayer, Policing, Fundraising, Serving the Community , and our own Steve Smallwood led the session on Statistics.

But I think the highlight has to be the Graduation Ceremony on the last day when about 200 new SPs from all over London went up on to the platform to receive their certificates from Les Isaac – it was so amazing to see the enthusiasm and servanthood in such overwhelming numbers. London and the rest of the Country is changing as we heard how previous no-go areas are becoming safe places as SPs take their faith out on the streets in ever greater numbers.

Meet a Street Pastor! The second of our regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet **Maggie Saunders**.

Occupation: Practise Nurse

Church: Eastleigh Baptist Church

Tell us a little of your Christian story I was brought up in a Christian home and gave my life to Jesus at the early age of 7yrs. Later at the age of 13 yrs I was baptised and welcomed into the church family as a member. I strongly believe that God has a purpose for our lives and that He is with us both in the good times and the bad.

How did you hear about Street Pastors? I heard about Street Pastors at Eastleigh Baptist when we were invited to attend a meeting in the early stages of planning for Street Pastors in Eastleigh, but didn't attend as was not particularly interested and never thought it was something I could get involved in. God, however had a different plan!

Why did you volunteer? When Alan, my husband, and I decided to support the launch. It was there that I decided to take away an application form which eventually was completed and training commenced. To be honest, if I had known I would have to take part in role play I probably would not have volunteered! I am not a natural evangelist but I love talking to people and the opportunity to take Jesus onto the streets and meeting individuals at there point of need was appealing. I decided to step out in faith and believed that if God wanted me to be a SP he would equip me to do the task.

What did you enjoy most about the Training? The bit I enjoyed most about the training was meeting up with and getting to know other volunteers. There was a lot of information to take in and the most

challenging, role play aside, was whether I would be able to put all the theory into practice.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night? So far the streets of Eastleigh are quite quiet on a Friday night. I value the opportunity of building relationships as people begin to accept our presence on the streets and are genuinely appreciative of us giving up our time voluntarily in order to help in any way we can.

Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol It's good to talk to the young people who are hanging around as there is nothing else for them to do and whilst walking along with two ladies on one occasion my fellow SP offered to pray for their father who had just been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Has being a Street Pastor changed you? I am not sure whether being a SP has changed me as yet but I am hoping and praying that I will become more confident in sharing my faith as and when the opportunity arises.

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor? I do not have any fear of being out on the streets on a Friday night. I know that the prayer pastors are praying for us whilst we are out.

And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you I love a good laugh!

Many thanks Maggie—do you have a question you would like to ask a street pastor?

e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A “ PRAYER PASTOR”

We are a team formed from the local churches in Eastleigh to give prayer support to the Street Pastors each Friday evening while they are out and about in the town, between the hours of 8 30pm and 12 30 am.

We pray with the Pastors before they leave and then until 10 45 have regular prayer times together.

The prayer groups have a mobile phone which means we are always in touch with the Street Pastors. Prayer requests comes in throughout the evening and immediately the situation or problem is prayed for back at WPC.

As well as praying we prepare refreshments for the Pastors when they come back for a well earned break at about 10.45. There is time to chat with them about their evening so far and for notes to be written up. We pray again before they leave for the late stint.

As Prayer pastors we also enjoy chats, laughter and many cuppas to keep us going. We have discussed many things and helped each other with a variety of problems and concerns. It has been a great opportunity to get to know folk from the other churches and to compare notes on many things!!

We quite often get a visit from the local Police during the evening . It is nice to know that they are concerned for our safety too and are also at the end of a phone should we ever need them. It feels very safe to know that whatever the time we have support we can call on.

We highly recommend Friday evenings to you, the commitment is only once a month but anyone can come any Friday for as long or short a time as you can spare. It is so exciting to be part of this wonderful ministry in our town and as we pray in the Coffee Shop we do feel part of the action as we see many people passing by at all hours of the evening, some looking quite the worse for wear and others just wandering aimlessly about looking quite lonely.

The pastors return telling us of the conversations they have had during the evening and it makes us realise how important our prayer support is especially as we have experienced promptings to pray for certain things only to be told that that situation had arisen. God is certainly working through the Street Pastors and in our prayer times so please come and join us and get a taste of what goes on.

Our tel numbers are 02380 696051 or mob 07792 008304 Do give us a call.

Russell and Mary Giles

What is a Street Pastor?

A Street Pastor is a Church leader/minister or member with a concern for society - in particular young people who feel themselves to be excluded and marginalised - and who is willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (i.e. their perspective of life) and location (i.e. where they hang out - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc).

Street Pastors will

also be willing to work with fellow activists, church and community leaders, and with agencies and projects, both statutory and voluntary, to look at collaborative ways of working on issues affecting youth, and initiatives that will build trust between them and the Street Pastors.

As the Street Pastor gets to know people in the community he/she will find out what their needs are and what can be done to help. A presence of Street Pastors will earn credibility in the community, so that people know that the Church is there for them in a practical way. The role is not



about preaching heaven and hell, but one of listening, caring and helping - working in an unconditional way.

To be a Street Pastor you need to be over 18 (no upper age limit), a church

member and able to commit to our training programme.

Each Street Pastor team consists of at least three people, and in Eastleigh we have four teams of four or five. Each team works once every four weeks, usually from 8.30pm to around 12.30am.



Charity no. 1039580

The Ascension Trust

Street Pastors is an Ascension Trust led Initiative, which is a nationally registered charity based in London. In 2002 Ascension Trust launched a "Guns on our Streets Tour" to five London hotspots:

Brent, Hackney, Haringey, Lambeth and Southwark, Aston in Birmingham and inner city Moss Side and Longsight in Manchester.

A report was produced after the tour highlighting the findings from the consultations and discussions that took place. As a response to the recommendations made, the Street Pastors project was launched in January 2003. Each project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies.

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 will be in March 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



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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 PC of the Eastleigh Street Pastors Co-ordinator