



Eastleigh

Newsletter

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Welcome!

...to the twenty eighth Eastleigh Street Pastors' newsletter.

Putting together an updated rota for the coming year I noticed that we have 19 active volunteers. That number feels significant to me as it is the number of trainees we had on the very first course we ran from April to June 2009 before our launch in July that year. It is enough, enough for us to have teams out each Friday night. Indeed, since I last wrote, we have some very keen volunteers who have successfully done some Saturday patrols once a month. It is great to have enough and we should celebrate that—but we need to be sustainable. We need to trust that God is prompting others to this ministry. There are some current volunteers with health issues, and some getting to an age where they may need to consider stepping down. Although age is no barrier, those out on the streets are more likely to respond well to someone who could be their grandparent. Please do consider whether you can train this coming Spring and join our team of volunteers. The training is great—see David's article in this issue—and the expectation then is then to patrol one Friday every four weeks. It is worth noting that the initiative of Street Pastors is now 20 years old and the Ascension Trust which created the initiative turned 30 years old this year.

In this newsletter you will find our usual stories from the street, the Spring training dates, and a piece by our latest trainee David. It also contains an appreciation of our dear friend and fellow Street Pastor Graham Wright who went to be with the Lord in September. We will miss him and please do keep Ruth and her son Chris in your prayers.

I finish with this thought— I am sure many of you are aware of the “What would Jesus do?” movement. I want to ask you where would Jesus be on a Friday night?

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Coordinator
Eastleigh Street Pastors



Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have recorded between May 2022 and September 2022. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep. We report mainly on older stories to reduce risk of disclosure.



On route to Vue cinema area chatted to a group of 6 teenagers at Tesco as they had learnt about SP in school in RE.



Saw a 17 year old female trying to open station doors and bang on them, went over, she was in drink, upset and crying as she did not know how to get home to a nearby town. A male had given her a lift to the BR station. Waited with her after showing correct platform and 6-minute wait for train. Made sure she got on and another girl who had overheard, checked on her in the train.



One of us spoke with a man – asking if he was just going out. He said no but he didn't want to go home. It seemed he was from a strong Christian background but carrying a lot of guilt – he thought we were all fantastic and he was not worthy. We were able to give him words of encouragement and suggested he talk to someone in another church fellowship.



A man thanked us for spending time with him a year ago when there was a fight. He talked about his recent suicide attempts. Wells Place was mentioned as somewhere

he could talk, and we also gave him a ManGang leaflet. He agreed to be put on the WhatsApp group for ManGang.



The man was shouting abuse at the door staff and was pulled to the ground. His wife tried to intervene, as did a tall younger lad who tried to keep the peace. The police were called, and we stood nearby for a while and prayed for peace. We saw the man and his wife walk off, the younger lad from earlier came to talk with us. He said he knew the couple; they had had a recent family bereavement and their daughter had cancer. The lad talked to us at length and said he was trying to keep the peace, he also said he was working at 7 am, so we tried to encourage him to go home. We asked the lad that when he sees the couple again to mention that they were lucky not to get arrested.



Outside the pub male with no shirt on was aggressive and told us that the person who he was with earlier he “would do him in when he gets outside”. We radioed through to cctv. and told them. They then contacted door staff and advised them to get that person out through the back door.



Radioed to cctv and told them what had happened, and Police were on way. Police car shortly arrived with 2 Police officers. As they were ascertaining what had happened another Police car arrived with 3 officers. They interviewed all concerned. As they were about to leave, they asked if younger male wanted to press charges against older male. They also said older

A Senior Police officer came over to us and thanked us for helping out and he said we probably avoided a much more serious incident.

male had accused the 3 of them of making remarks as he was gay . The female then went hysterical as her sister was married to another female and she also helps out in all the Pride activities. We stayed with them until she calmed down. A Senior Police officer came over to us and thanked us for helping out and he said we probably avoided a much more serious incident.



We met a smiling man, he was so pleased that we had escorted him away from trouble recently. He thanked us several times and shook our hands.



The man who had been on the bench approached us and asked what we were doing. We had a good chat and he explained he was over for his Dad's funeral and was clearly quite upset and confused. We assured him we'd pray for him and he thanked us and moved on.



Two older guys then stopped by, the younger one of whom was drunk and emotional. He was distressed and unhappy with life but very grateful for us and give us hugs... Opposite Pizza Hut the distressed 'hugger' man we met earlier came past us again and shared a little of his distress. He has three young children but his life seems to be a mess and he was not

happy. He again thanked us for what we did and said he would sort anyone that gave us any problems. He headed off hopefully homeward. We stood and prayed for him including for him to be released from his torment and find some hope and meaning in life.



