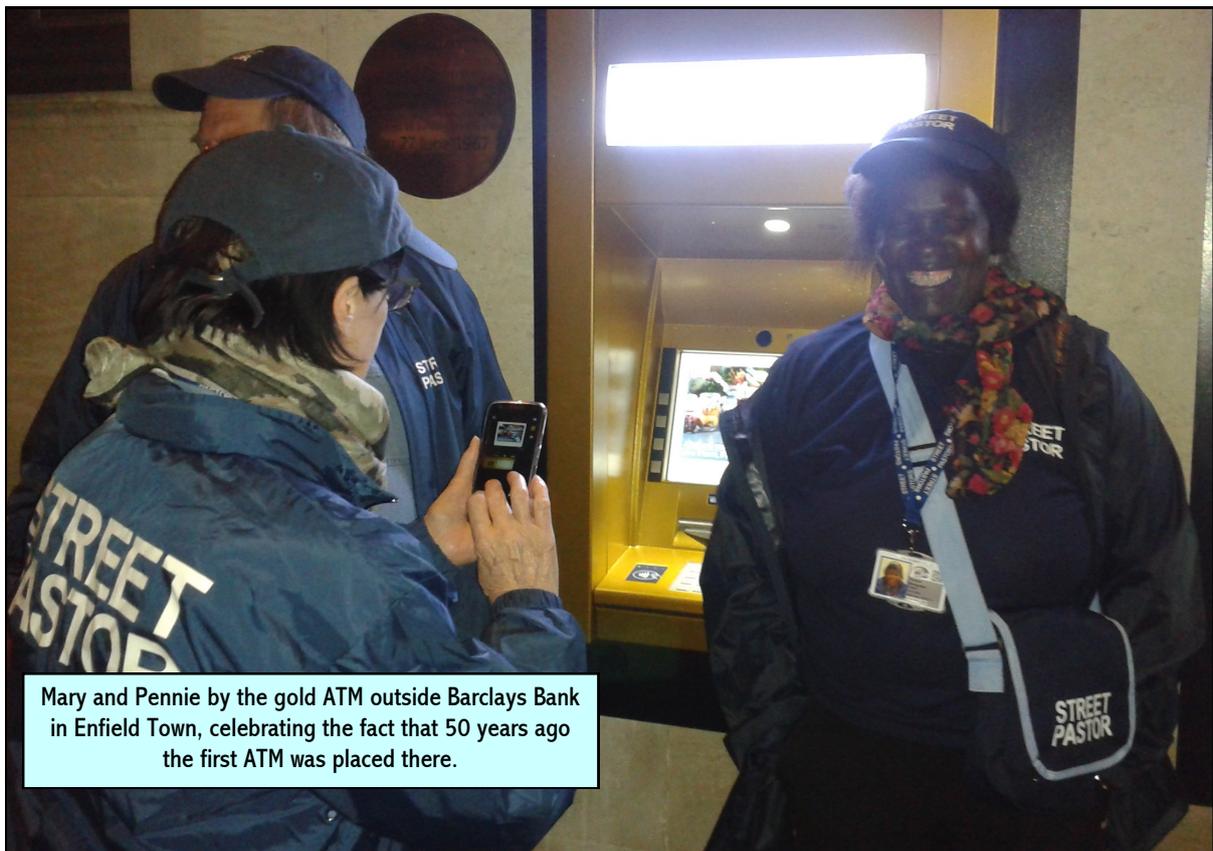


Enfield Street Pastors

Newsletter

No.15. March 2018



Mary and Pennie by the gold ATM outside Barclays Bank in Enfield Town, celebrating the fact that 50 years ago the first ATM was placed there.

Welcome to this, our 15th Newsletter. We trust you enjoy reading it and, through the stories, 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.

