



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 10
January 2015

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Welcome!

...to the tenth Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter. Since the last newsletter we have completed a joint training course with a number of local Street Pastor groups—run over three weekends. Much of the training was carried out by Mandy Harding the co-ordinator of Southampton Street Pastors who is also an Ascension Trust Rep. It feels like we are moving towards having more regionally organised training which would make a major task for co-ordinators so much easier. Through that course we have four new volunteers—welcome to Lauren, Katie, Desree and Sakhu.

We will be taking part in regional training again in February and March—see inside this newsletter for more information. Please think about whether this is something that God is calling you to.

Incidentally it was great to see Mandy on television (first broadcast 13th Jan) as part of the Channel 5 programme "Closing Time". The series looks at the night time economy and those who make it work, in UK towns and cities. This edition came from Southampton and featured a section on Street Pastors.

One area where we currently have a need is prayer pastors. I know many of you pray for us on a Friday as we are out on patrol but we are very short of people to come and pray at Wells Place (and provide support and a welcome cuppa for the pastors going out). Again see the notice inside the newsletter for more information.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories from the street, they try to give a flavour of what we do. I am very grateful to the team who went out on New Year's Eve and who found an unconscious girl, ensuring she recovered and got home safely. Thankfully such incidents are rare but it is great when God uses us to help.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors



Street Pastors celebrating their graduation at St Luke's Hedge End on 7th December 2014

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between January and October 2014. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.



We diffused a potential confrontation between a couple of lads by offering them lollies. They took the lollies and walked off peacefully.



Spoke to two ladies. They had been on a ladies night out and were quite drunk, but capable. They were waiting for one of their partners to give them a lift, shared sweets and good conversation.



A lad wanted to buy a SP hat, he offered £5 then £10, we said they are not for sale, even for a £100 or £200, thanked him for offering to buy one; as opposed to grabbing a hat and running off. He then asked his mates nearby for a light, none of them had a light, one of us gave him a lighter, and said he could have it instead of the hat, lots of handshakes after.



There were two ladies & one started to share how she had lost her mum & how it had been a very difficult year adjusting. She was quite appreciative of being able to share her heart with someone. Amen.



We helped an 18 year old lad on the station, he was with a friend, and experi-

enced a diabetic hypo. Penny encouraged him to sit down, then gave him sweets and water, stopping with him until his colour returned.



We passed a group of four people and one remarked "Oh look, God's on patrol".



The police moved on, and we stopped with a man who was eyeing up the another man possibly for a fight, but we were able to keep them across the road from each other. We said we would walk with the other man to the taxi rank, and then waited with him for a taxi.



Said hello to a couple we had seen earlier who were now on their way home. They crossed the road to speak to us. The man, who said he was an atheist, couldn't understand why we did what we did but was grateful. The lady also was puzzled that we were just out on the streets when they had been in having a drink and chat, etc. She was likewise thankful.



We encountered a car driving with no lights. We stopped the man and pointed this out, he thanked us for doing so.



We passed a group of four people and one remarked "Oh look, God's on patrol".

We gave the lady a pair of flip-flops and another lady approached us and asked for a pair. One SP gave her a pair of flip-flops and she asked him if he'd be her husband and take her to a desert island and hunt for fish for them. The SP thanked her, but declined her invitation.



Spoke to a girl on her own on the bench. She was fine (and sober) - on her way home and had stopped for a cigarette, but appreciative of our concern.



Walked into town. Met three lads by Dominos. They claimed to have ordered a pizza delivery but then were hoping the deliverer would give them a lift home! A good jokey conversation.



We observed a young couple, as they argued they way along Wells Place and down Market Street. It looked like a lovers tiff so, we kept our distance but made sure that it didn't developed into anything else.



We had a long conversation about world population, Muslims and other things. The man was trying to be provocative (in a friendly way) Eventually we parted but then as he unchained his bike he broke the rear light off the bike. One SP pointed out it would shine through the Tesco carrier bag he had so we put it in that and the SP tied it to the back of the bike.



