



EVESHAM STREET PASTORS ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 30th September 2016



streetpastors.org/locations/evesham/
www.facebook.com/Eveshamstreetpastors

**A Charity registered in England and Wales
Number 1156750**

Trustees:

Diane Bennett; Revd Ralph Bolland; John Darby;
Sheila Himsworth; Revd Dr Edward Pillar (Chairman);
Revd Andrew Spurr; Kay Wall; Paul Wingert.

Our Trustees are supported by:

PC Paul Buffery (Evesham Police) and
David Hemming (Wychavon District Council)

Current Street Pastors (Patrol Leaders shown **in bold**):

Peter Barry; Diane Bennett; **Simon Brown**; Trevor Burton; Andrew Capel;
John Darby; **Joy Dimond**; Lee Fisher; Helen Manners; Mike Powell;
Rachel Powell; Linda Raybaud; Carol Sheehan; **Chris Sheehan**;
Andrew Spurr; Steve Wilderspin.

Street Pastors in Training:

Sandie Davies; Anne Sykes; Graham Wells.

Prayer Partners led by Sheila Himsworth:

Liz Booth; Stuart Brown; Robert Bryce; Joyce Davey; Anne Evans;
Margaret Fuller; Sheila Himsworth; Derek Markie; Lindsay Ladbrook;
Kay Wall; Heather Walsh; Michelle White; Paul Wingert; Anne Yelland.

This report, together with the year's financial report will be presented for approval to the AGM which is to be held at the Methodist Church, Bridge Street, Evesham on Saturday 4th of February 2017 at 1.00 pm.

Chairman's Report – Edward Pillar

As the Chair of the Evesham Street Pastors Trustees it continues to be a delight in our regular updates to hear of the amazing dedication of the Street Pastors. Week by week the Street Pastors and their Prayer Support Team demonstrate their commitment to our local community in the work that they do. Since Evesham Street Pastors began they have become a recognized feature of the night scene. It is so good to hear reports of how they are so clearly respected and appreciated, both by those whom they serve and also other agencies, the Police, and the Council.

Throughout this report we hear about the activities that the Street Pastors are engaged in. Alongside the practical help that is given by them to many hundreds of people in a whole range of ways over the course of the year, the Street Pastors have also been able to engage in many conversations about life, love, relationships, and faith.

The Street Pastors are a broad and dedicated group of people. There are those who go out on the streets in all weathers, often until 3.00 am; the Support Team who pray throughout the evening and encourage; the Coordinators, the Trainers, those who write prayer letters, go on prayer walks, update the website, provide

and look after financial matters, and general administration. We, as a local community, are blessed by who they are and by all that they do.

We also recognise that the Street Pastors' work forms part of the wider ministry of the Churches in Evesham. In particular it has been good that Churches Together in Evesham and District (CTED) have been able to support and encourage Street Pastors through CaféChurch, and Soul Food, both of which are low-key opportunities for people to begin to engage with the Christian faith.

We are pleased that there are new people joining the Street Pastors team, participating in training, and committing themselves so that in the next twelve months there might continue to be a dedicated team out on the streets helping provide a safe environment, a listening ear, kind and thoughtful conversation, and compassion. We are also thankful that through the generosity of many individuals, groups, and agencies Street Pastors remain in a positive financial situation.

On behalf of the Trustees I am pleased to commend this report to you and to express our thanks to all those involved to make this possible.

Lead Co-ordinator's report – John Darby

The exciting news about our third year of supporting the night economy of Evesham is that there is still a need and that the work we started three years ago is bearing fruit. On a number of occasions recently we have met people who have spoken about the contact they had with one of our teams three years ago. One young lady said *'I was in a mess, the help you gave me was a real wake-up call, I've sorted myself out, I've got a job and a guy and we are fine. Thank you so much'* (and we got a hug!). This is not a rare occurrence; the appreciation for the work we do is confirmed frequently.

It is interesting the regulars we met three years ago have moved on and we make new friends who have the same needs. Friday nights have become quieter, Super Sundays are just as busy and we understand Saturdays have become the night to be out in Evesham. Saturdays are more difficult for some members of our team as they are busy

on a Sunday, but we are looking at ways of being out on at least some Saturdays.

A few people have found it necessary to move on from their work as Street Pastors or Prayer Partners in Evesham, some have moved away and others have other responsibilities. This, together with the desire to patrol on a Saturday, creates a need for more people to become involved. The early hours of a Saturday may sound scary but it is safe and enjoyable. We make a real difference and share a little of the love of Jesus with a sector of the community that so needs His love and support.

I am so grateful for the support given to this work by so many people. I love to talk about our work and would be delighted to speak at Churches, social groups or individually – do please contact me if there is an opportunity to do so.

CTED Chairman – Peter Rowell

It has been another great year of growth for Street Pastors and a terrific privilege as 2015/2016 CTED chair person to support Street Pastors as representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ in Evesham. The Street Pastor team are the hands, feet, ears and mouth of Jesus as they go out on to the streets of Evesham to serve the night community.

