

Enfield Street Pastors

Newsletter

No.14. March 2017



Welcome to this, our 14th Annual Newsletter. We trust you enjoy reading it and, through the testimonies, get a feel of the breadth of activity we can be involved in on the streets of Enfield as we seek to serve our communities.

Street Pastors

A Street Pastor is a committed Christian and member of a local church who, after training, has chosen to respond positively to the night time problems of a town centre. Our brief is to listen to people who want to chat, care for those who feel vulnerable, and help those who need it

in the context of the moment.

In Enfield our four teams patrol the places where people gather at the weekend to socialise and enjoy an evening out. Sometimes, however, that evening out can take a turn through too much alcohol or through other circumstances, and people can need a helping hand. That's where Street Pastors can play their part.

We engage with people in a friendly way. It could be with passers by; with door staff; those serving in late night convenience stores or take-aways; with groups of girls or guys, particularly if



Testimony

As we entered Silver Street, Enfield, there were a lot of people in the road with much shouting. It became clear that all was not well and there seemed to be various arguments going on. We decided to stand opposite and pray, whilst all around us seemed to be breaking into chaos. Calm was eventually restored, and whilst there was a lot of posturing and shouting, no one actually came to blows. Once people had moved on we checked on a few of the girls who had moved further up the road to ensure they were OK.

Testimony

In Southgate we came across a group of young people who were quite emotional, and one young lady in particular was screaming and swearing whilst a young guy was trying to calm her down. We approached and began to see if there was anything we could do. They had been to a funeral wake as a young person had died, and grief plus alcohol had fuelled the situation. They all moved away as things calmed down, and we were able to speak to some concerned people who had come out of their homes.

Why am I a Street Pastor?

Sometimes I would sit in church wondering if I was doing anything positive in terms of 'making Jesus known' (our church motto). Then I spotted the Enfield Street Pastors' leaflet in church and realised this is something I could do. I'm not comfortable striking up conversations with strangers, but wearing the Street Pastors uniform gives me confidence. It's also a starting point for conversations. The people we meet are appreciative of what we do, and it certainly feels like Street Pastors are 'making Jesus known' through our brief of listening, caring and helping.

Martin



Testimony

Near one of the Bars in Enfield Town we saw a lady sat at the bus stop. We'd earlier seen her being thrown out of the Bar when we first arrived. She was in a bad way and needed help getting home. As she'd been there for over an hour she was very cold so we put one of our scarves around her and wrapped a foil blanket around her to try and maintain what body heat she had. She wanted a cab but wasn't prepared for us to help her walk round to the cab office, so she phoned a friend. We stayed with her till her friend came about 45 minutes later. We were also able to fend off any unwanted attention as people left the Bar.

there seem be tensions in the group; and with people outside for a smoke who just want someone different to talk to.

The vulnerable could be someone who has had too much to drink; under-age teenagers who want an 'exciting' evening out but, with no-where to go, can become vulnerable; a homeless person who needs a meal or direction to homeless services; a lone female at a bus stop late at night who could just do with someone nearby so she feels safe; or helping people get home late at night. We can be a reassuring presence for people who might feel nervous or anxious.

And, because the Street Pastor uniform identifies us as Christians, people often come to us and ask us about the Christian Faith, giving us the opportunity to share our faith with people and, if people are happy about this, pray with them.

In Enfield our teams carry flip flops to help young ladies having problems with their heels. We carry thermal blankets, bottles of water, 'Spikeys' and lollies! We also carry useful information for those on the streets, as well as Christian literature and Bibles.

Street Pastors seek to give people an experience of God and not just a message about him!



If you would like a copy of our Annual Report and Accounts please email us at: enfield@streetpastors.org.uk

Best wishes.
John Rawding
Coordinator. Enfield Street & School Pastors

Testimony

Walking to over to McDonalds we came across a rough sleeper. He introduced himself as M, from Romania, and said he was not able to sleep, though he had a quilt as well as his clothes. He showed us a picture of his wife and 2 children. He had been working but had lost his job and was not sure whether to stay or return to Romania. We gave him a foil blanket and a leaflet with relevant information to assist him the next day.

Testimony

It was Halloween, and we noticed a young lady standing on the edge of the pavement. She seemed restless, distracted, and not keeping an eye on her belongings. She was scantily dressed for a Halloween party and had come with her boyfriend, a family group of his, and a girlfriend. She caused us concern all evening, so we kept an eye on her. Around midnight we heard screaming and shouting and we found her having a violent argument with her boyfriend. We tried to talk to her and, whilst she said 'I need help', she wasn't in one place long enough to receive it. She refused flip-flops when she was walking around in her white socks. We talked to the girlfriend who was sitting on a wall. She was embarrassed by her friend shouting, and eventually went home without her. Obviously what was meant to be a happy evening went seriously wrong for her, but we were able to make sure she kept safe until she went home.



It was 1.00am on Christmas Eve and we were walking around the area looking for any vulnerable people. As it was reasonably quiet, we began to sing carols outside Enfield Town Station. We had just begun Silent Night when a group of young people joined in and, whilst others dropped out to listen, a couple of young ladies wanted to continue and asked to sing O little Town of Bethlehem. They had attended St Andrew's Primary School in the town and remembered the carols from there. We continued with a couple more carols with a small crowd either joining in or expressing appreciation.

