

# Eastbourne Street Pastors Newsletter



Issue 1

January 2010



## What, Who, Why & When?

**What is "Street Pastors" as an organisation?** Street Pastors was set up by Ascension Trust and is run in conjunction with local churches, the Police and the local Council. It has been set up in over 120 UK towns and boroughs, and this year Eastbourne got on board and saw its official launch in July. Eastbourne Street Pastors will walk the streets of the town centre between about 10pm and 3am in teams of 4 to 6 on Friday nights initially, and also Saturday nights once there are more volunteers on board.

**Who are Street Pastors?** In Eastbourne there are currently 29 trainee Street Pastors who are all Christians from Churches in and around Eastbourne. They will wear a blue uniform to make known who they are, and will be ready to help where help is needed, to engage with people, to care, to listen and to direct people to appropriate support if needed. In established areas the public have warmed to them and feel safer since their arrival on the streets.

**Why do Street Pastors do what they do?** Street Pastors have volunteered for this role because they have a heart to serve the people in their community. The Church has left the building!

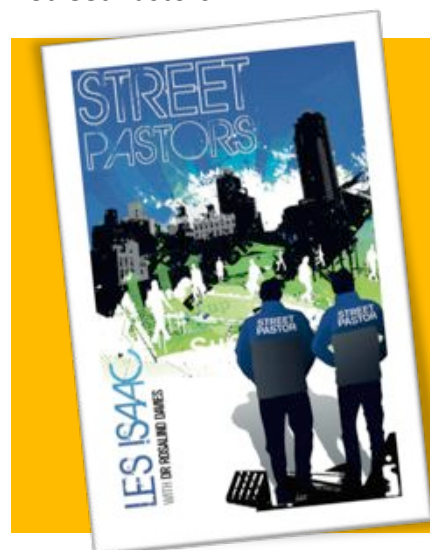
**When?** The Street and Prayer Pastors will be commissioned on 5<sup>th</sup> February at a service at Central Methodist Church at 8pm, with representatives from Ascension Trust, the supporting Churches, Eastbourne Borough Council, Sussex Police, Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership and other supporting agencies. Please come along to show your support. A team will then go out that night and every Friday night from then on.

## A Word From The Coordinator



Several years ago my friend and fellow Deacon told me he was involved in setting up Street Pastors. As he told me about the work of Street Pastors I knew this was something I would love to be involved with. In my work as a Deacon in the Methodist Church I have been involved in work with drug and alcohol users for several years. In Sheffield I helped run a Street Drinkers Cafe. In the years I was there I watched the bar industry blossom, not like a flower, more like an H Bomb explosion. The incidence in street drinking increased as the young people took to the bars. Add to that the “fly on the wall” TV as we watch our young people binge drinking in far off holiday resorts fills me, and many of us, with embarrassment and fear. Let me “confess” something here before you start thinking I have never experienced the things of youth. I do have a history, my parents ran a pub for some years, I could drink along with the rest of them, if I dig deep I too can remember some embarrassing moments that I could wish never happened, like flirting outrageously with a policeman in the middle of Reading – cringe! BUT, what I don’t understand, is the binge drinking our young people engage in, and the amount of alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime that is being experienced up and down the country. I don’t have a problem with people having a drink or two, my problem comes when getting drunk and “behaving badly” is the accepted norm, and along with that comes the possibility of addiction. These are my reasons for believing that Street Pastors are a very necessary presence on our streets. Soon after I came to Eastbourne Martyn Relf told me there were folk around who wanted to set up a Street Pastors group, so as soon as there were moves afoot to begin the work I had to join in.

So here we are. I have the honour and fearsome task of being Coordinator, but I am blessed too with a wonderfully supportive Management Committee, and *The Administrator*, the wonderful Ali, to be treated with all due respect. Where are we now? Well we have 29 trainees, myself included, a wonderful bunch of committed folk who are willing to give 100% to this amazing work. We have undergone rigorous training, our conversations have been lively and informative, we have been open and honest about our hopes and fears and we are ready to “get on with the job”. I am proud to be among the first to take to the streets of Eastbourne in the name of Street Pastors, but more in the name of God, who calls and equips us – through the Police input we have received, the Probation Service, the Ascension Trust, Fegans, the Baptist Church, and through the support and love of our respective churches, the Town Council and various agencies. And I am prouder still to know these good people who want to be Street Pastors.



