



EVESHAM STREET PASTORS ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending
30th September 2018



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

*Front cover photograph shows Gerry O'Donnell (left),
Wychavon District Council, presenting the Community Safety Award to
Diane Bennett and John Darby, Evesham Street Pastors.*

Chairman's report

As I was reflecting on the fact that this year we celebrate five years of Evesham Street Pastors I was drawn to the following words from Matthew's Gospel:

'Jesus said, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Evesham Street Pastors are a fine example of those who are seeking to live out this command from Jesus. The dedicated team go out onto the streets week-by-week, whatever the weather, to be pastors to the people who are part of the nighttime economy of the Town. They are supported by an equally dedicated team of Prayer Partners who cover all that the Pastors do with an offering of prayer. We are grateful for their dedication. It is through their work that the light of which Jesus speaks is seen.

A core aspect of the Street Pastor's ethos is 'to be the Gospel' — that is, to be a lived example of the Good News of God's love, presence, kindness, justice and mercy. And it is not necessarily through speaking about these things, but rather through acts of kindness — listening, helping, advising, guiding, supporting; gifts of water, lollipops, flip-flops, space blankets, and sick bags — that this good news is experienced and the light shines.

We are grateful to all those who support Evesham Street Pastors — many individuals, but also and particularly the local Churches, Evesham Town Council, John Martin's Charity, the local Worcestershire County Councillors, Wychavon District Council, and the local Police.

Moreover, we acknowledge that this work would not continue in the way that it does without the perseverance and resolve of key people: John Darby has held and delivered the vision of Street Pastors over these five years and we are particularly grateful to him. Additionally, I'd like to mention Derek Markie who does a great job holding the finances of ESP and working to obtain grants. Sheila Himsworth shows quiet commitment in organizing the Prayer Partners, without whom the Street Pastors would not function. And Carol Sheehan does a wonderful job in organizing the ongoing training of the Street Pastors. And, of course, there are many others who are worthy of thanks and we are appreciative of them.

Once again, 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

*Revd Dr Edward Pillar
Chair of Trustees*

Lead Co-ordinator's report

The night scene in Evesham continues to change. The number of people around in the early hours has grown in the past few months on both a Friday and Saturday night. Saturdays continue to be the busiest night when over 500 people are enjoying the nightlife in the early hours.

The work of Street Pastors continues to be an important factor in ensuring the safety of people and is much appreciated by the Police, night club staff and the revellers themselves. I am pleased that we have four new Street Pastors being trained and we hope they will be commissioned and patrolling with us before the end of the year. This will make a big difference to our patrols and the additional ladies will help ensure we have a lady in every patrol. Carol's report (page 5) outlines the changes we have made to the way in which we undertake training and I am grateful to the members of the Evesham Street Pastor team who are now involved in training.

From the beginning, five years ago, Street Pastors and Prayer Partners and their own partners have commented on the way the

work has helped their personal Christian journey. One way or another most of the team have commented on this, but it was a particular pleasure this year to attend Chris Sheehan's ordination in Worcester Cathedral and, by the time you read this report, I will also have attended the graduation ceremony for Joy Dimond and myself in Chester Cathedral. All of us regard the work of Street Pastors as an important part of this journey. Personally I find this aspect of our work immensely satisfying.

My continued thanks to everyone involved, all the Street Pastors and Prayer Partners; our co-ordinators who do so much of the behind-the-scenes work; our Trustees, from the local Churches, for the support and encouragement; the Police and others involved in the night economy. And a big thank you to Pete Barry who is producing a video of our work. Our patrols go out into the town in the name of Jesus and it is great to be able to do so.

John Darby
Lead Co-ordinator



Prayer Co-ordinator's report

Another year of this amazing work! We now have sixteen Prayer Partners, two of whom also serve as Street Pastors and so are doubly committed. Whenever the patrol goes out, two of us are at the base. We listen to the half-hourly telephone calls from the Street Pastors which update us as to where in the town they are and what is happening on the streets of Evesham. There will be special mention of any incidents or individual needs and these will be offered to God in prayer.

As the Street Pastors are now well known to many there are some people who share their own joys, as well as their sadnesses and fears, with the listening ears. So there is thanksgiving as well as intercession.

Preparing the rota of those who stay at base can be tricky and we would like to have more Prayer Partners. When I invite people to try this they often say 'But I wouldn't be able to stay awake'. I think this may be a fear rather than a fact – but who am I to judge? Why not give it a try if you think this could be you? No-one will criticize you if you can't stay awake! You might even find it is a rewarding experience to make this contribution to sprinkling the love of God on the nightlife of Evesham. We would love to have you, even for a trial.