Our four teams continue to 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 there seem be tensions in the group; and with

Testimony

At Enfield Town Station O came up to us and thanked us for praying for her in the past. She said we'd prayed about the fact that she and her mum weren't talking. She said that, after our prayers, she was reconciled to her mum, and this was a big thing for her. She said that, though this had happened two years ago, she was so grateful and had been looking out for us ever since to say thank you.

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.

In 2017...

During the course of the year Enfield Street Pastors have been on patrol for around 717 volunteer hours, giving us contact with 1175 people! Some of these contacts would be just in passing, but others would be more meaningful 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.

Testimony

At the bus terminus in Little Park Gardens a bus driver asked for our help. An elderly lady on the bus wouldn't get off and couldn't remember where she lived. He was trying to ring her manager for advice. We got onto the bus and started chatting with the lady. When we asked her where she lived she remembered that it was in Ponders End. She said she planned to go to Edmonton Green and get a bus from there. As the bus was going to Edmonton Green the bus driver was then happy to let her stay on. She thanked us for our help and, as it was 1.00am, we prayed for her safe journey home.

Sadly there have been a number of fatalities during the year, and on two occasions we stood with young people at vigils marking the violent death of a young person. The first occasion was

Wedding Bells

Our congratulations go to Richard and Barbara who recently married in Amsterdam where they continue to live. This has meant saying goodbye to Richard, a Street Pastor, a team leader, a trustee, and our treasurer. We wish them well in their new life together.

in Oakwood where the vigil was against the garden wall of one of our Street Pastors, giving her contact with the families involved. The other occasion was in the Market Square in Enfield Town. On both occasions our presence was one



Standing at the vigil in Enfield Town last August

of reassurance, standing with these young people as they tried to handle their grief and come to terms with death. In Enfield Town, over the period of a month, we were able to talk with young people who told us they had known the victim. Some

knew him well and showed us pictures on their phones of the open coffin and the boys mum. T had known him for a while, and she was thinking about his family, though she was in a vulnerable state herself.

In the Autumn Term four Street Pastors spoke about the work of Street Pastors to year 10 students as part of their RE GCSE course at a local senior school. The work of Street Pastors is part of the National Curriculum for RE GCSE

Why am I a Street Pastor?

I remembered quite vividly that someone spoke in a church conference about Street Pastors and how marvellous it would be to join the team. I felt the drawing of the Holy Spirit almost instantly inviting me to move out from the comfort zone of the church and reach out to the needs of the community.



Yvonne

along with Food Banks, as an example of the Church doing positive things in the community.



Waiting at a bus stop late at night with a young mum and her children

Why am I a Street Pastor?

I have been a Street pastor for nearly five years and lead one of the teams. Jesus sets us an example of going out and reaching people where they are at. Sometimes it can be easy for us to sit in church and pray about the world outside, but not be willing to get involved. Being a Street Pastor is a great opportunity to get out and demonstrate God's love and show the world that the church cares.



Matthew

This seemed to be the evening for hugs which came aplenty. A group came out of The George (now O'Neill's) and said 'we love you', and gave us lots of hugs. One of them said this was her first time out drinking. We asked if she was moving on to drink elsewhere and she said yes but wasn't looking forward to it as she was feeling vulnerable through being in the situation for the first time. We gave her a handful of spikeys, explaining what they are for, and she went off happy.

At Edmonton Green, S came up to us. He spoke about the Kingdom of God, and we chatted about the different churches represented in Street Pastors. We asked if there was anything we could pray for and he mentioned he had a bad shoulder that hurt when he sneezed. We prayed for healing and he said he felt the touch of God.

One of the market security called us to a young lady who had been sick and was upset. She was with a group of friends, and one of the guys recognised us from School Pastors. The young lady said she'd not drunk much all evening and suspected something had been added to her drink. However, she seemed more settled now she'd been sick. We gave her and her friends lollies which were well received.

Prayer Team

During the course of the year we appointed Carol Chamberlain as our Prayer Coordinator. This is a great step forward. We now have four venues where the teams can meet, the prayer team can pray while the team is out, and where there are refreshments for a break during the patrol. Our thanks go to the four churches who are prepared to give us access to their premises for this purpose.

