



Annual Report 2020–2021

**STREET
PASTOR**

Evesham Street Pastors: Trustees' report for year ending September 2021

We have now completed eight years as an active Christian witness on the streets of Evesham. The lockdown had prevented us patrolling during most of this past year. We managed some patrols, starting and finishing earlier during the summer and it was great to be meeting people again. During this period the Prayer Partners remained at their homes. The town was very different and sometimes we wondered if the patrol was worthwhile but by the end of every patrol we said, 'It was good, if only for the help we gave in that one incident'.

Patrols started regularly again in September 2021. Initially these were limited, but we are working to get back to pre-Covid patrol routines. As patrols recommenced, we found the town less busy, with clubs and pubs working hard to re-establish themselves. It was good to meet friends from the past, the door staff and the police. All were very positive and affirming in the work we do.

There is a view that the town has become a more challenging place. Door Stewards tell us they have found more drugs and offensive weapons. Our patrols have been present when two knife incidents have occurred. Our patrols are aware of this situation and take care not to be directly involved. However, Evesham remains a great place to experience nightlife. The pubs and clubs are well managed and controlled; security staff are good natured but firm and thorough. The police are also ready to support or control as appropriate.

Prayer

During the entire lockdown period we have continued to pray for the town, our churches, and the people. Every week there was a duty team who were committed to pray in this way and for part of the time we met using Zoom.

Training

As we started patrolling again, we held a 'retraining day' at

the House of the Open Door. The purpose of this day was to remind ourselves of the training we had previously undertaken, together with the patrol practices and contact details we used previously. The event was well attended and those who were unable to attend have agreed to study the notes we issued, summarising the matters discussed.

We recognised that, following the lockdown, we were more likely to encounter problems of stress and abuse. We had a helpful online session with West Mercia Women's Aid. A good number of Street Pastors also attended a Mental Health Awareness session arranged as a module on the Ascension Trust on-line training programme. This training has also been helpful with some of the other training modules.

Teams

We have four new Street Pastors. One transferred from another area; one was a Street Pastor some years ago and is retraining; one has

now completed their training and another who has almost completed training. These new friends will help fill the gaps of those who are not able to patrol so often. It is also good to have fresh ideas from other areas. One of these is to have two shorter breaks. This is helpful at about 1.00 am when everyone is in the clubs and the outside very quiet.

Two of our Prayer Partners have felt unable to continue – we are grateful for their support over most of the last eight years. This leaves a gap which we would like to fill.

Finance

Although some costs continued during lockdown, our expenditure was reduced so our overall financial health remains good. A detailed financial report will be presented at the AGM. We are grateful to Wychavon District Council, local Churches and groups and individuals who have continued to support us.

For more Information contact our Co-ordinator on evesham@streetpastors.org.uk



Evesham Street Pastors

A Charity registered in England and Wales: Number 1156750

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

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

Current Street Pastors (Patrol Leaders shown in bold):

Peter Barry*; **Simon Brown**; Simon Browning;
Simona Bujdošová; Trevor Burton; Andrew Capel; **John Darby**;
Sandie Davies; Lee Fisher; Andy Foster; Silvie Jelínková;
Chiara Pelazza; Mike Powell; Carol Sheehan; **Chris Sheehan**;
James Slimmon; Andrew Spurr; **Graham Wells**; Steve Wilderspin.
(* leads when able)

Street Pastors in Training: John Nicholls; Esther Price.

Prayer Partners:

Diane Bennett MBE; Stuart Brown; Robert and Heather Bryce;
Diane Capel; Anne Evans; Lee Fisher; Margaret Fuller;
Sheila Himsworth; Jackie Johns; Derek Markie; Rachel Powell;
Kay Wall; Paul Wingert; Anne Yelland.

This report, together with the year's financial report will be presented for approval to the AGM in November 2021.

Evesham Street Pastor Co-ordinators

Lead Co-ordinator – John Darby

Prayer Partners – Sheila Himsworth

Fundraising and Finance – Derek Markie

Administration and DBS – Diane Bennett MBE

Rotas, supplies and training – Carol Sheehan

Web site, Social Media & Publication Design – Simon Brown

All patrol leaders