

# Enfield Street Pastors

## Newsletter

No.21. March 2024



Welcome to this, our 21st Newsletter. We trust you enjoy reading it.

We continue to be where people gather on Friday nights 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.

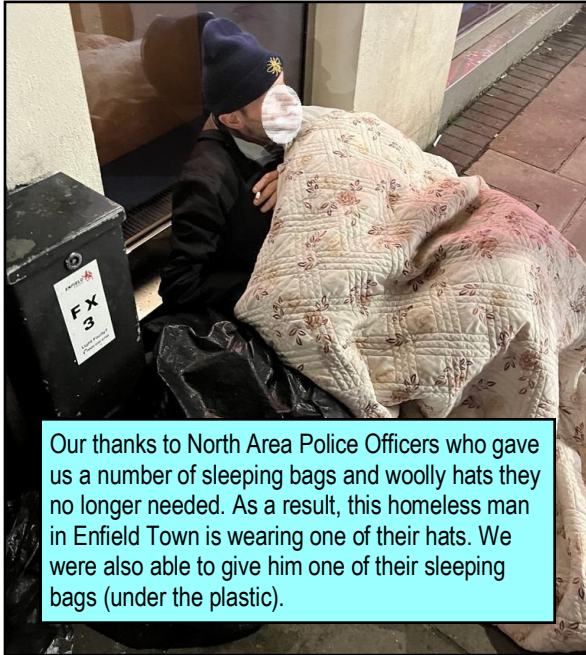
2023 was another good year of opportunities to engage with people and fulfil our brief of

being a 'listening, caring and helping' presence on the streets.

During the course of the year we had 45 out of 48 teams nights on the Streets, and had around 750 meaningful contacts with people.

We have picked up and disposed of 280 glass bottles, together with clearing broken glass (they can be a potential weapon).

Let the pictures and testimonies tell their story.



Our thanks to North Area Police Officers who gave us a number of sleeping bags and woolly hats they no longer needed. As a result, this homeless man in Enfield Town is wearing one of their hats. We were also able to give him one of their sleeping bags (under the plastic).

## Story

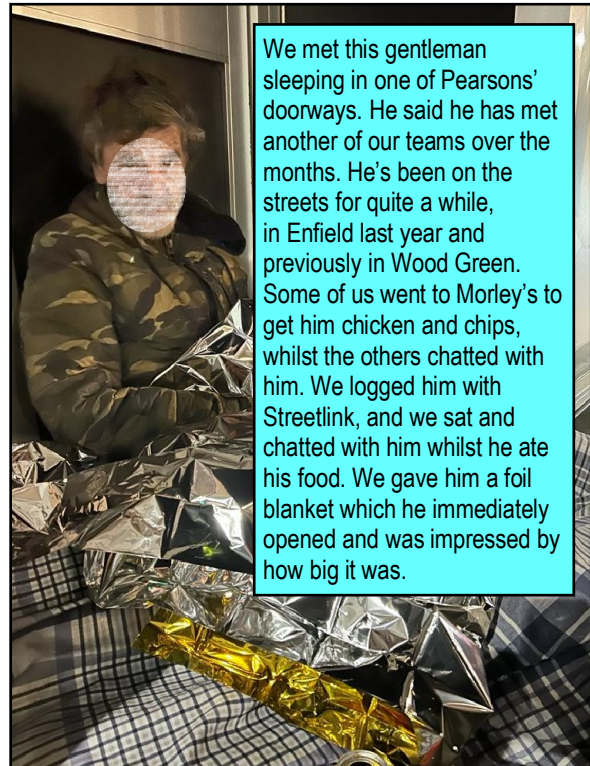
At the Kings Head in Enfield Town the doorman asked us to help an old man who is in a wheelchair and has just fallen out of it. The problem is that the man said he's been discharged from hospital today but he has no home to go to. He's saying that he's going to sleep in the park, but he wouldn't tell us where to take him. We contacted Street Link, particularly as there are also two other rough sleepers here in The Town. However, he fell out of his wheelchair again so we decided to phone for an ambulance now as we don't want to risk trying to pick him up. He is very overweight. We went to get some blankets from the pub. An ambulance came, and they took him to hospital.

