

Enfield Street Pastors

Newsletter

No.12. March 2015



An Important Guest

Last year those who graduated had the privilege of receiving their certificates from Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Met Commissioner. Four of Enfield's Street Pastors graduated – Pennie Bongomin, Jane Chappell, Phil Anderson and Matthew Rawding.

Sir Bernard also gave the key-note speech at the ceremony.



Matthew, Pennie, Jane and Phil after receiving their certificates

Street Pastors

Street Pastors is a Christian response to the needs of local communities, and Enfield Street Pastors is part of a network of Street Pastors across the UK and elsewhere, overseen by Ascension Trust. Street Pastors was started in

Testimony

Near Edmonton Green we found Roy who was recently out of prison. He was homeless but had been given a flat in Wood Green which he gets possession of next week. As he was hungry we bought him a Chinese takeaway and drink. We followed him down Fore Street and watched as he got on a bus back to Wood Green.

Brixton, South London, by Rev Les Isaac in 2003 as a response to gangs, crime and violence in those areas. The purpose of Street Pastors is to provide a Christian presence on the streets in local communities in order to listen, care and help.

As at January 2015, Street Pastors are active in 280 locations throughout the UK, with over 11,000 volunteer Street Pastors trained.



Gloria and her crazy fan club

Testimonies

Round the back of the shops, we met the guys we spoke with last time for whom Gloria is a 'goddess'! As we got to the Triangle our 'Gloria fan club' arrived again and Alex, who had now joined them, was 'ecstatic' at seeing her again. A good bit of fun plus a photo, but they had a young lady with them which caused us a bit of concern. However, they told us they were on their way home, and we checked as they went to the nearby bus stop.

Charlie's Friends

During 2014 we continued our contact and involvement with the young people grieving the loss of their friend Charlie Davis who died under a train on 12th February 2013. Having first met this group in February that year, our involvement continued through the year to the extent that we not only built up a rapport with individuals but the Coordinator was able to make contact with the Local Authority on their behalf over matters that concerned them. This covered their meeting together on Chase Green by the tree they associated with Charlie, as this could have been seen as a nuisance. We also explored for them the possibility of placing a memorial plaque at this site on Chase Green.

Then we joined them on 12th February 2014 on the anniversary of Charlie's death. Enfield Street Pastors had agreed to cover the event alongside the Safer Estates Police team. We arrived around 9.00pm and were welcomed by a deluge of rain. However this soon passed and we joined the young people by 'their' tree with an immediate request for lollies. 'W', the Coordinator's contact with the group, told us they had spent most of the day remembering their friend with a visit to his grave and quiet reflections at Chase Green. It gave the opportunity to talk about Charlie, about his goals and ambitions in life. The group appreciated our presence and concern and eventually went off home.

Statistics

During the course of 2014 we have had 48 teams on the Streets out of a possible number of 48! That is up from 43 team outings in 2013 for which we are thankful. In addition, we had a fifth team out in February patrolling Chase Green for the Anniversary Vigil, remembering the death of Charlie Davis. See opposite.

We have been out for an average of 688 man hours. We have engaged with 617 men and 314 ladies. That's 931 contacts with people.

Because these things can be used as potential weapons, we have picked up and disposed of 139 glass bottles, together with clearing broken glass. We have also picked up and disposed of 27 cans, some almost full!

Testimony

In Edmonton we remove sex cards from phone booths

Testimony

There were masses of young people gathering outside Inn the on the Green in Palmers Green, with others coming down the road from the Alfred Herring. This was largely due to the fact that 6th formers were celebrating the last day at school and were out to enjoy themselves. Many had already had a lot to drink elsewhere so Henry and the other door staff had their work cut out because they weren't letting people in. There was a lot of shouting and protesting but no particular incidents, though one guy was being difficult but his friends restrained him. Many had drinks bottles so, as they put them on the floor we picked them up and put them out of harms way. We stayed around until things calmed down .

Funding

Our financial year is from 1st July. All our funding for the year came from churches (£1585) and individuals (£1359) so, with the addition of some small donations our total income raised during the year was £2994. Our main expenditure is the provision of uniforms for those training to be Street or School Pastors: (£100.00 for a Street Pastor and £75.00 for a School Pastor). Our total expenditure for the year was £3071, leaving us with a balance of £2959.

We are very grateful to those individuals and churches that have a commitment to supporting us in this way. If you want to support us please see the back page.

Testimony

As we passed the La Face night club S came up and asked if she could have a chat. We walked round the corner with her to where there were some seats, and she told us that a couple of days ago she had bought some Heroin and had shared it with a couple of guys. Unfortunately, one of the guys overdosed and died, and people were accusing her as he was well liked. She was feeling guilty and still in shock. We listened to her story and prayed with her. She said she felt a relief through being able to talk with us who she saw as neutral, and people who would listen and not pass judgement.

Testimonies

In Edmonton we came across an elderly man sat on the floor in a phone box. When we phoned for an ambulance it was clear he had already tried and was known to the ambulance service. We waited till an ambulance arrived and were able to leave them to it.