*Sheila Himsworth
Prayer Co-ordinator*

Acknowledgements

- *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.*
- *Evesham Police for encouragement and trust.*
- *Evesham Town Council for their financial support and encouragement.*
- *Wychavon District Council for the support of their CCTV team and their Safety and Community team.*
- *John Martin's Charity who once again supported us to the full extent we requested.*
- *The Worcestershire County Councillors who serve Evesham.*
- *West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner for their financial support and encouragement.*
- *Other local Street Pastors Groups with whom we share training courses.*
- *Observers who have been out with us, encourage us and tell others what we do.*
- *Morrisons supermarket who donate our bottled water.*
- *Timothy Lea & Griffiths, who display our poster board in a Bridge Street unit.*
- *Joseph and his staff at Snappy Pizza who regularly encourage our patrols with chips!*

Funding and statistics

Again it is my pleasure to lead on giving thanks to our financial supporters. Without your generosity our volunteers and co-ordinators could become very distracted by money matters, so it is great to be able to report healthy finances again.

One major reason for that is our relatively low costs. Most Street Pastor groups around the country rely on at least one paid member of staff – usually the co-ordinator – but, from the outset as we all know, John Darby has undertaken the lion's share of the work as well as his responsibilities of leadership, pastoral oversight and active patrolling. Without his input, my task as treasurer and calls on all of you would be significantly greater.

Support for us, however, is unpredictable to say the least and in the last year some promises have been made but remain unfulfilled. This causes considerable fluctuations in our income and as treasurer I would ask that all try to respond to our requests annually and are mindful of our financial year, October to September.

We received grants from three public sources during the year, the Police and Crime Commissioner via South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership, Worcestershire County Council via two councillor's Divisional Funds, and from Evesham Town Council. Our great thanks to you all — together

they represent just over 50% of our income.

We again received two large grants from charities, one a small local trust and the other the much larger John Martin's Charity known for its generosity throughout Evesham. We also received a voluntary donation from the West Mercia Police Community Fund (a charity within the force) once again showing the commitment of local officers to encourage us in every way they can.

Our third source of income is the donations of individuals, and groups many with a church connection, and the churches of the area including those within Churches Together in Evesham and District. This is of course all voluntary giving and amounts to almost 20% of our income, much of it from those already contributing time and talents in the work of Street Pastors. Much of our income is unpredictable, it would be helpful if the Churches that support us could commit to doing so on a regular basis.

The report of our patrol statistics below shows a variety of ups and downs since last year and, as John has stated above, the situation is constantly changing. Most notably we have achieved 13 Saturday patrols, more than doubling the previous year. This is at some cost to Fridays but overall we increased patrols by two and supported more people as a result.

Derek Markie. Treasurer

Street Pastor training

When we commenced training in Evesham we had large groups of trainees. In subsequent years we have had two or three people to train. This has been difficult for both trainer and trainees; we therefore worked with other local groups to provide joint training. In many ways this was good as there was an interchange of ideas, however, the downside was that training elsewhere related to their town, most of which were a lot bigger than Evesham with different challenges.

In addition the time scale for training was often different. Earlier this year we were pleased to recruit two new trainees but sadly we found it impossible to identify training in adjoining areas. There was

therefore a need to identify a new way of providing training.

During the course of the past few months we have developed ways of undertaking the training using local people who have the appropriate experience and are willing to provide training for two or three people. It has been really encouraging to find these people within our local area and Churches.

Our original two trainees have been joined by two others and we are now making great progress and expect them all to be commissioned and out on patrol in November.

Carol Sheehan



Shooting an interview for our recruitment video at Marilyn's night club

In the past year...

We have patrolled for 1670 hours
and helped in 48 instances where people needed
direction and support.

This was alongside a 50% increase in our record of
anti-social behaviour incidents witnessed.



We have spoken with
over 1300 people
in the town.

We have given out...



