



***Eastleigh***

# Newsletter

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

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

## Welcome!

...to the eleventh 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 five weekends. Again much of the training was carried out by Mandy Harding the co-ordinator of Southampton Street Pastors who is also an Ascension Trust Rep. The last day session on mental health and suicide was run as a refresher for current street pastors with over 70 people attending from across the region. Through that course we have three new volunteers—welcome to Martin from St Peters, John from New Community and Frances from Holy Cross. Our chairman Iain Grew also committed to attending the whole course so that he could gain a greater insight into the work.

We will be taking part in regional training again in September—see inside this newsletter for more information. Please think about whether this is something that God is calling you to. Not only have we had a number of Street Pastors stand down we also see the demand for doing more patrols, both for the one Friday where we don't have a late team and also on a Saturday.

Eastleigh Street Pastors are now 6 years old. It is amazing how God has used us in a number of ways. We are at a point where we need to consider further change, including adopting a new model of governance. If we do this it will mean that members of the management committee would only be able to serve for a limited number of years before standing down. Please pray for us as we consider the way forward.

At our recent AGM we reviewed a few facts and figures from the calendar year 2014. I will share a few more stats inside the newsletter but it is worth noting that the Church in Eastleigh spent over 800 person hours on the streets. What other church initiative takes the church out to the people that need our help and love?



Street Pastor's learning about how to handle issues around mental health and suicide

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors

# Stories from the Street

*The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between November 2014 and February 2015. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.*



Approached by a man who told us that his father died in the last 12 months and that he does not get on with his mother who has mental health issues. He said he lives with relatives. We assured him of God's love him and said we would pray for him.



Approaching the top of the road we could hear shouting around the corner. It was a couple having a row. As they walked along the precinct they got louder and more heated, but there was no physical contact. We watched from a distance as they moved on.



Just past the Litten Tree we spoke to a man who was going abroad in the morning to work. Had a chat about how God leads us.



We gave out flip flops to two girls,. One said she had been stalked earlier, and had told the police, she seemed nervous, but was okay going home with her friend. We gave water to a lad, who wanted to give us a donation which we refused, but we did say if he helped someone in the future, then he would pass a kindness on. He said he often gave money to homeless people in Southampton, which was lovely to hear.



We were stopped by a man who said he'd never seen SPs before and wanted to know what we did. We told him and he told us about his work and his family . He also told us about his faith and aspiration for the future and then asked us to pray for him; which we did.



We watched the fire eating dancer outside the Litten, her audience were the door staff, the police and us, plus a photographer. A number of people thanked us for being out, including a man who asked us to remember him to one of our fellow SPs.



We saw a drunk man swearing from across the road at a lady by the takeaway, we spoke with him, and he apologized for being drunk, and after a few minutes he went back to the takeaway, we did not hear any further shouting from him.



We walked back towards the Litten Tree and one of us felt we should go round the back of the Litten. We picked up a broken bottle and then saw an unconscious young female. She was not dressed for a cold winter evening, and was not responding to our questions. A doorman from the Litten came over, and said about putting her in the recovery position, we put three Street Pastor coats over her to keep her warm. We then phoned CCTV, and an ambulance.



We spoke with a man whom we had met before (and once helped home when very

*One of the local doorman thanked us for our help with an incident on New Year's Eve.*

drunk). We spoke about his dog and generally chatted - he was grateful for what we did.



A man said he would like to give up smoking and one of the SPs, using their medical knowledge, suggested different ways he could try.



One of the local doorman thanked us for our help with an incident on New Year's Eve.



The husband then started to ask about SP's and why we did it. This led into a discussion about Christians getting out of the church and meeting people.



One man was obscene as he had drunk too much. He tried telling us a clean joke, but he did not know any! The other SPs arrived and man started to play to the audience so we moved off.



Three lads were playing basketball with their kebab, leaving the contents on the road, One of us said to them, "I will pick up the mess". One of the lads came back apologizing, then he picked up most of the

mess, putting it in the bin, we then thanked him.



A lady came out of one of the kebab shops and sat on the ground outside. She said she was fine and phoned her friends for a lift. Shortly after a lad came over to her seemingly trying to chat her up, One of our female s SPs went over and stood with her until her taxi arrived with three lads, including her brother in the back.



A man can over to greet us. He told us that SPs had helped him and his friend in Fair Oak a few years ago. He was very grateful for their help and very complimentary about the work of SPs.