Went round front and again spoke to the door staff, whilst talking male and female were leaving, female had no shoes on so we gave out pair of flip flops and told her to be careful as there was broken glass on pavement top of high street. She was very appreciative at our concern and thanked us for the flip flops.



Walked past a man on his phone to his lady friend in America, when he saw us, he called after us. He then introduced us to his phone friend in America.



Met a man in Mitchell Road car park. He is an ex offender down from the Midlands to see his children. He couldn't afford a hotel, so was going to be out all night. He wants to move to Eastleigh, we gave him contact details for Two Saints and the council.



The doorlady asked if she could have some flip-flops for later for her friend who was inside the pub...We ended up outside the Spitfire again where we met her out celebrating her birthday complete now with flip-flops for which she was very grateful.

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



****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! The training takes place alongside volunteers from other areas in the South—so a great opportunity for fellowship and to meet new people.

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

To gain an insight into what it is to be a street pastor why not come on an observation with a patrol. To book up a convenient date just contact the email below.

When does the next training take place?

Friday eve 7pm – 9.30pm, Sat all day 9.30am-4.30pm,

Sunday all day 9.30am-4.30pm

All timings and subjects still provisional

- Fri eve 22nd, Sat 23rd and Sun 24th March 2024
- Fri eve 5th, Sat 6th and Sun 7th April 2024
- Fri eve 19th, Sat 20th and Sun 21st April 2024

Some of the above training may be taken online. This may be on Saturday mornings over zoom or possibly on videos.

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

Applications by end of Sunday 3rd March 2024

The Management Committee

David Lockyer has recently stood down from serving as a Street Pastor and on the Committee

Chair: Martin Ward (St Mary's Bishopstoke CoE)

Vice Chair: To be appointed

Secretary: To be appointed

Treasurer: Martin Lloyd (Thrive church)

Other committee members:

Dave Savage (All Saints, CoE)

Eric Hyom (Holy Cross RC Church)

Alan Saunders (Eastleigh Baptist Church)

In addition the following roles are not part of the management committee but attend all meetings.

Prayer Pastor Coordinator: Vacant

Street Pastor Coordinator: Steve Smallwood

Committee administrator: Heather Bevis

Others serving:

Uniform monitor: Jeanne Donohoe



Prayer Pastors - Who are we and what do we do?

Prayer pastors are people from the local churches who pray for our Street

Pastors while they are on patrol. Ideally prayer would normally takes place at Wells Place Centre on a Friday night from around 8pm, although in current circumstances we have been experimenting with zoom prayer groups.

The prayer pastors pray with the Street Pastors before they go out and may be contacted during a shift if there is something immediate to pray for. If we are able to have teams at Wells Place prayer pastors will often make refreshments for Street Pastors. The Street Pastors will probably share something of any encounters or incidents while out. This information is CONFIDENTIAL so you are not allowed to discuss with others outside

the prayer team.

At the moment we have one church with a small group who regularly pray. In the past another church has used their small group network . All who have been involved say it has been encouraging for those that have taken part. They feel blessed to help provide prayer cover for our Street Pastors.

We have a need for someone to coordinate this ministry. Ideally someone who could set up and manage a WhatsApp group and can use zoom.

It would be a great encouragement to have more people and more churches involved in the prayer support. Ideally the commitment is to pray once every four weeks, but the coordinator would need to check weekly for prayer cover and manage any electronic groups.

Please contact us via

eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

A Prayer for Street Pastors

Living God, we praise you for the vision that gave birth to Street Pastors and for every life that has been touched through this movement of your Spirit. We thank you for every street pastor and we pray for them as they share your love with others. We ask for your protection and encouragement, your wisdom and courage and an ever deeper faith in and love for you.

We pray for those they meet week by week in the pubs and clubs, in the late night cafes, on the streets and at the bus stops. May those who are lonely be warmed by your presence; those who are bruised and hurting find healing

in your love; those that are ashamed and without hope be set free by your forgiveness and grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to seek and to save the lost. Thank you for the privilege of being your hands and feet, your eyes and your heart where we live. Give us eyes that see as you see, hearts that love as you love, and words that you can use to bring life and peace. And in it all, Lord God, give us thankfulness, generosity and joy in serving you, who to serve is perfect freedom and who to know is Life eternal.

God of Grace, to you be honour, praise and glory, from everlasting to everlasting, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN!

An appreciation of Graham Wright



Being part of a home-group with Ruth and Graham it is not surprising that, when we were sharing, I talked about Street Pastors. Graham was always interested. I went back

to his application form from October 2016. He went to Spring Harvest at Butlins in 2016 and at a Game changers event heard God say he had plans for him.

