

Enfield Street Pastors

Newsletter

No.20. March 2023



Whatever the weather, pouring rain or Ice Cream at 12.30am on a cold winter's night(!), Enfield Street Pastors are on the streets of Enfield serving our communities.

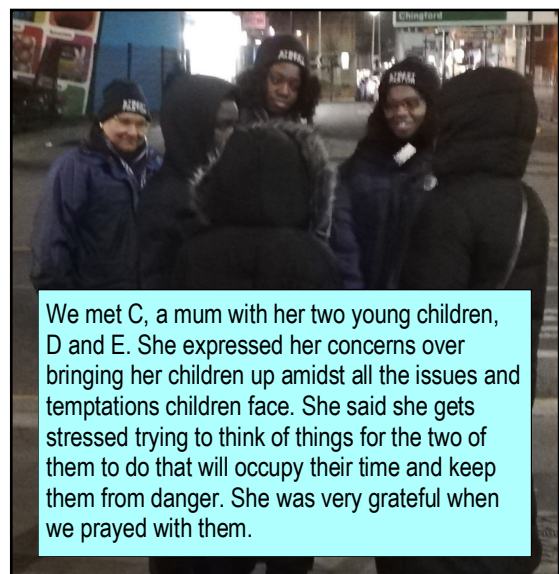


Welcome to this, our 20th Newsletter. We trust you enjoy reading it.

We continue to be where people gather at the weekend in Enfield 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.

2022 was a good year with opportunities to engage with people and fulfil our brief of being a 'listening, caring and helping' presence on the streets.

Let the pictures and testimonies tell their story.



We met C, a mum with her two young children, D and E. She expressed her concerns over bringing her children up amidst all the issues and temptations children face. She said she gets stressed trying to think of things for the two of them to do that will occupy their time and keep them from danger. She was very grateful when we prayed with them.

Testimony

In the bus station we met C who was waiting on her own for her bus. She said she was OK, but we felt to press in. Then she told us her story. She said this had been a significant evening for her, and meeting us was the icing on the cake, and had been a real blessing for her. We prayed for her and she prayed for us.

Testimony

On our way to Taps we were stopped by T who wanted to know what we could do for him. This turned out to be a distressing situation, and we listened for the next 40 minutes or so whilst he told us his story. He works in IT and has a good job but is homeless through a series of difficult situations. We said we couldn't practically do anything for him but gave him some phone numbers for homeless charities. We shook his hand, and thanked him for sharing his vulnerability. When we said we would pray for him he said he was genuinely blessed. He walked up to Taps with us and we met some of his friends.



Whether business is good or bad, Alex at his Sandwich Shop in Chase Side, Southgate, is always ready to give us all a free hot drink.

Testimony

At the station we came across a young lady sat on the floor. She was being helped by two friends and, as she'd been sick, they were giving her water. As there's usually others hanging around, we engaged with them so as to give her friends some space. They eventually got her on her feet and they walked off towards O'Neill's as her dad was coming to pick her up.

We stayed close by, and back near O'Neill's the young lady was there with her two friends, but she wasn't too good. A man was with them so we checked he was her dad. He was far from pleased as there was some concern over whether her drink had been spiked, so we gave them a leaflet with a basic guide of what to do.

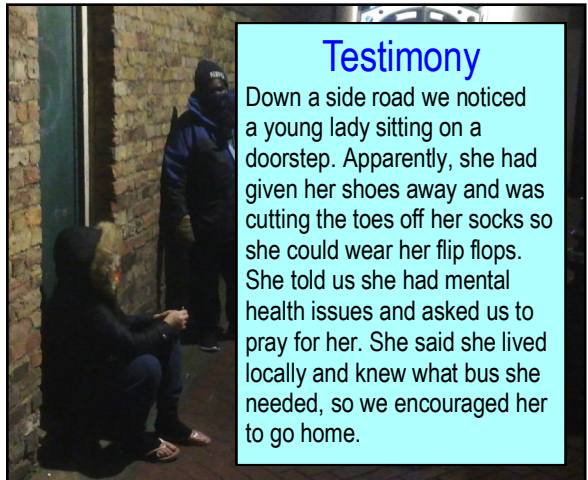
We spoke to four young ladies sat on a step outside the Magistrate's Court in Fore Street thinking they were street girls, but they were in fact taking drugs. Some were well gone, though not enough to prevent them taking handfuls of lollies(!)

