

May 2015 Newsletter

How Evesham Street Pastors are doing

Evesham Street Pastors have been out on the streets of our town since October 2013 or to put it into numbers, we have now been out some 80 nights and have had over 3000 conversations with the people we meet. In other statistics this amounts to some 300 bottles of water, 250 pairs of flip-flops and over 7500 lollies!

Mayor of Evesham Charlie Homer (see below) remarked: "I was humbled by what I saw last night. I find the commitment you have all made inspiring and absolutely selfless. It was obvious the impact the Street Pastors have already made and how well known you are. The reception you receive is testament to your value. I hope you will have a long and successful future in Evesham."



What is a Street Pastor Observer?

Observers are anyone who is interested in our work who would like to accompany us on part of one of our regular patrols. We have had some 20 observers so far ranging from the Police and Crime Commissioner's local ambassador, Cllr Richard

Morris and Mayor of Evesham Cllr Charlie Homer (pictured) to local clergy and members of local organisations. Observers wear clearly marked jackets and are asked to sign an agreement that allows them to interact safely with people we meet on the streets. If you are interested in finding out more about being an observer please contact John Darby on 07747 842192.

Plans for the next few months

We have now started regular patrols on a Saturday night and realise that there is as much of a need on a Saturday as a Friday. We would, therefore, very much like to increase the number of our patrols to cover more Saturdays. Naturally this will mean more Street Pastors and Prayer Partners. We are delighted that we have three new trainees starting (Helen Manners , Anne Sykes and Rachel Powell), if you are interested in talking about this do please contact us.

Our supporters

We continue to be indebted to those who support our work, not least the Street Pastors, Prayer Partners and Trustees (and not forgetting their families who are now used to the days after a patrol and its impact on family life).

We also continue to receive great support from those who provide funding either directly in the form of grants and donations or for the provision of our base and the items we use on patrols. We recently received a six-month supply of bottled water from Tesco Evesham and we would like to thank Vicki Anderson, Tesco Community Champion for her support.

A Team Visit

Nights on the streets of Evesham are incredibly varied. If you would like your group to hear from us first hand we would be delighted to share news of our experiences. John Darby continues to visit many groups to explain our work and this can be part of your regular “business”, activity or worship. One of the team often join him and you will have much more of a feel of what goes on as

a result. Call John Darby on 07747 842192 to request a visit

Funding News

Because of the generosity of people who give time and in kind support such as the Tesco donation above we are able to sustain all this activity for just over £5000 per year. But there are real costs we must meet and so each year we apply for public and charitable funding to contribute alongside our volunteer time.

- We apply to the Police and Crime Commissioner because we know we contribute to the “Queen’s Peace” and actually reduce the number of arrests. Each arrest costs a great deal of money as police have to leave their beat, deal with prisoners and they and others have to process those who offended through the courts or other restorative processes. Our second request has recently received a generous response and, in line with Street Pastors in Telford and elsewhere we will receive a significant proportion of our funding needs
- We apply to our local authorities – Town and District - and charity, John Martins because they are all concerned with the quality of life in our town and the smooth working of the “night time” economy as well as the High Street and businesses in day-time. The Town and District gave us a grant for 2 years and John Martin’s Charity has given us a grant for our second year.
- We are grateful for the support from churches and individuals because, like the Street Pastors and Prayer Partners themselves they want to show love and concern for our neighbours in Evesham, especially at points when they become vulnerable or have particular needs.
- Churches and individuals continue to give financially and we would welcome church treasurers discussing a regular commitment.

Breaking News

Civic Award

Evesham Street Pastors has received a Civic Award from the Mayor of Evesham at a ceremony on 14 May 2015. The award recognised the work that street pastors do to support the night-time economy in the town. Congratulations to everyone involved in the work of Evesham Street Pastors