In addition Carol has a list of 30 people she sends a text to who will pray as a team is about to go on patrol. There are also around 62 people who receive the team reports each month and pray through the prayer points.

Points for prayer are updated every month on our website. You can use the link on our Facebook page - see back page for details.

Thank you to all our faithful prayer supporters. Prayer makes a difference!

Funding

Our financial year is from 1st July. All our funding for the year came from churches (£730) and individuals (£1860). Our total income was £2590. Our main expenditure is the provision of uniforms for those training (£150.00 for a Street Pastor and £100.00 for a School Pastor). Our total expenditure for the year was £2472, with a surplus of £118, leaving us with a balance of £5093.



Chatting outside a bar

We remain 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

A large group of around 20 older teenagers in the bus station were filling the pavement and moving around like a swarm of bees. The majority were guys, but there were about eight young ladies who we had a concern for. The guys were restless and obviously wanting an 'exciting' end to their evening out. Some were inhaling gas. As this was quite intimidating for people waiting at the nearby bus stop some of us stayed with them whilst the rest of us were with the young people. We spoke with some of the girls as the guys were giving them gas canisters. Not all the girls knew what they were or what they are for. Then two older guys in their mid-thirties came by on their way home from work. They were drinking and had bags full of drink. The young guys saw this and asked if they would share drink with them. The two guys seemed to think this would be a laugh so there was an invitation to go round the corner and have a good time. We approached the youngsters, asked if they knew the guys, and strongly warned against getting involved, particularly thinking of the young ladies. Fortunately they took our advice. Most of the girls left, and eventually they all dispersed, giving us the opportunity to talk to the two older guys.

Why am I a Street Pastor?

When, after a troubled childhood, I met Jesus I realised no one on this earth has the capacity to love me like him. This is awesome, and because of my background and what I have experienced through my growing years, I was so inspired when I heard at our church about Enfield Street Pastors. So when I was asked to be part of this project I felt God saying to me, 'Come on Gloria, what are you going to do about it?' I like the idea that we are out on the street representing the church, ordinary people like us seeking to make a difference and helping people feel safe.



Gloria

Testimony

We came across S, a young man we have met a number of times in Enfield Town. We encouraged him as he was doing a 24 hour non-stop pedal on an exercise bike in order to draw attention to the number of stabbings that have taken place in Enfield recently. Called 'No more stabbings', he showed us a video of earlier in the day when school children had crowded round and had supported the message.

School Pastors

Enfield School Pastors continue to patrol every Monday afternoon in Edmonton. These patrols



give us regular contact with students from Aylwood, Edmonton County, Latymer, and Winchmore senior schools, as well as parents and children from three primary schools in the locality.

Testimony

In one corner, near the King's Head, there was a group of about dozen older teenagers. Though under age they had managed to obtain alcohol. One of the guys was getting very angry and threatening others in the group. When this became more a conflict between him and just two others we went over and began to relate to those not involved with a view to drawing them away. We stayed with them for a while and gave them lollies. Basically they were embarrassed over their friend's behaviour.

C wanted to speak to us and asked for prayer over recurring health issues. She's had a tumour that was treated, was OK but returned. It was about a year ago that she had her last treatment but she's worried it may be coming back. Last year she also had a ruptured appendix. We prayed with her.

Ever Onwards...

We regularly 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 do so in four ways:

- ◆ By training to be a Street or School Pastor.
- ◆ By becoming a Prayer Partner.
- ◆ By helping us financially.
- ◆ By inviting us to give a talk in your church or group.

To follow this through, please contact John Rawding.
Coordinator for Enfield Street & School Pastors.

Our email address is:
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Our phone number is: 020 8886 3786 or
Text 07982 197505

See us on Facebook: 'Enfield Street Pastors'
Visit www.streetpastors.org/locations/enfield