Spoke to two teenage girls who had been

to the Hope 2014 youth event at Energy youth centre and enjoyed it – especially the challenges. Gave sweets. Walked over to Energy, saw the two girls we had seen earlier. Spoke for a while with a girl and a boy. Gave out sweets to a number of others. They were all enjoying the event. Spoke to two lads and a girl on bench near railway statue. They had enjoyed the Energy event despite it being done by churches!



We were stopped by a man who wanted to know about SPs. He then told us about the illnesses that his wife had suffered, which had led to the break up of his marriage. He also asked what God meant to us so, we were able to talk about our lives as Christians. After talking for about 30mins he left us to have a quick drink before going to help a friend in need. Several times during our conversation he thanked us for our work. However, the issues we face as SPs were put into perspective compared with the on-going issues he has dealt with and continues to deal with. We agreed to pray for him to feel God's father love for him.



A girl came to us and said there was a fight by Poundland. We saw a scuffle break up as we walked round the corner, they split up into two groups about fifty metres apart. We gave out sweets to both groups, who then dispersed.



We met a group of girls who'd been to their granddad's 70th birthday party. One of them asked for some Rennie's, but all

we could offer were lollies.



One of the women headed down the alley beside the Post Office. We were told that she had fallen over whilst urinating and broken one of her front teeth and cut her lip. One of us went to help her while the others stayed at the end of the alley. Her friends gave her some tissues and we gave her a wet wipe to clear away the blood on her face. We followed the group to the taxi rank and talked with them as they waited for taxis to arrive.



We wandered over to Grantham Green and on the way we noticed that a parked car had its window wide open and was vulnerable either to the elements or worse someone helping themselves to something inside the car. We knocked on a couple of doors and the owner of the car was found and they were very grateful and they sorted out their car.



We met a man in town he was drunk and struggled to stand up, we gave him water and offered to walk home with him. He leaned on us, stopping at the benches to talk. He cried like a baby when he talked about his disabled daughter, whom he had not seen for a long time. He was troubled by things he had done in life, but he did not say what, he hated his ex-partner for not letting him see his children. We stopped outside his house for some time talking, he could not find his key, so he knocked on the door. A woman came out, she said she had been listening to what he

said, she said there was another side to the story, and he should be careful not to get arrested again. She told him his dinner was cold in the oven, he had lost his key, with that, he walked away, we talked with the lady for a few minutes, she thanked us for bringing him back and trying to help.



We saw a man sat by the Statue, without a shirt on. We spent about an hour with him, he said he suffered depression, he cried several times, but chose to say very little. He didn't like himself, he had tried therapy, but it was not working for him, We prayed for him. One of us eventually managed to encourage him to walk home, and we escorted him, after standing outside for a while he opened the door, he thanked us for listening, and shook our hands.



Two lads at the train station had no money for the vending machine, and were very grateful for some water and sweets.



After praying we left WPC and immediately met a lady with some shopping who looked lost. We chatted with her and it turned out she was staying with a friend but was disoriented and didn't know where the flat was. We walked with her and eventually found the flat. We had an opportunity to talk with her en-route and ended up leaving here with a 'Why Jesus?' She appreciated the trouble we took to help her.

We continue give thanks to God for the people we meet and the way He uses us

Ageas Bowl Christmas Event

The First weekend in December, 2 newly commissioned street pastors, Lauren and Katie, my aunt Shari, (a supporter of street pastors), and myself headed to the Ageas Bowl in Hedge End to take part in the silent night Carol event.

It was an event that took time to remember the events of Christmas Day 1914 in 'no mans land', where British and German troops, took a break from the fighting and blood shed to share Christmas together.

We didn't really know what to expect, but we had loads of information, flyers, books and posters. We also took with us a selection of spikies, (bottle stoppers used with straws to stop people spiking your drinks), a map of the borough and of course the biggest tub of sweets and lollies that I had ever seen.

We also had a free competition to find the treasure where people had to put a sticky dot on the map with their number on it and whoever got the closest to the treasure won a night out survival kit.

We had no idea how many people would attend the even but we were told that

there was 2,000 tickets already taken.

Even before the doors opened, we had a stream of people lined up at our stall... and when I say lined up, I mean lined up. Our stall was on the path for the school choirs and so every time they finished singing, another school would line up at our stall before leaving.

It was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to the kids and teachers and of course they loved the sweets.

