



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Quarterly News

APR
2022



Michael Elliott
SP & Trustee

Last month I had the privilege and joy of attending a celebration marking the 10th anniversary of Newbury Street Pastors. It was an opportunity to reflect back on their last ten years and also to look to the future. New street pastors were commissioned, existing street pastors shared their experiences (one even in a new poem) and local officials and police community officers gave their thanks and encouragement. The guest speaker was Revd Les Isaac OBE, the founder and recently retired leader of Street Pastors. He talked about the founding of Street Pastors, some of its history and his vision for the impact Street Pastors can have and is having on local communities.

Apart from the obvious joy of being part of such a celebration I was also greatly encouraged simply by being reminded that Wantage and Grove Street Pastors is part of a much larger movement of Christians with initiatives across the country and around the world. We may venture out in teams of three or four supported by our prayer support volunteers, but we are also part of the national, and increasingly international, grouping of so many Street Pastor initiatives. We join in prayer and in shared experiences in our common purpose to bring caring, listening and helping to anyone in need on our streets whenever we patrol. And in doing so show something of the love of God to the people we live among and, through prayer and action, work together for the Shalom (the peace, welfare and tranquillity) of all our communities.

Thanks, Prayer and SP Commissioning

Thanks and prayer afternoon tea

You are warmly invited to our 'Thanks and Prayer' afternoon tea as a *'thank you'* for your interest in and support of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

From 4 pm we will spend some time praying for our communities and the work of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors and we will commission our latest Street Pastor recruits. You are very welcome to stay and pray if you wish.

3 pm, Sunday 22 May 2022

Wantage Primary Academy

Rutherford Road, Wantage. OX12 7GQ

RSVP by Monday 16 May

Email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Phone: 07554 655 594



How we helped on the streets

Cold or wet weather during January, February and March made for some fairly quiet patrols. We patrolled four times in January, five times in February and four times in March.

One night we met about 20 young people in two groups standing in a Wantage park area with one drunk man standing on a monument shouting. We gave out lollies to the two groups while we assessed the situation to see what might happen. We chatted for a while and picked up some bottles, cans and broken glass from the area. We stayed there until the two groups headed off in different directions without any problems.

We spent some time chatting to a couple but as they

walked away, the lady tripped on the uneven pavement and twisted her ankle. Our team stayed with them until the lady was able to get up and walk on with the help of her partner.

The Police alerted us to groups of young people gathering around Wantage Parish Church, especially while there was scaffolding present at the back of the church. Street Pastor teams have been circling the church on their route around town but haven't found any young people there yet.

We have patrolled in Grove and spent time with people in different locations including the skate park and kebab van, Saville Way shops, Millbrook Square, etc. We didn't encounter any problems in Grove.

Trustee Goals for 2022/23

Each year our Management Committee sets goals to help focus our efforts and to ensure that we continue to serve our community well. We centre our goals around the key areas of delivering patrols, finances and relationships.

► Delivering Patrols:

- Increase the number of volunteers, Street Pastors and Prayer Support Volunteers
- Hold Street Pastor Sundays in each of the partner churches
- Set up an additional Saturday team
- Investigate and possibly initiate on-line street pastor presence
- Pursue daytime patrols

► Finance:

- Secure funding to cover our costs

► Relationships:

- Complete the transition of WGSP into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Recruit new Trustee, particularly a Fundraising Lead



Congratulations

Congratulations go to Newbury Street Pastors, who celebrated 10 years of patrols in March, and to Abingdon Street Pastors who celebrated 10 years of patrols at the beginning of April. Well done to everyone who has helped to achieve so much. Keep up the good work!

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians Ch 6 v 9

Quiz & Curry Night

Join us for our Quiz & Curry Night on Saturday 19 November at Wantage Methodist Church. Put the date in your diary and get working on your team of 6 people. Raising funds for Wantage & Grove Street Pastors! More details coming soon!



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

Supported by grants from
Oxfordshire County Council
Police Property Act Fund
Wantage Town Council
Grove Parish Council



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.