## New Street Pastors Book

Just six years ago a small group of faith-filled Christians took to the crime-ridden streets of Brixton in London. Now over 125 teams serve their communities all over Britain, involving more than three thousand Christians. More projects are starting all the time, and enquiries come from all over the world, because of course Britain is not alone in its struggles with gun and knife crime, binge drinking, gang culture, loneliness, violence, and fear. Founder of the initiative, Les Isaac tells this compelling story and points out the benefits for Christian mission and unity. The book is available from the Eastbourne Christian Resource Centre, 91-93 Seaside Road.



The Church  
in action...  
on the streets

## Over to you...

A BETTER SOCIETY: It would be odd to think we cannot have a better society. I've heard many saying negative things like "we have lost values in the upcoming generations". We would if we fail in our responsibilities. We all have the responsibility to show a positive attitude towards our children's upbringing and give them the necessary care at different stages of their making into adulthood. We however cannot do these in isolation of the society where they live - our responsibilities extend toward seeing a viable and conducive society where love and care can be found, a society where our streets are an extension of our healthy homes, a secure and controlled environment for breeding expected future in our children. Becoming a Street Pastor is a necessity for me in performing my pastoral responsibility for our children, this is also synonymous to Jesus' parable of the good shepherd who left herds of sheep and went looking for one lost sheep. This one sheep requires more attention because she's in a dangerous place where wolves and wild animals could easily devour her. Our attention is called to that kind of love and care for our children who are our children who are there in the potentially dangerous streets. We shall rejoice greatly to see just one of these sheep back home safely. (Rebecca Gbededo is currently training to be a Street Pastor)

## Something to inspire us...

**Here is what Deputy Chief Constable Tony Melville from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary had to say about Torbay Street Pastors:**

*"I researched crime statistics during a 6 month period, and do you know what I found?"*

*During the 6 month period when Torbay Street Pastors had been operating, I compared it with the year before – the same 6 months – over that very busy summer period.*

*What I found was that violent crime had fallen by a quarter, in face during that 6 month period when Street Pastors had been operating, no robberies had taken place at all in Torquay city centre.*

*We had one fifth less burglaries from homes.*

*Vehicle crime had fallen by a quarter. All in that very focused area where Street Pastors had been out on the streets working.*

*Now these are impressive reductions in crime by anybody's standard, and that's one of the reasons we are so supportive of Street Pastors."*



**With thanks to all our supporters who have made this initiative possible, including:**

The Methodist Church Eastbourne  
The Salvation Army Eastbourne  
Shinewater Community Church  
Edmond Evangelical Church  
All Saints Parish Church  
Kings Church Eastbourne  
Frenchgate Church  
Old Town Community Church  
Revival Prayer Centre  
The Sussex Police  
Eastbourne Borough Council  
Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership

## Finance

Street Pastors Eastbourne is financially self-sufficient and is dependent on the support from the local community. If you would like to support Street Pastors in this way please use the bank details below. Examples of our costs are: training, support for potential trainees who aren't able to fund themselves, printing of future newsletters and other admin costs, and water, flip flops and sweets for the people we meet on the streets.

**Account Name: Eastbourne Street Pastors**  
**Account Number: 65374276**  
**Sort Code: 08 92 99**

## The Role of the Prayer Pastors by Linda Owen

Have you thought about supporting the work of Street Pastors through prayer?

The 'Street Pastors' initiative both locally and nationally recognises that without prayer there will be little fruit. At the moment we have twelve Prayer Pastors committed to pray on Friday nights while the Street Pastors are out on the streets.

In small teams – possibly three each Friday night – the Prayer Pastors will be praying with them before they go out and for them while they are out. The Prayer Pastors will have communication with the Street Pastors while they are out for any urgent prayer needs.

Some Prayer Pastors will pray from home but we hope that there will always be three at the Prayer Centre to pray while the Street Pastors are out serving in the town centre. At the moment the commitment to pray on Friday nights will work out about once a month, but if others join us it could be even less than this. This is such a great work, please seek the Lord and see if He is calling you to join with us in being a Prayer Pastor and so support His work through the Street Pastors.

For more information please email me at [linda@revivalmedia.org](mailto:linda@revivalmedia.org) or telephone 01323746343, or email [eastbourne@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastbourne@streetpastors.org.uk)

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