

Enfield Street Pastors

Newsletter

No.8. March 2011



Getting you up to date...

Welcome to the beginning of another year with Enfield Street Pastors as we continue to respond positively to the night time activities in the night spots of Enfield, engaging with people on the streets by caring, listening and directing them towards essential services, as well as providing a reassuring presence for people who might feel nervous or anxious on the streets at night.

Having begun here in Enfield in March 2006 we can look back with gratitude and thanks to God that the work of Street Pastors is continuing, not only in this Borough and throughout London and the UK, but also around the world. Locally, I am continually thankful for the commitment and reliability of our teams as they serve the community in this way, showing God's love in action on the streets.

Since September we have been able to work with the Xbus in Enfield Town. This has been a great success with many people coming to investigate what we are doing, and perhaps staying for a sit down and a cup of hot chocolate and a chat. It is exciting to be part of another initiative and to be able to use Xbus resources to help serve the people on the streets of Enfield Town as they seek to enjoy an evening out.

Please continue to pray for the teams each weekend (alternate Friday and Saturday nights) as we go out. We need to have five Street Pastors out in order to man the bus and patrol. Please pray for good health for the teams and that we may soon have our own drivers trained to collect and return the bus to the depot.



Chatting on the Xbus

Our finances aren't good so we appreciate prayer and giving! We are thankful to have recently received some money from the police which we hadn't even asked for. When they asked 'would we like it?', we had no hesitation in saying yes! In addition we submitted an application for funding to Enfield Council and were pleased to have received the full amount. If this year has been a difficult one the next financial year

will bring bigger problems with less money available to charities like our own, so we are hoping that many reading this will feel led to support us by becoming 'One of a Hundred'. (See the back page.)

Thank you for your support and encouragement and prayers.

Alison Murray. ESPs Coordinator

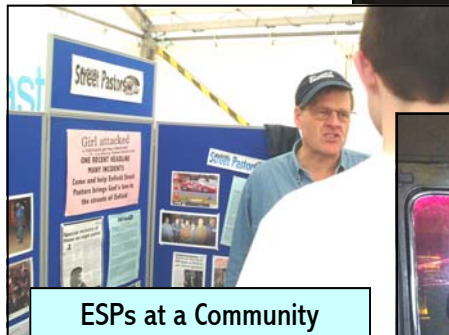
Reports from the Streets...

The following are pieces taken from team reports over this past year, giving you some idea of what we do and the people we meet...



Chatting to shopkeepers

Alison receiving a cheque from Bush Hill Park Rotary from their President Mike Harding



ESP's at a Community Festival in Albany Park

'We drove to the Angel and proceeded along Fore Street, we went into the K Restaurant and take away, and, as far as we know for the first time in Street Pastors history, we were offered a 'Take Away Rice Pudding', they even wanted to heat it up for us.'

'We went along Fore Street towards Edmonton Green and met a lady who had come from a party without her shoes so we were able to supply a pair of Street Pastor 'flip flops' for her to walk with.'

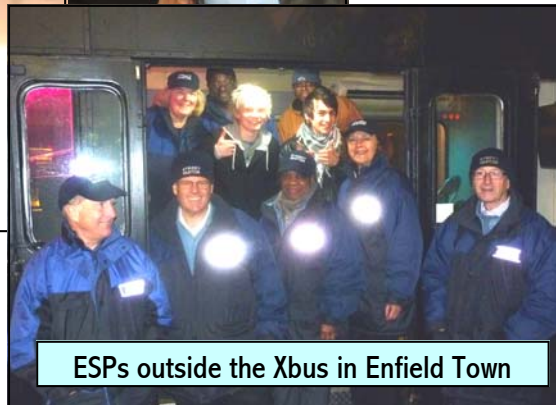
'A lady had had an argument with her boyfriend so two of our female team members were

escorting her to the cab office, but her boyfriend arrived and took her in his car, she said she knew about 'Street Pastors' and that we were there for people like her in their time of need on the streets.'

'In Enfield Town we parked in Cecil Road which was deserted. However, at a bus stop outside Lidl, two ladies were waiting for the bus with a group of 'boisterous' young guys waiting at the same stop. We crossed the road and engaged with the guys and stood with the ladies, who said they were trying to be brave, until the bus came. We gave the ladies a purse bell each and explained about ESPs.'

Working from The Xbus

As Alison has mentioned, Enfield Street Pastors have been able to use the Xbus as a base to work from. The bus is a converted double-decker with hi-tech facilities for young people to use. ESPs use the lower deck as a mobile café and lounge where we can give out drinks and chat. Here are some reports...



ESP's outside the Xbus in Enfield Town

'A group of young people in their 20s came on the bus. As they left they spoke about how they felt a calmness on the bus and that it was so

peaceful. They expressed thanks that we as 'older' people had time for them and didn't reject them.'

'At the bus a group of around six young people came on board thinking it was a 'party bus'. Some of them were already a bit drunk and were supposed to be going to a party in Camden Town. When we said no smoking or alcohol on the bus they laughed and joked for a while but left soon after. However, during the course of the evening they lingered outside, had a lot of noisy activity amongst the market stalls, and at

Introducing Gloria...