Matthew 25:40 "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of one of these brothers of mine, you did for me"

We also acknowledge the prayer support of those behind the scenes committed to praying for the team as they serve. We serve a Great God.

Prayer Co-ordinator – Sheila Himsworth

A team of fourteen Prayer Partners continues to give prayerful support in pairs to the regular Friday Street Pastor patrol and on occasional Sundays. We have lost four Prayer Partners this Summer either for health reasons or removal from the district. Staying at base from about 9 pm until about 3 am, or for a few until about 12.30 am, is a considerable commitment. If we can keep it to not more than once a month for each, or once every two months if that is preferred, it will help. It is not appropriate to ask more of volunteers who all already have other commitments. To keep the load from becoming heavier we really need some more Prayer Partners.

The pattern of activity is as before. We have a time of conversation and prayer with the Street Pastors as they prepare for the patrol. During the night one of them will 'phone back to the base with specific prayer requests or just prayers for the general situation in town, at half-hourly intervals.

Partners respond with spoken or silent prayer. About midnight the Street Pastors return for drinks, a bite to eat and restful review. The patrol concludes with final prayers.

We feel privileged to support the Evesham Street Pastors project in this way.



Sweeping up broken glass on the pavements to prevent injury.

Evesham Street Pastors is very much blessed by the generosity of churches, individuals, the local authorities, police and Evesham's John Martin's Charity so that the team can focus on the work and not money. We are extremely grateful to all.

We benefited from three grants during the last year totalling about £3700 including a share of £3600 actually received the previous year to cover the year to June 2016. The continuing grant came from the Police & Crime Commissioner who has been generous throughout his term of office which ended in May. We are delighted that the new Commissioner, John Campion, is now in post and his Ambassador for our area, Melanie Baker, has immediately offered to come and visit us as an observer. Evesham Town Council agree that Street Pastors is benefiting the community as a whole and have just donated £1000 for the year commencing August 2016, whilst John Martin's Charity again gave us all we asked for in their grant of £1500 last year.

In the statistics opposite you can read how many items of litter or broken glass hazards were removed and how many other possible medical emergencies were avoided. Our grant funders would, I know, also wish to

include the benefit to our 'night time economy' – the clubs, pubs take-aways, taxis and others who employ people on the nights when Street Pastors patrol.

Our report to the Police & Crime Commissioner, shows how we actually save the police money through the occasions when arrests are avoided or police released to deal with more significant interests. The beat officers themselves continue to express their gratitude and admiration for the general calming effect of our team.

Wychavon DC also continue to give us 'in kind' support which saves us money and their CCTV team is a key part of the partnership.

We are hoping that the Police & Crime Commissioner and others will continue to support us in the coming year and we will be applying for new grants over the next few months.

The hard cost of our work is around £3500 per annum in grants over and above the ongoing level of donations from churches and individuals. Our churches are on track to continue support of around £1400 per annum and individual donations from the areas societies and individuals is at around the same level.

We are most grateful to all for what is a cross-community response.

The main factors which continue to encourage our public sponsors are the effectiveness and dedication of all our volunteers, their careful use of

resources and the continued support of many individuals and all our churches. Thank you all.

Acknowledgments

- *West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner who gave us our largest grant.*
- *John Martin's Charity who once again supported us to the full extent we requested.*
- *Evesham Town Council for their financial support and encouragement*
- *Churches Together in Evesham and District (CTED) who have encouraged the active support of all our churches.*
- *All Saints Church which has provided the use of storage and training facilities and the base for much of our work.*
- *Other local Street Pastors Groups with whom we share training courses.*
- *Wychavon District Council for the support of their CCTV team and their Safety and Community team.*
- *Evesham Police for encouragement and trust.*
- *Observers who have been out with us, encourage us and tell others what we do.*
- *Timothy Lea & Griffiths, who display our poster board in a Port Street unit.*
- *Joseph and his staff at Snappy Pizza who regularly encourage our patrols with chips!*

Weekly statistics

On an average night our patrols will give out about six pairs of flip-flops and five bottles of water – on a busy night 25+ of each! – and in the winter up to six space blankets. We clear up broken glass (to protect bare feet) and collect around 15 bottles, cans and glasses (these can be used as weapons).

We have sick bags (taxi drivers are more likely to accept passengers with these) and we give out 'Spikies' (to help prevent drinks being spiked with drugs). We speak to loads of people but have conversations with about 20 people and significant conversations with two or three.

And we give out about 100 lollipops.

Evesham Street Pastors Co-ordinators

Lead Co-ordinator – John Darby
Prayer Partners – Sheila Himsworth
Administration and DBS – Diane Bennett
Rotas, supplies and training – Carol Sheehan
Press and publicity – Chris Sheehan
Fund raising – Derek Markie
Finance – Paul Wingert



In Bridge Street with two friends out together on a Friday night.

*For information about Evesham Street Pastors,
contact John Darby at evesham@streetpastors.org.uk*

Report compiled by all Evesham Street Pastors, photographs © Simon Brown.

*Evesham Street Pastors is part of the Ascension Trust Street Pastors initiative
(charity number 11277204) and is supported by Churches Together in Evesham and District.*