



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Quarterly News

JUL
2021



Nigel Watt
Coordinator

They say, 'Teamwork makes the dream work!' When Neil Townsend caught the vision for a Street Pastor team in Wantage and Grove, he knew that it was more than any one church could take on. In fact, Street Pastors can't be set up unless at least four local churches work on it together. We started with ten churches and have grown to include several churches in nearby villages. Our success has, in part, been down to our commitment to work together to solve problems in our communities. But more than this, everyone in Wantage & Grove Street Pastors plays their part to help make what we do a success. The good news is that no-one needs to feel like they're in this on their own, or that what they have to offer would never be enough. Whether on the streets at night, at our base in prayer, on the Management Committee or planning fundraising events, everyone brings what they have and somehow the Lord works it all together for His glory. It's a privilege to be part of such a wonderful team of people serving the Lord and serving our communities. The last year has given many of us an opportunity to pause, reflect and re-focus. If you're thinking you'd like a fresh challenge or are looking for new opportunities to serve, we definitely have space for you - whatever you have to offer!

Come and join the team!

How we helped on the streets

Since our last edition of Quarterly News, we have gradually increased the number of street patrols going out each month, as a number of Street Pastors who were shielding are now back on patrol with us. Street Pastor teams are receiving a very warm welcome from those they meet and they're loving being back out, meeting people and helping where they can. We achieved 3 patrols in April, 3 in May and 5 in June.

There have been some large groups gathering from time to time at pub closing times, which inevitably leads to scuffles breaking out among different groups and some anti-social behaviour too. Street Pastors have helped to calm things down and encourage people to head home rather than linger in town. We have had to call the police on several occasions who have swiftly brought things back under control when needed. We are really grateful to the police for the support we receive from them. We have also spent time talking with people and listening to what's going on in their lives. We have offered prayer for people facing difficult situations and we're giving out a few lollies, but we've not needed to give any flip-flops yet.

Monthly Patrols

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					✓	✓
					?	?
					✓	?
					✓	✓

We are delighted to have 5 teams patrolling each month (individual Street Pastors patrol once-a-month), which is great - however, that does mean there are some Fridays and Saturdays each month that we are not able to patrol. Can you help us fill in some of the gaps? Maybe now is the time to consider getting involved with this valuable ministry!

Two of our Friday teams patrol from 8 pm to midnight, while the other teams patrol from 11 pm to 2.30 am. Please do contact us if you would like more information about training as a Street Pastor or pick up our '**So, what's involved in being a Street Pastor?**' leaflet from church or speak to your church rep.

Sharon Tedford in concert - Fri 15 October

We are delighted to welcome Sharon Tedford back to Wantage this October

Sharon Tedford in Concert

7.30 pm Friday 15 October
Wantage Baptist Church

Free entry with an opportunity to give to Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Advance booking is essential - call: 07554 655 594
or email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk



Spring Harvest 2022

Spring Harvest is welcoming everyone in the Street Pastor network to Minehead and Skegness in April 2022 for a time of restoration, renewal and rebuilding. There will be a whole seminar stream related to Street Pastors and associated initiatives such as Rail Pastors, School Pastors, College Pastors for everyone at Spring Harvest to dip into. You and your family are warmly invited!

This is a great opportunity for those in the Street Pastors network to make a real impact, promote our work, share our experiences and encourage more people to get involved across the UK - what a wonderful opportunity for us all.

Bookings are already open at the Spring Harvest website springharvestevent.org or by calling 0330 100 9330.



SKEGNESS 11-15 April 2022
MINEHEAD 18-22 April 2022

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Annual report



Our Annual report for 2020/21 is now available and gives a full update on our work throughout the financial year, highlighting the issues faced by us and by others who we work along side. Download a copy from our website or contact us if you would like a paper copy.

Call us on: 07554 655 594 or send us an email (see below).

Anne Cheeseman - DSO

Anne Cheeseman has been appointed as our Designated Safeguarding Officer. Thank you to Anne for taking on this important role. Anne is also a Street Pastor and has been patrolling with us after many years patrolling with Reading Street Pastors. Anne can be contacted by phone on: 07827 750 217 or by email at anneccheeseman@gmail.com.

'Thank you' too to David Law who has fulfilled the Safeguarding role since November 2014.

YoCO launch in Wantage

Youth Challenge Oxfordshire (YoCO) has launched a group in Wantage after some delay due to the covid pandemic and lockdowns.



YoCO's vision is "To ensure every young person has the opportunity to develop personal confidence and resilience to choose to live a rewarding life and contribute to society." The YoCO Programme is designed to improve mental health and well-being and offers an amazing opportunity for personal growth and development for 14-21 year olds. Groups of 12 young people meet weekly for up to 18 months with activities focussing on teamwork, self esteem and leadership, etc. working up to a life-changing volunteering trip to the Nasio Trust in Kenya. Street Pastors are able to refer young people who they meet to YoCO. Check out www.yoco.online

AT announcement

Bejoy Pal named New CEO of Ascension Trust

Ascension Trust has named Bejoy Pal as their new CEO. Bejoy joined AT as an administrative assistant in 2015 and within a year had been given the role of Youth Development Officer. In January 2016 he was also appointed as the National School and College Pastors Coordinator. Bejoy is passionate about working in the community and, among other things, is a Street Pastor in Croydon and a School Pastor in Lambeth.

Bejoy will take up the role as CEO in January 2022.



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Website: www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Mobile: 07554 655 594

Facebook: facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors

Registered Charity: 1134429

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Oxfordshire County Council

Police Property Act Fund

Wantage Town Council

Grove Parish Council

Swire Trust



Street Pastors is an initiative of Ascension Trust, a Christian, inter-denominational organisation with a passion to empower individuals to work together within their local community and nation.