I grew up in a slum town called Colatina in the State of Espírito Santo in Brazil, and I was the first girl in a family of eight children. I don't remember much of my early childhood but around the age of 5 or 6 I was wrenched away from my family and sent to a school run by nuns and priests. This was an emotional separation, a traumatic event for me, just as I was beginning to see the world around me. The sad thing was that I was given no explanation, I just had to understand that from then on this is the kind of life I had to accept with these religious people and this place.



Suddenly I started to feel angry and guilty. I found it difficult having to pray to God in the chapel looking at the crucifix when the only thing I wanted to say is. 'Why didn't you prevent all this pain?'

Over the years I heard nothing from my mother so my rebellion got worse. I was taken out of school at the age of 9 and I had to do domestic work. This went on with no mention of my education until the age of 15 when I was asked to leave because they could not make me behave in a normal way. All those years I saw a lot of injustice from people who were supposed to do good in the name of God.

For years I tried hard not to feel angry, but I was disappointed, experiencing despair, anxiety, worry, and stress. In desperation I was striving for peace and freedom. I knew I had to make changes in my life. I saw my life was passing away and I was getting more and more frustrated with my inability and lack of strength

to cope with life in a normal way. Nor was there anyone I could rely on or confide in.

It was out of desperation that I accepted an invitation to a Christian meeting at a church called MARANATA. This was in 1981, and since then I started to see life in a totally different way. I was overwhelmed how the love of the

Lord Jesus Christ could transform a person like me. I now felt safe and secure when I was in the place of worship and with the new family in Christ. Some times I would feel strange when I had to face the reality of the world with temptations that came my way, but God my Heavenly Father's hand was on my case and was always protecting me.

My break through came when I had the opportunity to come to England in 1986 with a family I was working for in Rio de Janeiro for 7 years looking after their two children. It was in the UK that I met my husband.

I really love the Lord my Saviour, and I am keen to serve him and tell everyone that what he did for me he can do for them, they just have to ask. His love is unchanging. No one on this earth has that capacity to love me that much. This is awesome.

Because of my background and what I have experienced through my growing years, I was so inspired when I heard at our church about Enfield Street Pastors. So when I was asked to be part of this project I felt God saying to me, 'Come on Gloria, what are you going to do about it?' I like the idea that we are out on the street representing the church, ordinary people like us seeking to make a difference and helping people feel safer.

different times came back on the bus for coffee and hot chocolate. Then some lingered as individuals and just sat on the bus, some talked others just sat. Some expressed appreciation of the fact that we were 'nice people', but T wanted to talk. She said she wanted her life to change

and wanted to know Jesus in her life. She said her mum didn't trust her because she told so many lies. A member of the team was able to talk and pray with her about forgiveness and saying sorry to her mum.'

‘One in a Hundred’?

Can you help Enfield Street Pastors by being ‘One in a Hundred’?

It takes money to keep EPSs on the road so we are looking for a hundred people who will commit to give £10 or more a month to Enfield Street Pastors. **Would you be prepared to become ‘One in a Hundred’?**

If you are able and willing to help us by regular giving this way, and through ‘Gift Aid’ if that is applicable, it will be greatly appreciated. In return, we will keep you informed with regular team reports so you can see what we’re doing on the ground to help bring the love of God to the streets of Enfield.

Keeping Enfield Street Pastors on the streets

A Street Pastor is a member of a local church who has chosen to respond positively to the night time problems of a town, engaging with people on the streets by caring, listening and directing them towards essential services, as well as providing a reassuring presence for people who might feel nervous or anxious. You can help us in three ways:

PRAYER – We need more Prayer Partners, particularly those willing to take a more structured part in our work by supporting us in prayer while we are out, and making the coffee when we get back!

PASTORS – The more Street Pastors we have, the bigger the impact we can have on Street Crime in the Borough and the more people we can share

God’s love and care with. The next training programme will begin in September - could you be among them?

POUNDS - We continue to need funding from Individuals, churches and grant-making bodies. See opposite for information on our ‘1 in a 100’ scheme.

Please contact Alison:

◆ If you would like to be involved as a prayer partner and if you would like to receive our weekly update by email. We know people do pray for us but it would be good to know who you are!!!

◆ If you are interested in training to be an ESP.

◆ If you wish to make a personal/church donation towards the work of ESPs.

Want a Talk?

Alison is always on the lookout for the opportunity to give a talk in churches to get some new Street Pastor recruits so please let me know if you have any contacts I could follow up.

Thank you for reading this newsletter

We hope that you are as excited by Enfield Street Pastors as we are. As we work on the streets we will commit to keeping you up to date with the impact the scheme is having on the Borough. We therefore hope that you will consider partnering with us through finding the pounds, the prayer and the pastors to continue to make it happen. In the meantime, if you need more information or have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Making contact

Contact Enfield Street Pastors through Alison Murray, ESPs Coordinator.

Our email address is: enfield@streetpastors.org.uk

Our phone number is: 07982 197505

Also: See us on the official Street Pastors website - www.streetpastors.org.uk - and go to the Enfield page where you can also download our previous newsletters.