



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 13

June 2016

E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk

EASTLEIGH

Still



Needs

YOU

See page 4

Stories from the Street

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



Spoke to owner & customers sitting by door; (One of the ladies would not let her male partner watch a young lady wearing just a "pelmet" walk by on the other side of the street!).



We spoke with a homeless man . He said he did not like to judge other people, it would be like judging himself. He said, by choice he would go days without eating, he thought we wasted a lot of food in this country, he also talked about the starving in this world. He said about always trying to be positive and look for good. We could all learn from him.



A 26 year old lady was unconscious on the pavement outside the Litten, she had a panic attack after an argument with her ex girlfriend. We helped her, an ambulance and the police arrived. The doorstaff told her ex to go away, so we stood with the ex and kept her some distance away. The ex and a man with her eventually moved away when the lady went in the ambulance.



We walked along the edge of the park and we talked with a lady who was in her 60s. She was walking her dog, a "cock-a-poo".

We also talked about her work in Winchester and local churches. She thought Eastleigh was very friendly and had really nice people.



Walked round to the Istanbul and stood by the chemist, people were going into the alley, we heard a bottle smash by HSBC, but the lads were walking away, so we swept it up.



Walked round the back of the Swan Centre and back up Wells Place Alley (seeing through the window the prayer pastors praying for us in the Coffee shop, which was wonderful). Spoke to lad outside MacDonalDs who we had seen earlier standing there. Turns out he was using the free wifi as that round his mums was too slow!



We spoke with the doorman and then three guys were getting a bit lively and one in particular was angry with the doormen. We prayed quietly as they argued with the door staff who tried to calm them down. We also spoke to them briefly and thankfully they eventually went without aggravation.



As we were observing the group, a man approached us and asked us direction to a local road nearby. We gave him directions, however, he seemed very unfamiliar with the area. He then asked us for a phone to call his friend as his phone was out of credit; we lent him the SP phone. When he'd finished his call we offered to walk him to the road, so we all started walking

She thought Eastleigh was very friendly and had really nice people.

towards it. However, once we reached the Railway Institute he insisted that he'd be able to find it even though he ignored the directions we gave him.



We headed to the Rec via the bus station and as we walked past The Point we met a crowd of about 15-20 teenagers. They were in good spirits and treated us to a display of dance, gymnastics and general high jinks. We spent quite a while with them chatting and watching the display.



We met up with lady and a Portuguese man, she discreetly signed to us that she did not want to be with him. We said she would walk with the lady to a local take-away, eventually the man walked away.



As we were making a drink there was a call on the radio for Street Pastors from the the door staff at one of the pubs. A female with 2 friends who was very drunk had been observed falling into bushes outside Lloyds bank. We headed back out but by the time we got there she had gone. We talked with the door staff and then headed to High Street. There were 3 women in the Kebab shop that we suspected were them and they seemed OK so we headed back to WPC for a hot drink.



Heard an angry man walking towards us swearing, he changed when he saw us, and shook our hands, said he had a 2 and 10 year old child and had been in prison, he now wanted to hit someone. He then kept shaking all our hands and thanked us for being around.



We continued to walk around the town centre and met four young rappers outside Tesco. We exchanged a couple of raps and were joined by the other SP team – who had no idea how to rap!



We saw a tearful girl on her phone by the bus station, we hung around for a while, but she kept walking away from us. As we walked down Market St, we met two girls who asked if we had seen a girl on her own, we directed them to the bus station.

...Back to the statue and the two girls from earlier said they had met up with their friend, and she was now going home in a car.



The girls stayed and sat on a park bench opposite the garage. They were smoking and chatting. We spoke to one of the girls about God. We asked them if they believed in God and we had a conversation about that and other things. We stayed and talked for a while.



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

Is God calling you?

We have kept the same front cover as the last news letter as no one came forward to train for the spring course. Eastleigh Street Pastors began in July 2009 with 19 volunteers. Since then nearly every Friday we have had volunteers from local churches out on a Friday night in Eastleigh.

Our current number of active volunteers is 30. However, a number of those are currently unable to patrol for health reasons.

At present this enables us to cover from 8.30pm to around 3.30am on three out of four Fridays, with a team out from about 8.30 until 11.30pm on the other Friday. But we need and want to do more and we can only do that if extra people volunteer. Indeed, with turnover of volunteers we probably need around 4 or 5 people a year to just carry on with our current level of service. So with around 8 volunteers we would not only continue but be able to fully cover all Fridays until 3.30am. If we had 20 volunteers it would allow us to consider some late night Saturday patrols too.

The police and council would support us patrolling on Saturdays and I have lost count of the number of times one of the town's doorstaff has asked me about Saturday patrols!

If you are sensing God saying this is something you could get involved in - what would be your commitment?

Well you would need to undertake some high quality training (see page 6 for details). The training will equip you for the role of Street Pastor but many of us have found it provides useful insights in all parts of our lives. Then ideally we would like you to consider serving for at least two years giving around 4-5 hours every 4 weeks to be part of Street Pastor patrols.

You do have to be over 18 (no upper age limit!), part of a local church in Eastleigh or the surrounding areas for a year or more. We take up references and carry out a DBS check. We will also ask if there are any health issues we may need to take account of.

Street Pastors do not preach, we are simply out there to listen, care and help when we can. See the main website for more details:
www.streetpastors.org/about-us/what-is-a-street-pastor/

If you want to know more I, or any of our Street Pastors, would be happy to talk with you. If you would like to find out more or get the application form please:

e-mail eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk
or ring/text 07984 860590.