140 pairs of
flip flops

125 bottles
of water



3212
lollipops

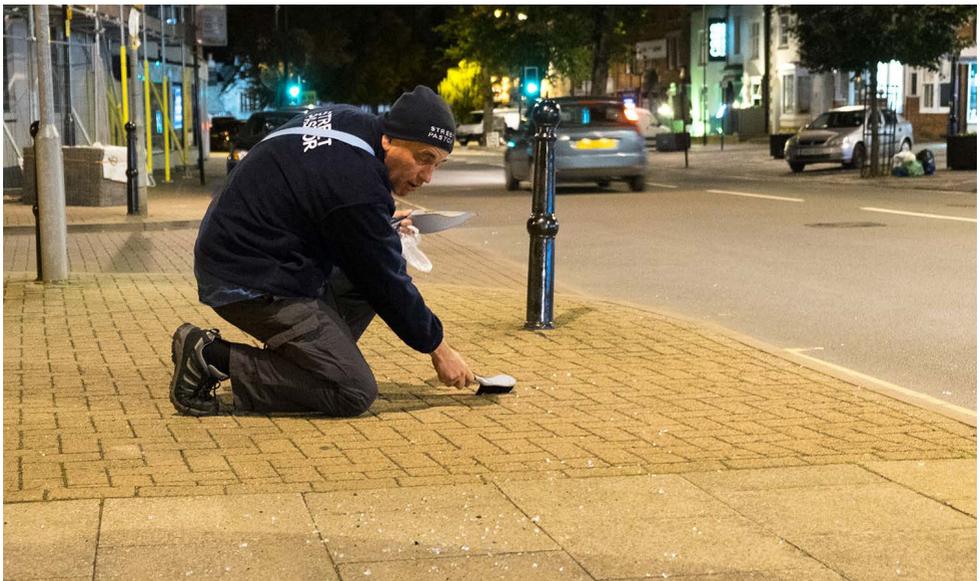
...as well as thermal 'space' blankets and sick bags.

We have cleared away...

...712 cans,
469 bottles and
glasses, which
could have been
used as weapons...



...and swept up 76 instances of broken glass.



'As the Safer Neighbourhood Officer for the town Centre, as well as Evesham Police as a whole, we are proud to support the Evesham Street Pastors and the amazing contribution they make to the patrons of the town centre, as well as the community of Evesham.

The work they undertake in keeping night-time weekend revellers safe and free from the risk of harm cannot be underestimated and never under-valued. They should be extremely proud of the service, support and dedication they display.'

PC Paul Buffery, Evesham Police

Churches Together in Evesham and District

The Street Pastors continue to provide a unique, caring ministry to the late-night users of the Evesham town centre entertainment facilities. They are to be found in places and situations that may be alien to many church-goers but, in reaching people who do not normally associate with places of religion, they mirror the way of Jesus.

The award from the South Worcestershire councils for Community Safety is well deserved and reflects the appreciation of the community in which they work.

On behalf of CTED we pray God's blessing on both the Street Pastors and their Prayer Partners. May God continue to use them as they bring His Presence to the streets of our town.

Tom Meldrum, CTED Chairman

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

Fundraising and Finance – Derek Markie

Web site and Social Media – Simon Brown

Evesham Street Pastors

A Charity registered in England and Wales: Number 1156750

Trustees: Diane Bennett MBE; Rev'd Ralph Bolland; John Darby; Sheila Himsworth; Rev'd Dr Edward Pillar (Chairman); Rev'd Andrew Spurr; Kay Wall; Tom Meldrum.

Our Trustees are supported by: Representatives of Evesham Police & Wychavon District Council and by Derek Markie (Treasurer).

Current Street Pastors (Patrol Leaders shown in bold):

Peter Barry*; Diane Bennett*; **Simon Brown**; Trevor Burton; Andrew Capel;
John Darby; Sandie Davies; Joy Dimond; Lee Fisher; Mike Powell; Rachel Powell;
Carol Sheehan; **Chris Sheehan**; Andrew Spurr; **Graham Wells**; Steve Wilderspin.
(* lead when able)

Street Pastors to be commissioned: Simona Bujdošová; Clarrie Burdett;
Andy Foster; Silvie Jelínková.

Street Pastor in Training: Chiara Pelazza.

Prayer Partners:

Liz Booth; Stuart Brown; Robert Bryce; Joyce Davey; Anne Evans; Lee Fisher; Margaret Fuller;
Sheila Himsworth; Jackie Johns; Lindsay Ladbrook; Derek Markie; Rachel Powell; Kay Wall;
Heather Walsh; 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 on Saturday 2nd February 2019 at 1.00 pm, at All Saints Church.



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

Report compiled by all Evesham Street Pastors.

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*Evesham Street Pastors is part of the
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and is supported by Churches Together in Evesham and District.*