



Café Culture arrives

'Evesham's come good' – a quote from a young lady on the night ORTO Lounge and Katie's Bar & Grill joined The Valkyrie in opening up a continental-style environment in the Market Square. Up until midnight the Market Square has become the centre of nightlife in Evesham, with many new people for us to meet. On occasions around 200 people are gathered and some continue into the night in the various clubs and pubs which stay open later. After many months when nightlife in Evesham seemed to be dying, it is great to be part of this lively community.

One of the great advantages of patrolling in Evesham is that there are fewer people around than in the larger towns, so we get to know individuals. We have seen a number of people develop, change, become more stable, mature. It has been really good to travel with them on part of life's journey and to have shared in the ups and downs of their circumstances.

So, prayers are important for the lives we touch; the changing scene in Evesham and our response to it; and for our teams, that we will continue to be alive to the Spirit as we serve in the community. As always, I am delighted to chat with anyone about our work and how you can best support us. *John Darby – Evesham Street Pastors' Co-ordinator* johndarby@icloud.com 07747 842192



Report from "Base" by a Prayer Partner:

I have found that one of the great blessings of being a Prayer Partner is praying with others, both in groups before the Street Pastors go out and alongside my partner for the night. When people pray together something happens, a bond is formed and differences disappear. Street Pastors is made up of many different denominations, our backgrounds vary

and our faith stories are very diverse, but when we pray none of this matters. We are together in praising our Father and making our requests to him. Taking the time to come together in prayer brings us close to the words of Jesus.

Matthew 18:20: *'And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there.'* We demonstrate that we are part of the body of Christ, part of the past, present and future of the church.

When a group has a joint focus for prayer it allows the different voices to be heard.

People will bring their differing experiences and traditions; prayer then becomes like a patchwork of our lives full of life and meaning. The Street Pastors keep the Prayer Partners in touch with what's happening by regular phone updates; this enables us to support them in prayer. It is surprising how this can change the way you look at the town when you are out and about: this is where the guys were when we prayed for this situation or that person and so the chain of prayer goes on. Please join us by remembering the Street Pastors who are out at night somewhere in the country – maybe just before you go to sleep you could bring them before God. *Liz Booth*

From our Prayer Co-ordinator

'All you need is Love' sang the Beatles about half a century ago! There was almost a decade of love, 'flower power' and freedom from recognised constraints. What happened to all that? True it was not all good but there was a relaxed atmosphere of well-being even of caring. When did it die? Probably when the economy seized up and we had fear of 'cold war' in the mix. Love of course survived but did it get locked up? Cruising through my late husband's collection of press cuttings I came upon a poem inspired by the plight of a mother. She abandoned her baby secured in his pram and went off to spend time drinking with friends [?]. On her return home the baby was dead (I don't want us to dwell on his suffering). The poet, full of compassion for the mother by then in prison, asks what killed the mother-love, previously shown devotedly? It was her own deep unhappiness, abandoned by her partner and struggling. No-one was loving her so, unconsciously, she locked up her own capacity to love. If we fail to show compassion is not that what happens? Out on the streets of Evesham the Street Pastors spread love – sometimes tough love. To see in the face of a drunken person vomiting on the pavement, or someone enflamed by anger, an image of Christ is not easy but to try is Christ-like. So we pray for the strength and resolution to show compassionate love to all whom we meet. To paraphrase John Wesley: do all the good you can to all the people you meet, in all the places you go and in all the time you have.

To all: life thou givest, to both great and small

In all life thou livest, the true life of all. (*Walter Chalmers Smith*) *Sheila Himsworth*



Prayers from the Patrol reports:

Thanks for: the appreciation and welcome the Street Pastors are shown.

- the support of the Police and emergency services and staffs of the clubs and pubs.
- the work of the Ascension Trust.
- for conversations on quiet streets which may not always seem fruitful but it is

not always given to us to know the effect we have on others.

- responses of churches and communities to recent acts of terrorism and the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Pray for : Our town suffering the loss of clinics at the hospital and the closing of more shops causing hardship for her citizens, especially the elderly.

- our enlivened Market Square that it will continue to be a place of enjoyment and companionship without disruption.
- the homeless and rough sleepers, now recognised as being on the increase, that they may be helped according to their needs.
- a man deserted by his bride-to-be two days before their wedding.
- a young woman who collapsed with some kind of seizure who had shown an interest in what the Street Pastors were doing, and the paramedics and police attending that incident after the Street Pastors helped.
- the town churches and groups that they may continue in the paths of holiness and justice, responding to the needs of a restless and violent world exacerbated by hate and insecurity.