We had nearly 100 people, mainly children, take part in the treasure competition, and while they were doing this, we had time to chat with the parents.

I was surprised that so many people had heard of or encountered street pastors and for me, it was the stories they themselves shared about street pastors that brightened my day. The day closed with us all singing silent night together.

I'd like to thank Lauren, Katie and Shari for their help during this event, I couldn't have done it without you guys.

Kim Jones



Lauren, Katie and Kim proving they were at the Ageas Bowl

******NEW Training course******

What kind of training do street pastors get?

Our training programme equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols, and aims to set the tone for continued learning while you are out on the streets. We hope it will also equip you to be a more aware and informed citizen the rest of the time!

Examples of topics covered: Loving like Jesus; Roles and responsibilities of street pastors; Skills - listening, caring and helping; Street craft - observation, assessment and intervention; Police and CCTV; Homelessness; Drugs and alcohol; Youth and Community

When does the next training take place?

All the Street Pastor areas in Eastleigh Borough are joining with Winchester and Southampton in a regional training course. This will operate over 5 weekends currently planned for the following dates and times:

Friday 27 February 7.30–9.30pm

Saturday 28 February, 9.30am–4.30pm

Sunday 1 March, 9.30am–4.30pm

Friday 13 March, 7.30–9.30pm

Saturday 14 March, 9.30am–4.15pm

Saturday 21 March, 9.30am–4.30pm

Sunday 22 March, 9.30am–4.30pm

Saturday 11 April, 9.30am–3.15pm

Saturday 25 April, 9.30am–4.30pm

email eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk for an application form and more information.

Prayer Pastors

Every Friday as we go out we are supported in prayer by teams that come to Wells Place and pray as we are out on the streets. Without this vital prayer support the initiative would not work. However, a number of prayer pastors have recently had to stand down so we need new prayer pastors to get involved. We are thankful to Mary Giles who coordinated prayer pastors for our first five years but she has needed to stand down. We also, therefore, still looking for a new prayer pastor coordinator.

There is no need to train to be a prayer pastor—although you are welcome to do the street pastor training. The responsibilities are to come to Wells Place once every

4 weeks between 8pm and 11.00pm (although we would love to have teams between 11.00pm and 3.00am for the late shifts!) and pray. Prayer pastors also make drinks for the Street Pastors when they come in for a break.

Additional responsibilities for the coordinator are to organise the prayer pastor rota, arrange one or two prayer events a year, and publicise the prayer support of Street Pastors.

If you can serve in this way please get in touch using the contact information on the front or back of the newsletter.



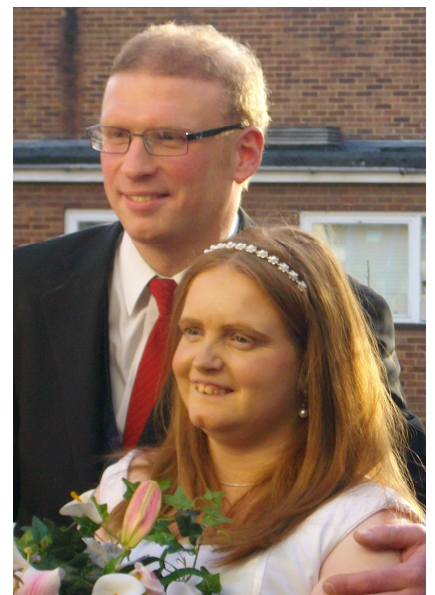
The management Committee

Eastleigh Street Pastors are run by a management committee consisting of representatives from a number of churches. The Committee is chaired by Iain Grew from New Community Church. Eastleigh Baptist is represented by Alan Saunders, who is also our treasurer. Jaqueline Brodrick represents All Saints, Dave Lockyer Junction church and Eric Hyom Holy Cross. Margaret Moore from Salvation Army has also been on the committee from the beginning but is now considering whether to stand down. We have no representative from St Andrews or St Peters—we

would welcome volunteers from those fellowships. Please pray for these people as they take responsibility for running Eastleigh Street Pastors.

Congratulations!

Two of our Street Pastors got married (to each other!) on January 10th this year. We wish Jim and Katie Arnett a long and happy life together.



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 23 April 2014 and the next will be on 15 April 2015. 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 Coordinator