You'll be joining a band of around 12,000 Christians getting outside the church walls and serving Christ on the streets of our towns and cities.



Response Pastors

Howard Sheffield, our cover star, explains more about this initiative from the Ascension Trust

Response Pastors is an initiative of Ascension Trust that has been established to help provide emotional as well as physical support when a disaster or crisis occurs. A Response Pastor is a Street Pastor who has received additional training to provide support to

those affected by a national or regional disaster or crisis. After training a local Response Pastor Team will be established within a community to be called upon if required. For more information see: <http://www.streetpastors.org/about-us/response-pastors>

The primary task of Response Pastors is to offer support and compassion to all in the event of a crisis or emergency; this may be outside emergency cordons at an incident or specifically to assist in a Humanitarian Reception Centre for survivors, evacuees or other persons affected by the event. They can be called upon any day or night to support and assist where appropriate. Response Pastors can expect to provide a crucial point of contact and an additional support to the established emergency services.

Response Pastors has evolved from discussion with the Metropolitan Police and several regional Police Services, local authorities' Resilience Forums, including Hampshire County Council, and others involved in the operational side of major incidents and crisis situations. The Home Secretary has now told all Emergency Response Planners in the Country that Response Pastors should be included in their Resilience Plans.

Response Pastor Teams were launched in August 2014 in London Boroughs with 150 volunteers trained in the first 18 months. The initiative has now started to roll out into other regions around the UK there are now over 250 trained Response Pastors. One of the first regional deployments was at the Shoreham air crash in 2015.

In May this year I went on a Regional Response Pastor Training Course held in Southampton. This training included information on the Regions Resilience Plan in the event of a Major Disaster; the role of Churches at a major incident, communications, and the impact of emotions and trauma on survivors, bereaved, responders and communities. At the time of writing this article I am awaiting accreditation which will allow me to serve the community should a major incident occur in our region. Please remember me in your prayers should such an event occur.



****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, the Isle of Wight and the New Forest in a regional training course. The training will operate over 3 weekends currently planned for the following days and times:

Friday evening 14 October, All day Saturday 15 October and Sunday 16 October—Venues Friday Eastleigh Sat and Sun Isle of Wight

We hope to have funding available to help with travel and accommodation

Friday evening 4 November, All day Saturday 5 November and Sunday 6 November —Venues Friday Eastleigh Sat and Sun Winchester

Friday evening 18 November, All day Saturday 19 November and Sunday 20 November —Venues Friday Eastleigh Sat and Sun TBC Andover or Southampton

Email eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk for an application form and for more information. Applications by end of Friday 30 September 2016

Prayer Pastors update

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. We have one very faithful team from Holy Cross who come once every four weeks. This year, house groups in Eastleigh Baptist Church have each committed to come at least once to support Street Pastors in prayer—with around a dozen groups this means a second week in a four week cycle is filled. Also one of our current Street Pastors who is unable to patrol is hoping to put together a team. So we are now looking for a final group, or groups, to complete the prayer support. We are also still looking for a prayer pastor co-

ordinator.

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.



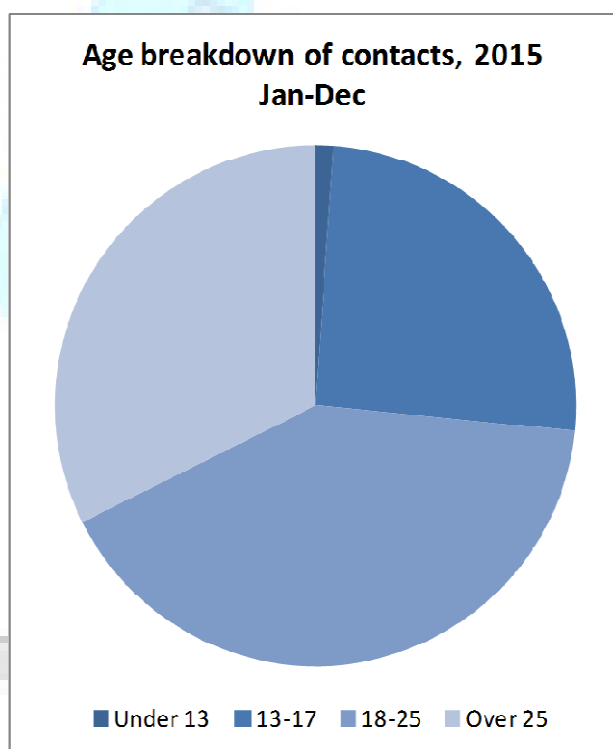
Statistics for 2015

At the Annual General meeting in April we shared some statistics for our patrols in 2015. They are derived from the reports we keep each week. In this year we had patrols for 48 of the 52 Fridays. Two of the Fridays we missed were by design as they were Christmas Day and New Years Day. But we did two extra days—Christmas lights, New year's Eve.

Not all our reports are complete but we spent at least 883 recorded person hours on the street—that excludes preparation time, tea breaks and debriefs and report writing. While out on the street we had over 2,200 contacts. We also gave out around 100 pairs of flip flops to women who would have been walking in bare feet otherwise. This is important as we also removed 114 bottles/glasses some of

them broken. There were 23 people who we specifically helped in some way and 20 incidents where anti-social behaviour was taking place (not by us!).

The chart below shows the age breakdown of the contacts we had.



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 20th April 2016 and the next will be in April 2017. 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



.....
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