

Enfield Street Pastors

Newsletter

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A big act to follow

Throughout history there are those we can look up to as good role models, people who have something special to say to us through the way they live their lives. For us as Street Pastors perhaps the greatest role model is Jesus.

There are aspects of what Jesus did that we can relate to. There was the time, for instance, when he saw a large crowd. It was the end of the day, he was probably tired, but he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). We can relate to that. 'The end of the day' sounds familiar for Street Pastors as we hit the streets having already had our breakfast, lunch and supper! But, like Jesus the Good Shepherd, we seek to follow his lead in looking out for those in need.

In the above incident Jesus began to teach these people, but his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

But Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat" (Mark 6:35-37)! Continued on page 3



Listening, Caring and Helping

Street Pastors

Enfield Street Pastors is part of a network of over 270 Street Pastors groups across the UK and elsewhere, overseen by Ascension Trust. Street Pastors is a Christian response to the needs of local communities. It was started in Brixton, South London, by Rev Les Isaac in 2003 as a response to gangs, crime and violence in those areas. Today over 12,000 volunteers have been trained.

The purpose of Street Pastors is to provide a late night Christian presence on the streets of our town centres, not to proselytise, but in order to be an influence for calm, to listen to people's issues, and care and help as appropriate.

We continue to patrol mainly in Fore Street, Edmonton, to the Tottenham border; Enfield Town Centre; Palmers Green and Southgate; with patrol times varying between 9.00pm and 3.30am.

Testimony

At Southgate Bus Station we met two young ladies waiting for a bus. We asked if they were going clubbing but they said no. Even so, we showed them some 'Spikeys' and, as they hadn't seen them before we gave them a handful each and explained what they are for. They both had friends who had had their drinks spiked so we were able to offer friendly advice on not drinking with people they didn't know and generally taking care.

Statistics

During the course of 2015 we have had 48 teams on the Streets out of a possible number of 48! In addition, we had an extra team out at Halloween, and four Street Pastors from Enfield joined the Central London patrol on New Year's Eve.

We have given a total of 785 volunteer hours, have engaged in some way with 879 men and 565 ladies. That's 1444 contacts with people which have varied from a simple 'hello, how are you?' to specific acts of listening, caring and helping as appropriate at the time. And, because these things can be used as potential weapons, we have picked up and disposed of 170 glass bottles, together with clearing broken glass, and have picked up and disposed of 101 cans, some almost full! We have given away numerous lollies and 'Spikey's'.

We gave away 9 pairs of flip-flops and 9 bottles of water, together with buying 3 meals for homeless people.

What is a 'Spikey'?

Spikeys are produced by the drinks industry and are a useful little item that goes into the opening of a drinks bottle to help prevent the drink being interfered with.

Recent Graduates



Nyarai

So, congratulations to Nyarai and Tabi. We wish them well as they continue to serve with us here in Enfield.

Last November two members of Enfield Street Pastors graduated after completing their training.



Tabi

Testimony

After we had phoned the Police Control Room to put on a CAD, we had a phone call from a local Police Officer. He'd been told we were going to Southgate so he asked us to take care as they had attended a number incidents around Southgate with groups of youths carrying knives. This came through as we were about to pray so this was a focus of our prayers. Thankfully, though we did see a group of guys in the bus station, there was no trouble. Later, we noticed another group of young guys moving around in the bus station. As they passed us back and forth we waited around to see developments, but they crossed the road and got on a 121 bus.

Funding

Our financial year is from 1st July. All our funding for the year came from churches (£600) and individuals (£1451) so, with the addition of some small donations our total income raised during the year was £2578. 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 £1048, leaving us with a balance of £4489.

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

In Enfield Town we spoke to Fennel. She was upset and wanted a 'Street Pastor' cuddle because her best friend had two-timed her with someone else. Across at the fountain we met David, sat on the seat and addressing the world in his drunken state. We had a quick chat and binned one of his bottles. He said he was going to walk to Chingford. Outside Enfield Town station we gave out a number of 'Spikeys' and lollies to young ladies. We saw a young lady carrying her shoes so gave her a pair of flip flops. Later we gave a pair of flip flops to another young lady, but when a group of guys asked for flip flops we gave them lollies instead! By now David had arrived at the station and was holding forth from time to time. We kept an eye on him throughout the evening, chatting with him when he looked vulnerable, and counselling him to keep quiet when the Police arrived to deal with an incident in the station. In the meantime an older lady had arrived in tears and sat on the floor by the station entrance. She was obviously drunk, but we spent an hour with her giving her comfort and care. As she was hungry, we bought her a meal and one of us helped her to eat it. David remained in the area and we kept an eye on him to make sure he was ok.

Testimony

As we were walking up Fore Street we passed Gary, slowly making his way on a pair of crutches towards Edmonton Green. He told us he had just come out of prison. He had spent the last three nights in Stoke Newington Police Station and was now walking back to Bethnal Green where he lived. He didn't seem to be particularly phased when we told him he'd turned right instead of left out of the Police Station. We told him he could get a bus from the Bus Station and waited with him till it came, talking to driver to make sure he got to his right destination.