Testimony

As we walked towards Fore Street after passing ASDA we met Vani, an older man leaning over a fence, so we asked how he was. He showed us a bad skin condition on his leg, and with the help of Google Translate we were able to have conversation around where he could go to get some treatment. He was happy for us to pray with him.



We said hello to four young ladies who are doing their A levels in a local senior school. We said we would pray for them to do well. They said they'd learnt about Street Pastors for their RS GCSE.

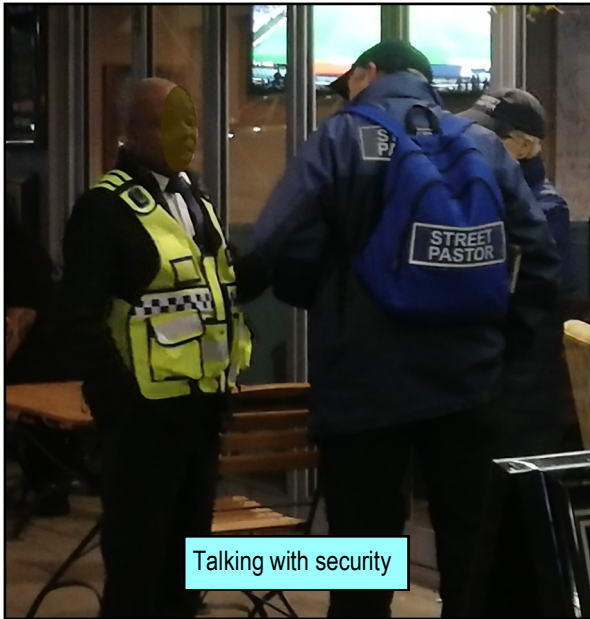


Testimony

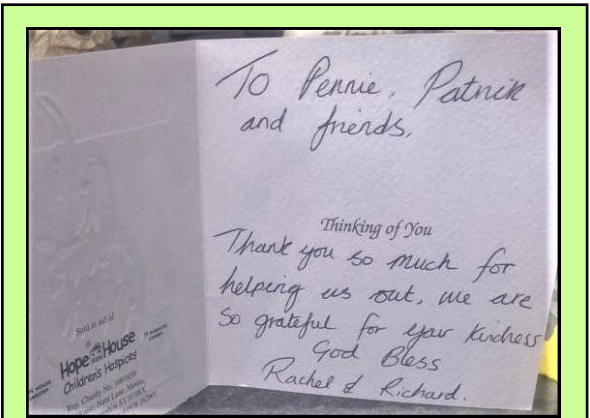
Down a side road we noticed a young lady sitting on a doorstep. Apparently, she had given her shoes away and was cutting the toes off her socks so she could wear her flip flops. She told us she had mental health issues and asked us to pray for her. She said she lived locally and knew what bus she needed, so we encouraged her to go home.

Testimony

A young man, E, was hanging around. We asked if he was OK and he said no. He said he was homeless because someone had robbed him and his flat keys had been taken. He said he suffered with his mental health and didn't know what to do. He didn't want to go to the Police as he knew the person and hoped he would return his belongings. We asked about his key worker and support base. We asked if he'd had anything to eat and he said no but is diabetic, so we took him to a convenience store that was still open. However, he said he wasn't allowed in there because he'd caused trouble in the past. So, in order he could choose food that suited him, we spoke to the guy on the till and said we would take responsibility for him. We helped him get his food and paid for the goods and left. We took him to a bus stop and paid his fare so he could go to his mums.