We found a young lady sitting on the ground near the Chinese herbal shop speaking on her mobile. We helped her locate herself to tell the person she was on the phone to get a lift to be picked up from McDonald's. We waited until her lift arrived.



We also met two guys and chatted for some time as one of them took a phone call from his wife and he wanted to tell her he was with the Street Pastors.



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

## Some Statistics from 2014

No don't switch off! Statistics can be useful. When we collect our weekly reports we also collect some basic statistics, from the time spent on the street to the number of bottles picked up. Why do we do this?

Well it is not just because I happen to work for the Office for National Statistics!

Statistics allow a dispassionate look at the patterns evolving in our work. They may also be helpful in demonstrating to our partners or to those we are making funding applications to, what we do and who we interact with. They can also be useful in publicity such as this news letter—where I hope the figure of over 800 hours on the street in the front page article caught your attention.

Also the Ascension Trust collect an annual report from us each year with some simple statistics so that a picture can be built of Street Pastor initiatives across the UK,

The following statistics are from last year. I should also say a good statistician will explain the limitations of their statistics. Our statistics certainly have some limitations. Occasionally reports are incomplete or missing entirely. Reports are also completed by lots of different people and they may 'count' things differently. For example we keep a record of numbers of contacts but it is difficult to know what to

count— we effectively count anything more than a hello. We also keep some basic demographic information, but age—and sometimes sex too —can be difficult to judge. I also judge whether we have helped someone or attended an antisocial incident, based on the report descriptions, but it can be quite subjective to decide whether an incident should be classified in that way.

Below are some basic statistics from 2014

- 44 Friday nights on the street (52 Fridays) + 1 Extra night –New year's Eve
- About 808+ person hours on the streets (does not include missed reports and extra patrols or time at base)
- About 155 person hours of prayer at church while SPs on the street
- Approximately 1,985 contacts
- c100 pairs of flip-flops given out
- 68 bottles removed
- 23 people helped
- 22 anti social incidents

So this tells us a story of the amount of effort and the impact we have had on the town over the year. What would have happened to those people if we had not been there to help? How much worse might the incidents have been without us? Would any of those bottles have been used as weapons? And what other initiative generates so

many contacts? By the way 800 hours is roughly half a year's work for one person (assuming that you work 7 hours a day five days a week for 46 weeks a year).

But we can look further at the patterns. The graph below suggests that, even allowing for the fact they all five Friday months, January, May and October are our busiest months. But previous years show different patterns. I've not had a chance to do any analysis yet but I suspect a high correlation with the weather!

Over the last three years our contacts have been consistently around 60 per cent male.

We did see a slight drop in the number of contacts this year but that reflected the fact the town was quieter with the closure of the night club and there