Funding

Our financial year is from 1st July. All our funding for the year came from churches (£1695) and individuals (£1630) so, with the addition of a large donation, our total income raised during the year was £3825. 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 £3339, with a surplus of £486, leaving us with a balance of £4975.

We are very grateful to those individuals and churches that have a commitment to supporting us in this way. If you wish to make a donation please see the contact details on the back page. Thank you.

Testimony

At Southgate Station E and her friend approached us saying she was ill and needed medication. We directed her to the W6 bus and drew a map as to how to reach the North Mid. We prayed for her, for healing and for things to go well. She was very appreciative.

We said hi to three guys as they passed and, as they'd gone into McDonalds and waved to us, we went in for a chat. Then S, sitting in the next seating block, recognised us and called us over. She said she's doing Art at Barnet and is having problems with her love life. We chatted with her and her best friend, and said we'd pray for them both to be successful.

Further up the road we met A who was struggling with very heavy bags. Two of us offered to help and we carried them with her to her upstairs flat at Ashfield Parade. She offered us tea but we said goodbye and moved on.

Some young ladies came by carrying a 'one' and an 'eight' balloon so we asked who the Birthday girl was. We wished her a Happy Birthday and gave her a birthday gift - a lollie!

Michael

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to Michael who graduated last November after completing his training. We wish him well as he continues to serve with us.



Pennie

Why am I a Street Pastor?

Because Jesus repeatedly asks us as Christians to show care and compassion, and to help the weak and vulnerable, especially those who feel rejected by the society around them and need help in one way or the other.

I love chatting to people, and helping them feel they are loved and that they matter, especially those who have a lot on their minds and need someone to share with.

Testimony

In Enfield Town we came across a young lady lying on the floor. Her male friend had called a cab. He took a laid back approach so we stayed around. When we got her on her feet, while one of the team held her hair back, she was sick. We wrapped her in a foil blanket and were able to provide water and tissues. Then, when the cab came we gave her friend a sick bag just in case.

Testimonies

As people were leaving a bar in Enfield we had four occasions when flip flops were gratefully received by young ladies. On the first of these occasions we were applauded by one of the door staff who obviously appreciated the benefit of having us around. We were able to be of assistance to a number of young ladies who seemed to go for the horizontal rather than vertical position as they walked up the road, and generally be appreciated as people left the premises.



Testimony

Near Enfield Town Station we found a girl sitting on the floor who was clearly the worse for wear. Her friend was trying to help her drink water which she was not keeping down. We found out that her name was F and that this was her first night out after she had just turned 18. She then slumped over and passed out. There were a lot of people around and we took control of the situation, initially getting her in the recovery position and placing a foil blanket over her to keep her warm. We got a passer-by to phone an ambulance and then stayed with her, following the instructions from the call handler. Her friend M was very anxious whilst we waited for the ambulance, and we were able to defuse any tension and keep things calm. We were helped by two guys, one of whom held her head and, following instructions from the call handler, regularly checking her breathing. The ambulance eventually turned up and we helped keep people back and provide them with all the details, plus assisted them with getting her onto the stretcher.

A month later we met F again. She said the hospital told her that her drink had been spiked. She thanked us for helping her, and said that we saved her life! She said she was taking greater care now.

School Pastors

Enfield School Pastors continue to patrol every Monday and Friday afternoon in the area of Latymer School in Edmonton. These patrols give us regular contact with students from four senior schools as well as parents and children from three primary schools in the locality.

Please remind your young people to keep their mobile phones etc., out of sight. Otherwise they could be taken.

Testimony

Outside one of the bars in Enfield we met a man who had been excluded. He was clearly disoriented and a potential problem through alcohol. We kept his attention so as to keep him from causing trouble.

We passed another man on Silver Street who was fairly drunk and indicating that he was going home. We met him again in Church Street trying to hail passing cars, thinking they might be taxis. We escorted him to the Station where he was able to order a mini-cab.

C and E came up, together with some of their friends. They kept us entertained over their evening's exploits, and eventually lined us up and got someone to take a photo of us all.

Why am I a Street Pastor?



Carol
It's being Jesus hands and feet out in the community. It's the church out on the street, working as part of a team looking out for people who are the worst the wear through drink, making sure they are being kept safe. I really feel Gods presence during the time I'm out, experiencing God leading us to those opportunities to share Gods love in practical ways.

Keeping us on the streets of Enfield

Every evening Street Pastors patrol we meet people who say how appreciative they are for what we do. They know we're looking out for them. If you would like to be a part of this ministry you can help us in three ways: by becoming a Prayer Partner, training to be a Street or School Pastor, or by helping us financially.

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. The contact details are below

Testimony

We saw four guys having an aggressive argument near the drinking fountain in Enfield Town, so we stopped to chat. It seemed three friends were out for the evening and a stranger had come along and was causing trouble, so they were asking him to leave. Our presence helped to facilitate this and he walked off, leaving us to chat to the others. They were drinking a mixture of Cola and spirits so we asked them to finish the spirits and give the glass bottle to us so we could dispose of it.

Making contact

Please contact John Rawding.
Coordinator for Enfield Street & School Pastors.

Our email address is:
enfield@streetpastors.org.uk
Our phone number is: 07982 197505 (please leave a text message so I can get back to you).

Also: Visit the official Street Pastors website - www.streetpastors.org.uk