## Stories

We had a friendly chat with three younger girls waiting at a bus stop. They were waiting for their lifts home. There was also a man waiting at the bus stop, and didn't want to think we might have opened the door for him, so we stood nearby and waited nearby till their lift came.

On the way to Taps we met a young lady sat at the bus stop with her friend trying to put her high heeled sandals back on her feet, so we offered a pair of flip flops. She joked over the fact that she didn't like the colour blue as she has a reputation to consider, but took them anyway.

We met hovering with his drink. We've never had a coherent conversation with him in the past, but this time we were able to spend time talking with him and showing him respect and listening to his story. He's aware that he has a problem with alcohol, but finds it difficult to give it up. We gave him some leaflets about where he can get help.



We met this gentleman sleeping in one of Pearson's doorways. He said he has met another of our teams over the months. He's been on the streets for quite a while, in Enfield last year and previously in Wood Green. Some of us went to Morley's to get him chicken and chips, whilst the others chatted with him. We logged him with Streetlink, and we sat and chatted with him whilst he ate his food. We gave him a foil blanket which he immediately opened and was impressed by how big it was.

## Story

we met S and his friends. We have met S a number of times over the years and he always loudly tells everyone he's with or passing about Street Pastors, and answers to our prayers for him. (As a reminder, a previous team had prayed with him when he was due in court with an eviction order on his flat. The result turned in his favour and he was granted a 'grace' period which he is still living in.) He asked us to pray that the long-delayed money from the authorities would come through in time. We prayed with him about this.

Later in the year we met S again, and he was on top of the world He was rejoicing because it turned out the problem with the money wasn't to do with him, but his agent, and he's been refunded a large amount enabling him to clear all his debts!

He thanked us again for our prayers.

## Story

As we got to Enfield Town Station, we saw a young man harassing a lady, so went over and said we'd stay with her till her taxi came. There were four young guys making quite a noise. Three came over to us and one started a very animated monologue whilst his friends tried to get him away. However we stayed to listen to him and hear his views.

Ray, the fourth guy wasn't a member of the group, and he also started talking loudly to a couple of us, obviously upset by what the other guy was saying. He also asked for money for his journey home, but we said don't carry money. However, as he was talking to the two of us, three ladies, two worse for wear, came along to the station. One, seeing the other two Street Pastors, gave them a fiver in recognition of what we do. We gave it to the guy who was able to top up his oyster!!!

## Story

Round by the exit to Southgate Underground Station we met a group of around 14 sixth formers gathering to go off to a Rave in West London. We gave out lollies which always go down well and open contact. They were already drinking (some of the guys, hopefully over 18, had bought bags of drink), and one of the girls, not yet 18, was already being sick, so we attended to her. Because of their age we were concerned for the girls. We gave all the girls a packet of Spikeys, explaining what they are for. We gave them each a leaflet showing how to recognise a drink that has been spiked, and what their friends can do to help. We also cautioned them about celebrating their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by going into a pub for the first time and not being aware of these things. We also answered some of their questions about God. One of the girls was a Christian said she would be looking out for her more vulnerable friends. We prayed with one of the guys who attends a local church, and needed encouragement to progress on his Christian journey.



Chatting with some guys outside a takeaway.

## Story

We walked round to Taps which, unlike the rest of The Town, was very busy with lots of people outside. As we approached, a girl came up to us and asked us to help with S, a drunk girl who was sitting on the pavement. She was worse for wear and it seems her friends had gone home and left her, and the girls helping her needed to go home themselves. She was outside on the pavement and was leaning up against the funeral directors next door. We looked after her, and at one point she got up and we moved her to the bus stop to sit on the bench. She was able to order herself an Uber. The first one cancelled on her, but eventually the next one came and, though she collapsed a couple of times, we managed to get her into the car. We were concerned about letting her go but she was insistent. We prayed she got home OK. Because she'd given us her phone number we phoned her the next day and she was alright.