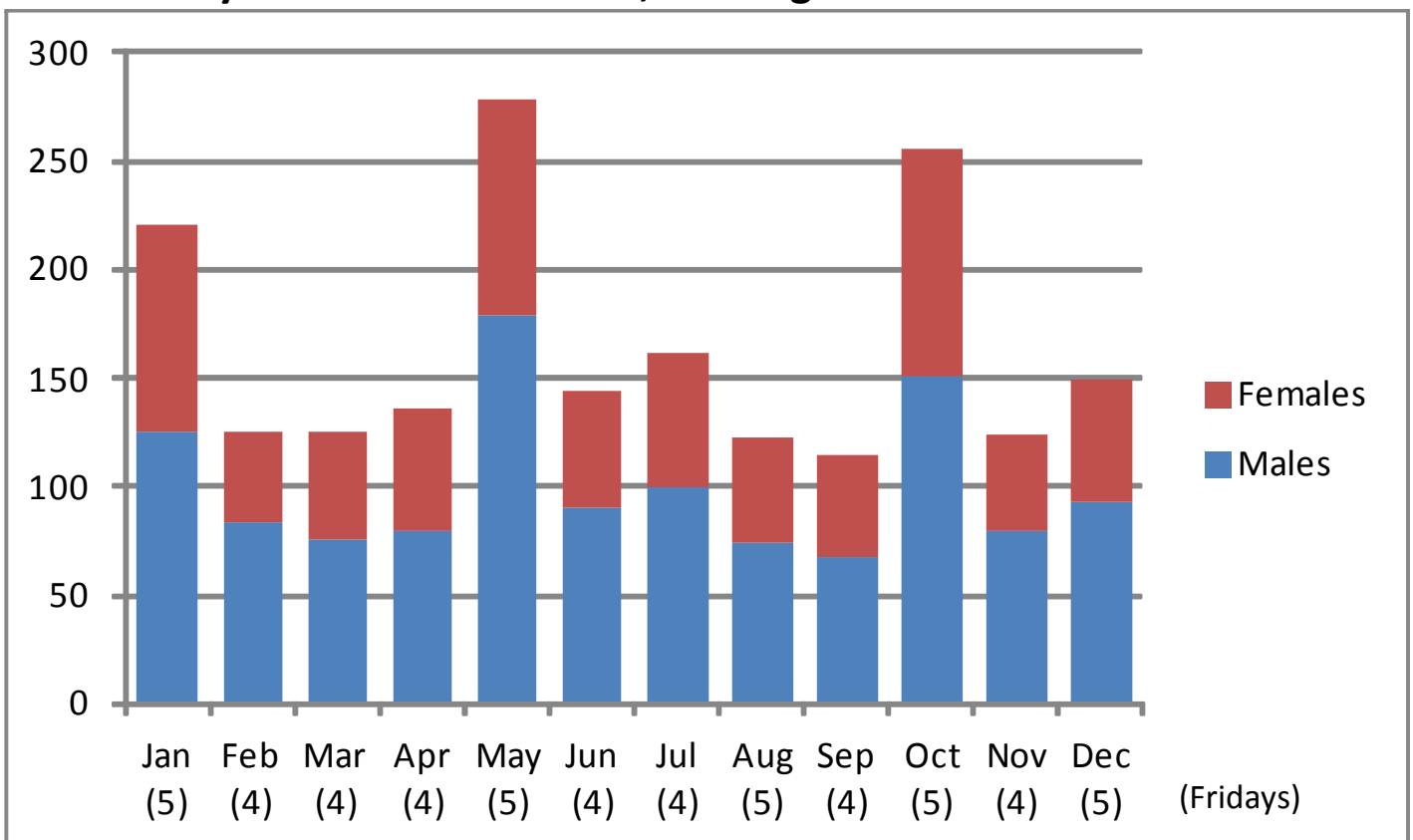
were slightly fewer patrols.

Our age statistics, while approximate, suggest a slight reduction over 5 years in the number of young people aged under 13 and 13-17, and a growth in those aged 25 and over. It is possible that reflects a different generation of young people, or more restrictive parents. The rise in adults 25 and over may reflect the slight improvement in the economy in the last year or two.

We try to collect statistics on ethnicity but that is difficult and numbers are small, reflecting the fact that Eastleigh is not a particularly diverse area. However, we are seeing slight increases minority ethnic groups in our contacts.

Hopefully you've either has a nice sleep or enjoyed this run through our statistics.

### Contacts by month and sex 2014, Eastleigh Street Pastors



# \*\*\*\*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, Southampton, Portsmouth Salisbury and the New Forest in a regional training course. This will operate over 3 weekends currently planned for the following dates :

Friday 11 September (Evening),  
Saturday 12 September (Day)  
Sunday 13 September (Day)

Friday 25 September (Evening),  
Saturday 26 September (Day)  
Sunday 27 September (Day)

Friday 9 October (Evening),  
Saturday 10 October (Day)  
Sunday 11 October (Day)

Email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) for an application form and for more information. Applications by end of Monday 31 August 2015

## Prayer Pastors needed!

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 still to replace Mary Giles who coordinated prayer pastors for our first five years so we are 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. And finally a special thanks to the faithful team from Holy Cross who come to pray.



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## National Street Pastors Blogs

Did you know that the national web site now contains some blogs on various aspects of the Street Pastor initiative.

On 19 June there was a blog by Simon Hayes, our Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, around the good Samaritan. It is a great read. But there are numerous other blogs including: a recent blog about Jamaican Street Pastors—their typical greeting is Wah gwaan? (What's going on?); some from earlier in the year from Ros Davies who wrote a diary of her Street Pastor training with Exeter

Street Pastors; and, poems and art work (including cake!) submitted to Ascension Trust. If you are sitting in front of your computer with a bit of time why not have a browse at <http://www.streetpastors.org/blog/>



Simon Hayes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

# 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 15th April 2015 and the next will be in April 2016. 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 Coordinator