



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

JAN
2023

Quarterly News



Nigel Watt
Coordinator

Street Pastors offer practical support to people on the streets, often in the form of lollies and flip-flops. We also offer emotional support through a listening ear and spiritual support through prayer, involving our prayer support volunteers on the phone or by praying right there on the street with the person in need.

When asked, people usually accept our offer to pray with them and we find that times of prayer on the street become very special moments in people's lives. One time we prayed for a young man who was nervous about a date later in the week. We prayed for him and he was so blessed that he called his friends over and asked us to pray that they would have God's peace - so we did!

The offer of prayer is very compelling! By just asking to pray with someone we're saying:

- I **listened** to what you said and I understand something of what you're going through.
- I **care** about you enough to re-tell your story to our Father in Heaven.
- I have **hope** that with God's help things can and will be different for you.

Where two or three gather in his name, at home, at work, at church or on the street, he is there and he is faithful.

Psalm 17 v 6: I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

1 Peter 5 v 7: Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Online Networker - Welcome Sky Shoemark

We are delighted that Sky Shoemark has joined us as our Online Networker, working 3 hours a week to grow our online presence and help us reach out to different audiences. We want to:

- Encourage the church to join us in prayer and support us through volunteering and financial giving.
- Engage with the local community to raise our profile and bless people with encouraging messages.
- Connect with 18+ year olds who we meet on the streets and provide helpful information about the local night-time economy.
- Reach out to younger people to let them know who we are and what we do in Wantage and Grove.

Here's a little message from Sky:

Hello all. My name is Sky Shoemark and I am the new social media coordinator for Wantage and Grove Street Pastors. I am 21 years old and have been a Christian for around 8 years. So much has happened throughout the years with my prayers being answered and God speaking to me. I love to tell people about God and what he has done in my life. I'm so excited to join the team and be able to help Wantage and Grove Street Pastors in sharing the good news and helping to keep people safe.

TVP Tackle Knife Carriers

Follow, Like, Share...



Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, Matthew Barber, has reported that

Thames Valley Police's zero-tolerance approach to those who carry knives on our streets is starting to take effect. **Operation Deter**, which launched in Milton Keynes, sees those over 18 years old who carry knives on the streets being held in custody overnight, in court the next day and facing several months in prison. You can read more about Operation Deter on the [TVP website](#) and you can read Matthew's update on his website matthewbarber.co.uk.

You can now follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok - and it will really help us if you follow us, 'like' our posts, write lovely comments and share them with your followers:

[wantageandgrovestreetpastors](https://www.facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors)

[wantage_grove_pastors](https://www.instagram.com/wantage_grove_pastors)

[wantage_grove_pastors](https://www.tiktok.com/wantage_grove_pastors)

Afternoon Tea and SP Commissioning

We're looking forward to gathering together when the weather warms up a bit in Spring. Not only will we enjoy an afternoon tea together, but we will Commission our most recent Street Pastor recruits. Put the date in your diary and keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks.

Sunday 23 April, 3 pm



How we helped on the streets

Street Pastors met a group of three young people at Grove Skate Park. We chatted for some time and gave them lollies. The Street Pastors also cleared up some broken glass at the Skate Park. The same night Street Pastors cleared up lots of litter at Mary Green Park and the Old Mill Hall. We chatted to a couple sitting on a bench and gave them contact details to get a taxi.

We patrolled on what is sometimes called 'black Friday', the last working day before Christmas but we were unable to patrol on New Year's Eve due to sickness. In Wantage one evening we met two men

who looked like they were going to have a fight. We chatted to them, gave them lollies and helped to calm the situation down. The men eventually left without coming to blows!

A young lady was waiting at the Bus Stop in Wantage after finishing work. We stayed with her while she waited, occasionally chatting to people as they passed by.

One night we helped to support a young man who was caring for his partner who was being sick. We provided a hair band to tie her hair back and a bottle of water.

For more information on how we helped, check out our Reports page on our website: www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Celebrating 20 Years of Street Pastors...

...and 30 years of Ascension Trust!

2023 sees Ascension Trust celebrate 30 years of service to the Church and to the Lord - equipping the Church to serve in their local communities.

Street Pastors was launched by Ascension Trust in 2003 after Rev Les Isaac OBE and another minister went on to the streets of London at night and recognised that there were many people in need on the Streets. Since then, the ministry has expanded to include School and College Pastors, Rail Pastors, who patrol parts of the rail network and Response Pastors, who are trained to respond when a disaster or crisis affects the whole community.

Bejoy Pal, CEO has recorded a short video message, which you can see on [YouTube](#) or from this short link: bit.ly/wgsp-3020

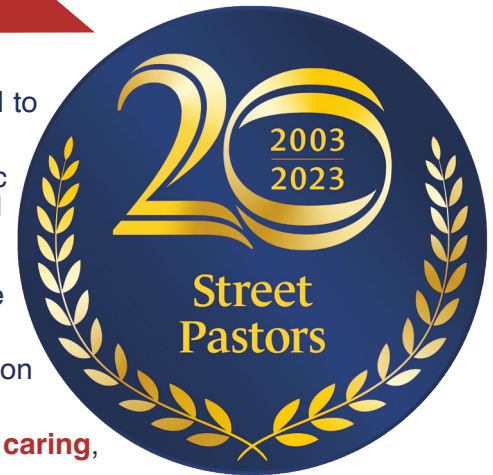
Here in Wantage and Grove we have been patrolling for over 13 years, **caring**, **listening** and **helping** in our local communities.

Ascension Trust are celebrating with three events later this year:

20th Year Street Pastors Patrol in Lambeth on Tuesday 18th April 2023

20th Year Graduation Ceremony on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at St Marks Church, Oval

30th Year Celebration Dinner on Saturday 18th November 2023



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

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TikTok: [wantage_grove_pastors](https://tiktok.com/@wantage_grove_pastors)

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Grove Parish Council

Thank you

To all our supporters!



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.