Treasurer's Joys and Frustrations

It is so encouraging to find an envelope on my doormat – usually dropped in by John after a visit to a church or group with another donation to the work of the Street Pastors. We continue to be very blessed by a steady flow of such encouragements.

For those who have missed an opportunity to give there are two new ways to do so. To give regularly you can set up an “account” with Stewardship – see www.stewardship.org.uk/giving or to make a one-off gift or seek sponsorship for a challenge you are doing use “JustGiving”... Please watch our web-site for more details or contact me via d.markie@tiscali.co.uk .

But there are a few frustrations I would ask you to pray about. All will be aware that public resources are being tightly managed but our work is valued, and support promised. The difficulty arises as policies and processes are revised so that the small amounts (by public standards) that we ask for take a long time to percolate through struggling bureaucracies. Please pray for the public authorities trying to do so much with so little, for help to find a way to do what they really do want to do! *Derek Markie*

Evesham Street Pastors is a Registered Charity in England & Wales number 1156750

Prayer Co-ordinator: Sheila Himsworth on himsworth@bbmax.co.uk

Donate: Evesham Street Pastors, c/o 71 Broadway Road, Evesham WR11 3NE

Contact: John Darby on 07747842192 or evesham@streetpastors.org.uk

Website: streetpastors.org/locations/evesham/

Street Pastors is an initiative of Ascension Trust and Churches Together in Evesham & District

Please pray regularly for all those involved in Street Pastors in Evesham

You may like to use the following lists for your weekly prayer focus:

Street Pastors and Prayer Partners are invariably on duty on a Friday evening, occasionally on a Saturday and on most 'Super Sundays' when a Bank Holiday occurs the following day.



Pray for each of our Street Pastors (leaders in bold):

Peter Barry	Helen Manners
Diane Bennett	Mike Powell
Simon Brown	Rachel Powell
Trevor Burton	Linda Raybaud
Andrew Capel	Carol Sheehan
John Darby	Chris Sheehan
Sandie Davies	Andrew Spurr
Joy Dimond	Graham Wells
Lee Fisher	Steve Wilderspin
<i>In Training:</i>	
<i>Penny Baines</i>	<i>Ross Tiffin</i>

for Prayer Partners – without whose support Evesham Street Pastors will not set out.

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

and for our Board of Trustees

Diane Bennett MBE
Ralph Bolland
John Darby <i>(Co-ordinator)</i>
Sheila Himsworth
Edward Pillar <i>(Chairman)</i>
Andrew Spurr
Kay Wall

and representatives of the Police and Wychavon DC who meet with them.

Pray for our town,

- the pubs, the main venues of the 'night time economy'

Ye Olde Red Horse
Royal Oak
Chancers
Ambassadors
DugOut (Gardeners Arms)
Ruby Jack's
Marilyn's
Bar 24
Amber Café Bar
Red Lion
Old Swan
The Valkyrie Café Bar
Orto Lounge
Katie's Bar & Grill

- the late night cafés,

Snappy Pizza
Dominos Pizza
Pomodoro Pizza
Marco's Pizza

Please remember

- the Police and Ambulance Service who support our Street Pastors
- door staff at the clubs who have a serious responsibility to check the clientele and maintain calm.
- taxi drivers who are the last to get to bed
- street cleaners who are the first to get up.

Please pray especially for the emergency services who safeguard us all day and night.

Pray for the churches who reach out to the community in so many ways and also support Street Pastors financially:

All Saints
Baptist
Elim
Methodist
Quakers
Salvation Army
St Mary's & St Egwin's
St Peter's
St Andrew's
Vale Christian Centre

Pray especially for Churches Together initiatives reaching out to the 'unchurched' in experimental ways

PubChurch
1st Tuesdays at 7:30 pm
at Ye Olde Red Horse,
Vine Street

Surprisingly frequently we are asked about our Christian belief; 2.00 am is probably not the best time for these conversations, so PubChurch and SoulFood have been set up as a place where these discussions can take place.

SoulFood
Each Sunday at 6 pm
at All Saints

For more information on all of these initiatives please contact John Darby on 07747842192 or evesham@streetpastors.org.uk