Talking with security



While we were in Enfield Town a couple in their mid-thirties approached us and asked for advice as to where they could stay the night. They were from Crewe near Manchester and had been to a show in London. They had left their car in a local car park they mistakenly thought was 24 hours, but it wasn't. As a result, they couldn't get their car till 6.00am. Richard was concerned about being out all night and felt his wife could be vulnerable. We tried a few local places but everywhere was full. However, Pennie said they could stay in her church in Southgate. After we had finished our patrol, we gave them a lift, and were able to make them comfortable with camp beds and quilts. They were very grateful, and bowled over with the help we gave. Richard mentioned that he is an agnostic, but said that because of what we did, he has now to re-evaluate that position.

School Pastors

Enfield School Pastors started working in a local secondary school in September 2022. Every Friday in term time we provide two consecutive lunch-time drop-ins (for Year 7 and then Year 8) where the students do art activities or play board games. At Christmas, the school staff asked us to move to their other campus, but we didn't want to stop the groups at the first campus. We therefore managed to recruit two extra volunteers to help us to run groups at both. We have now been running groups at both schools since January. The school staff are very appreciative of what we do. They say they have noticed the students have gained confidence and made more friends since we started the groups.

We also provide an after-school patrol at the local shops where the students gather on their way home. We are there to discourage antisocial behaviour and to encourage the students to disperse.

Testimony

Andy came up and engaged us in conversation. He was drunk, and we had earlier seen him causing problems outside O'Neill's and being handled by Police with a view to him leaving the area. From what he told us, he was obviously not happy about this and said he wanted to go over and confront the Police. As he was quite volatile, we didn't tell him confronting a Police Officer wasn't a good idea. Instead, as he was going to get a taxi home, and in order to get him away from trouble, we suggested we walk and talk with him to the taxi office, order the taxi and see him off home.

Response Pastors

Currently three Enfield Street Pastors are also trained as Response Pastors.

A Response Pastor can be a crucial point of contact and an additional support to the established emergency services. Their primary task is to offer support and compassion to all in the event of a crisis or emergency. This may be outside emergency cordons at an incident or specifically to assist in a Humanitarian Reception Centre for survivors, evacuees or other persons affected by the event.

The extra training means they are also more equipped for our own patrols.

Prayer Team

Our teams continue to benefit from real time prayer support as Carol, our Prayer Coordinator, and her team pray over the prayer requests each team phones through while out on patrol.

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

Our thanks to the team, and all our faithful prayer supporters. Prayer does make a difference!



Funding

Our financial year is from 1st July. All our funding for the year came from two churches and six individuals, and our total income raised during this financial year was £1991. Our total expenditure was £2189. This means we finished on a small deficit for the year of £198. This was largely due to the cost of uniforms for our new School Pastors. Our largest regular expenditure is our commitment of £800 each year to Ascension Trust who cover certain cost centrally like Insurance, Legal and IT provision, plus Safeguarding costs.

We remain very grateful to those individuals and churches that have a commitment to supporting us in this way, and express our thanks. If you like what you see and have read, and wish to make a donation, please see the contact details on this page. Thank you.

Testimony

We could see a commotion inside Gooley Waffle which is next door to O'Neill's. It was not looking great but could see that one of the staff was on the phone calling the police. There was what looked to be some friends arguing with each other but one guy in particular was not happy about something and gesticulating at the staff across the counter. We stood back for safety and prayed over the situation.

Eventually the police turned up and quickly took control of the situation.

Later, as the police were leaving, we could see the main protagonist across the road in the shadows. We hung around until he eventually walked off towards the station.

Later, when walking by Gooley Waffles, Jan, the manager, came out and spoke to us for a while. We had a good chat and told him we prayed when there was trouble. He thanked us and said we can go in for coffee anytime.

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.

If you would like a copy of our Annual Report and Accounts please email or phone us.

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

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