Testimony

In Enfield, as we passed the end of Gentleman's Row, we met a group of young people 'messaging about' round a car. When we later reached them C was lying in the gutter! There was no traffic, and it appeared to be her choice resting place for the moment as the others sat around on the edge of the pavement. When we came up they immediately stood and greeted us. They soon realised we were Christians, engaging us in conversation, and asked very important questions about God and life. There were a few choice 'modern' words thrown into the conversations, slightly different to words used in a Church Bible study, but it was a fruitful time. One young lady had found she was losing her sight and had recently been registered as blind. We were able to give her an understanding and listening ear as she told us her story. She was happy for us to pray with her.

New Year's Eve

Three of us from ESPs formed a team that was part of the Central London patrol for New Year's Eve. As a team we were sent to Westminster Tube Station and stood outside with the crowds waiting to see the fireworks, and had an amazing view when they took place. Once the fireworks were over most people moved away. When the bulk of the crowds had left we walked back and forth along the Embankment checking folk were OK. People were ready to receive help who needed it.



One group of young people insisted on feeding us with meat pies and crisps. We were able to identify a number of ladies having problems with their heels and gave them flip flops and, where necessary we gave bottled water, lollies and foil blankets. Our help in this way continued in The Strand where we were able to help a couple of ladies with their heels who had been to the Savoy for a Black Tie event.

Testimony

The manager in McDonalds pointed out a couple of customers who he said were homeless. We went and talked to them. They were Eritrean, and had 4 children. The father had been injured in an road accident at some point and wasn't able to climb the stairs to their 3rd floor flat due to his injuries. He'd been sleeping on the floor in the lobby, but the owners served a notice that this was not allowed. He had a note from his doctor stating his medical condition; that he needed help from his wife in personal care; that sleeping rough was detrimental to his health; and listing all his medication. They were being shunted between local authorities who denied responsibility so one of the team wrote a note for them to Children's Social Worker, asking they arrange for Enfield's Adult Social Services to do a full assessment.

School Pastors

School Pastors in Enfield was officially launched in July 2013.

Through the year, however, the original six Street Pastors were joined by Kirsty Lennox, the full time youth worker at Enfield Baptist Church. Kirsty has now moved on to further her career in Australia.

Meanwhile, Enfield School Pastors continue to patrol every Monday and Friday afternoons in the area of Latymer School in Edmonton, working with the Police and other agencies to reduce after school crime suffered by school students. These patrols give us regular contact with students from four senior schools as well as parents and children from three primary schools in the immediate locality.

Testimony

In the bus station a man approached us, worried he had missed the last W6. We were able to check a bus was waiting in the stand and, when it came, he thanked us.

If you are reading this and know young people in a local school please remind them to keep their mobile phones etc., out of sight. Otherwise they could be taken.

We need to recruit more School Pastors and the next training period starts on Saturday 6th June. Are you available during the day and feel this is something you could be interested in? If so, please contact us using the contact information on this page.

Keeping Enfield Street Pastors on the streets

A Street Pastor is a member of a local church who has chosen to respond positively to the night time problems of a town,

Testimony

As we looked back towards the market in Enfield Town we saw a couple of men getting into an argument near the burger van. We walked back until we were opposite to keep an eye on things and pray for calm. They did indeed separate without fighting. The aggressor was wearing sun glasses and we later spotted him near Bar Form, so we were able to tip off the doorman who was able to turn him away when he tried to get in.

engaging with people on the streets by caring, listening and helping, as well as being a reassuring presence for people who might feel vulnerable or

Testimony

In Favourite Chicken some teenagers were messing about inside, although they had made purchases. They had come from a party and had clearly had a few drinks. Now they were waiting for taxis out of the cold. We stayed in the shop until they left as the staff had been frustrated and ready to call the police.

Round by the kebab shop there was a large group of around 15 to 20 guys waiting around the bus stop. Generally they were eating their kebabs but as there was quite a bit of movement that others at the bus stop were aware of we stood by the bus stop until they dispersed.

In the Bus Station a Police van pulled over and asked us to keep a watch out for an elderly man called J. He gave us a description and said he had gone missing from Ponders End, so we kept a look out for him in the street and on buses.

anxious. You can help us in three specific ways:

1: PRAYER – We need more Prayer Partners who can receive our monthly report by email and pray for us, or those who can support us in prayer while we are out on patrol.

2: PASTORS – The more Street Pastors we have, the bigger the impact we can have on the streets of the Borough. The next training programme begins in September - could you be among them?

3: POUNDS - We continue to need funding from individuals, churches and grant-making bodies. Please ask for information on our '1 in a 100' scheme - 100 people committing to give £10 per month.

If you able to help us in any of these three ways; or if you would like someone to give a talk in your church or group, please contact our Coordinator.

Making contact

Contact John Rawding, Coordinator for Enfield Street & School Pastors.

Our email address is: enfield@streetpastors.org.uk

Our phone number is: 07982 197505 (best to leave a text message so I can get back to you).

Also: See us on the official Street Pastors website - www.streetpastors.org.uk - go to the Enfield page where you can also download our previous newsletters.