Having a prayer with this gentleman

## Story

We'd been keeping an eye on a guy we first saw sitting in a shop doorway in the bus station in Southgate. He then got up and quickly walked past us and appeared to quickly go in and out food takeaways, the last being KFC. We tracked him down at the end of a dark alley looking at his phone, so we had a conversation and bought him a meal from KFC. It turned out he was Norman who we used to meet with his friend Laura, when they camped in the entrance to Southgate Police Station. He said Laura had been arrested and was in prison, so he was on his own. He said that the foil blanket we'd given him in the past really worked, and helped keep him warm.



Some of our five Enfield School Pastors graduating with others last year, after completing their training.

## School Pastors

Enfield School Pastors worked on both campuses of a local secondary school for the whole of 2023.

They ran weekly wellbeing drop-ins for Year 7 and 8 children on Friday lunchtimes. The drop-ins include art activities, board games, construction toys and jigsaw puzzles.

One of our School Pastors was invited to teach RE lessons on the subject of Jesus to all the year 7 classes.

The school staff are very supportive and say that our sessions are highly valued by the children. The staff say that we are helping the students to make friends and learn social skills.

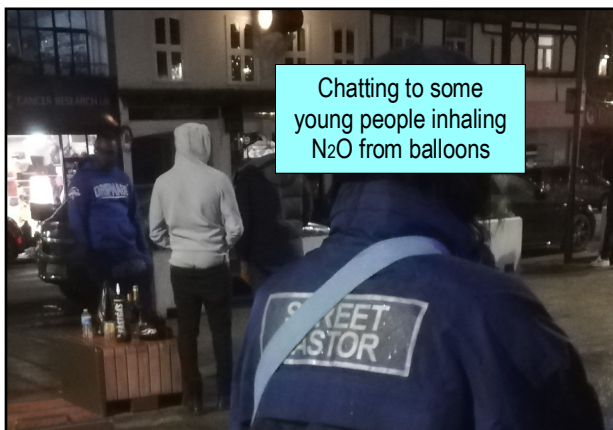
Because of our good relationship with the school, arrangements were made towards the end of last year to begin a weekly Christian Group on a Thursday in 2024.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> July, Overall, there has been an increase in donations from both individuals and churches. Donations from our regular individuals remained largely the same, plus some one-off gifts. Our regular income from the two churches is £840. In addition, we received one-off gifts totalling £330. Also, expenses are lower compared to last year, and there were no expenses for School Pastors.

Total income raised during this financial year was £2800 (£1991). Our total expenditure was £3100 (£2189). This means that overall, we have finished on a small deficit for the year of £300 (£198).

We remain very grateful to those individuals and churches that have a commitment to supporting us in this way, and express our thanks and appreciation. 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.

## Stories

We met a guy who had previously met SPs, and was homeless at the time. He said they had prayed with him, and that soon after Street Link found him a room. He was very grateful to SPs. He shared that he was going to meet his daughter who's ten, and was nervous about this, not wanting his addiction to drink to mess it up, so we talked and prayed with him about this.

We met Michael, an elderly gentleman sat on a seat. We thought he may be homeless so asked him if he was OK. However, he responded to us positively and asked us to pray with him. He said he's a Catholic, and loves Jesus. He asked us to pray for young people. His heart is to see them off the streets and in a place of safety. We prayed together and he blessed us.

We had a long conversation with a secular Turkish Muslim. He said he is confused about who Jesus is, and has a friend who has become a Christian. We prayed for him, and encouraged him to ask God to reveal the truth about who Jesus is.

## 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:

[enfield@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:enfield@streetpastors.org.uk)

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

See us on Facebook: 'Enfield Street Pastors'  
Visit [www.streetpastors.org/locations/enfield](http://www.streetpastors.org/locations/enfield)

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