Testimony

When we got to Enfield Town Station the police had closed off the road as there had been a fight outside Tubby's Kebab. Later, when things had died down we were outside Tubby's again, chatting to John and his friend Gary, when a group came past that Gary had had a conflict with the week before. It looked like it was all going to kick off again but we were able to calm the situation and ensure that the group moved on.



Patrolling in Enfield Town

Testimonies

Just before we crossed the A406 a lady came running over. Her name was Mandy and she had met Street Pastors outside the Crown & Anchor a year and a week ago. It had been the wake for one of her friends who had passed away, and one of the Street Pastors had given her words of comfort which had stayed with her since. This was the first time she had seen us since. She was very positive about Street Pastors and thanked us.

Testimony

We walked down Green Lanes and met M, a young man working in one of the convenience stores. He asked if we could go outside as he wanted to chat away from his colleagues. He told us he is a Muslim and that he's very concerned about the violence in the world, and upset about groups like ISIS. As he talked with us he was in tears explaining how he wanted to be kind to people. We said he was following the example of Jesus and, after a long chat, we were able to discreetly give him a Bible and pray with him.

Continued from page 1 Again, the phrase 'it's already very late' seems very apt for us as Street Pastors. And, whilst the disciples were thinking of the welfare of the people, they were probably thinking of themselves as well. 'We want to go home!' If you've never responded like that in the early hours, I certainly have.

But what did Jesus do? He introduced a new challenge: 'You give them something to eat!' Sounds hard, but he introduced a new aspect to his disciple's role and gave them a crash course in what it means to be a Servant. Jesus could be reminding us we're not here just to wear the uniform, we're here to serve the community

A servant! That's an almost alien concept in today's rather selfish society. But the example of Jesus is that of one who did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Jesus the Good Shepherd, Jesus the Servant, is our role model as Street and School Pastors; and we do that through fulfilling our brief to Listen, Care and Help, thus seeking to bring something of God's heaven into the lives of those we meet. And that generally means that, despite the lateness of the hour and not always friendly weather, we can go home with a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction that we have done someone some good.

Testimony

On the way to Enfield Town Station we passed a couple where the guy was obviously drunk. He was dubious when we offered him some water, but a guy who knew him said 'come on mate, haven't you seen these people on the TV?' At the station there was a lot going on with a crowd of people on the pavement between Tubbies and Bar Form. At times it was quite volatile as many had had too much to drink. We helped a young man sat on the floor. We gave him a bottle of water for when he was in a position to drink it. We kept an eye on this situation till his friend was able to get him upright and into a taxi home. Things were quite volatile as people reacted excessively to situations. However, we were able to calm things down when we went to check on a young lady sat on the floor and got into conversation with others standing around. This led to lots of chats, and photos with Street Pastors which acted as a diversion. We saw a young lady who needed flip flops so we obliged. Lauren also wanted a pair but as she had flat shoes we refused but gave her a lolly and a spikey as a consolation prize!

School Pastors

School Pastors in Enfield was officially launched in July 2013.

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.

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.

Testimony

As we were praying prior to patrolling Bill knocked on the door and said he was homeless. We gave him contact details for homeless resources and then took him to McDonalds to buy him a meal.

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, 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 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

Testimony

At Enfield market we were approached by an older lady pulling a large suit case, who we later found out was Elizabeth. She was looking for her husband in a pub with the word 'Head' in it so we sent her in the direction of the Kings Head at the back of the market. Not long after Elizabeth appeared again, and she was looking agitated. She had been drinking earlier in the day and so her story took a while to come out, but she had come to London for the weekend from Ireland with her husband and they had got separated. Over the next few hours we pieced together her story and it quickly became clear to us that Elizabeth was lost and had no idea where she was. She had been walking round for hours trying to locate her husband. Earlier in the day they had been drinking and it ended up in an argument that the police were called to. From what we could tell, the police had taken her from the property and dropped her at Enfield Town Station to get a train to Euston and try and get back home. She had a sheet of notepaper from a police notepad, with the train route to take. Once we knew that she had been in touch with the police we called 101 to see whether they had any record of her and the location of her husband. Meanwhile, Elizabeth was determined to roam the streets in search of her husband, but we were keen to ensure that she was safe, especially as it was almost freezing. The police kept in touch to check the current position, and at 3.45am the police came and picked her up, and we went home.

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 are 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.

Testimony

We found Gabi sitting on a wall with her friends Luke and Judith. She had been sick. They had all been drinking and Luke had punched a wall. Luke told us that he has anger issues and from the look of his hand, he had broken at least one knuckle. We advised him that he should go to hospital, but he didn't want to. As he lives with his mum she will probably make him go in the morning. Gabi was sick a few more times and we used some water and tissues to help her clean up. We gave her a pair of flip flops as there was no way she was going to walk in her high heels.

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