The training is always a challenge as you need to give up 3 weekends and at the time Ruth was also having an operation – but Graham was keen to get out on the streets.

Graham seemed to thrive on the fact no night is ever the same and was keen to take on more responsibility – becoming a team leader in August 2018. If he was free he would always be one of the first to volunteer for extra shifts such as for New Year's Eve or supporting other events like the Christmas light switch on.

Graham's written reports could be idiosyncratic and occasionally contain typos – I think he is of a generation that sometimes struggles with tech – an early email talked about a suspicious vehicle being foiled by a police cat!

Graham led our last shift before the pandemic on 13 March 2020 and when in the following week we were considering whether we should stop patrols entirely I had this simple email from Graham "Steve, if you need a volunteer to go out on any shift as a team member or a team leader I am available, blessings Graham."

But he was also practical – when we decided to stop patrols he messaged "Hi Steve I totally agree it would be unwise to go out

on patrol. Not just for health reasons but if we go out in a group of 3 or more we could be fined £30.00 Graham "

I asked Darren for a few words. Darren went out in Graham's team after he trained and then took over the team when Graham fell ill.

"As a new Street Pastor, Graham took me under his wing, gave me the confidence to embrace my training and enjoy this new role and path that God had encouraged me to take... and how easy it was.... not only with Graham's support but that of the rest of my team.... Some might call us strange for looking forward to pounding the pavements of Eastleigh until the early hours but Graham loved it and it didn't take me long to realise why... those out for the evening would often make a beeline to thank us for everything that we did and tell us stories of how we made a difference by having helped them out in the past.... Of course we are never really allowed to use the Q word [quiet] but deep down it was always on the tip of Graham's tongue... and as much as he loved being out, he also enjoyed an early night once he knew that everyone was on their way home safely so he could get a little shut eye as he was often up early the next day. Even when Graham wasn't well enough to be out on patrol with us, he would wait up till about 11.30pm so he could join us with a prayer which meant so much to the team... We couldn't quite convince him to do the closing prayer though. He would often share his favourite prayer with us (see prayer on page 5)."

Thanks Darren I just want to thank the Lord for the privilege of knowing Graham, and his whole family should be proud of what a wonderful servant he was as a Street Pastor. Steve Smallwood

A message from our newest recruit...

My name is David and I go to church in Eastleigh. I had wanted to become a Street Pastor for several years but was unable to as I had a work pattern of weekend nightshifts. Now recently retired after turning 70 in April I have time to commit to volunteer. Street Pastors are drawn from all the different churches in Eastleigh. I already had some awareness of what to expect as I had the privilege of going out to observe patrols. It was interesting to see the positive reactions that come from the reputation that has been built up over time, with positive recent and past testimonies of practical, emotional and physical needs being met. Sometimes it is just being a neutral calmness with a genuine caring presence.



I was looking forward to my training. I found the three weekends in five weeks, very intense, in depth and challenging. I was training alongside people from Basingstoke, Christchurch, Portsmouth, Winchester and Southampton. A shame I was the only one from Eastleigh.

The training started with spontaneous interactive challenging scenarios which were great icebreakers as we quickly got to know each other. I won't tell you the details of the scenarios but they make it clear why you have to be 18 or over to volunteer! A varied and vast amount of information was covered on all aspects of street life including safeguarding, addictions, communication and body language, behavioural problems including mental

health as well as policies and procedures. The emphasis was on the sacredness and sanctity of human life. We also learnt and developed our own personal interactive life skills to engage with people, show integrity and responsibility, empathise, be non-judgemental, and show we value honour and have concern for our community. It is about a passion to make a difference and meet people in the moment and love like Jesus did.

I was also blessed by a recent sermon series 'fruitfulness on the frontline' at Eastleigh Baptist church based around the different fruits of the spirit which was practical and positive. The Churches together BELLS initiative on prayer and blessing also complemented the Street Pastor training. BELLS stands for Bless three people, Eat/share with 3 people, Listen to the Holy Spirit, Learn to be like Jesus, Sent (be).

Jesus told us to 'go' he did not tell us to 'stop'. We are all the church without walls to be a blessing in our ordinary everyday lives.

The training has equipped me with insight awareness and the skills for the role and given me the openness to continue learning. As a team of Street Pastors we are all individuals with our own gifts. I am looking forward to my first shifts. Do consider making a difference in the community by becoming a Street Pastor.

Finally I want to thank all those who helped me on this journey, in particular my church, and fellow Street Pastors.

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 18th April 2023 on zoom, and the next will be in April 2024. If you would like to volunteer, become a member, or just want to know more, please fill in the form below or email eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk.



Get involved!

Please complete the Slip below and return it to:
 Eastleigh Street Pastors
 c/o Wells Place Centre



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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