



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Quarterly News

APR
2023



Michael Elliott
Trustee and SP

As I write this it is just a few days since our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. This is a time when we particularly pray about and meditate on the immeasurably costly sacrifice of our Lord on the first Good Friday and God's immense power shown on the first Easter Sunday through the Resurrection. These events demonstrate the depth of God's love for us. They show how God pours out His goodness on anyone who would receive it even though we do not deserve it – what we call grace.

Grace features prominently in the story of Jonah. Perhaps the best-known part of the story is where Jonah is swallowed by a great sea creature so God can save him from drowning. Jonah prays from inside the sea creature, remembering that as his life was ebbing away, he received grace that was undeserved. He then proclaims:

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs, But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you” (Jonah 2: 8-9 – NIV)

Worthless idols are all around us in the world. Only God can know how much grace is forfeit in a world that clings to them. As Street Pastors patrol, we pray that we show love and bring grace to those we meet bringing caring, listening and helping to anyone in need. And as we sacrifice our free time and sleep to patrol, we do so with a song of thanksgiving to the Lord we serve.

How we helped on the streets

One of our nighttime venues in Wantage was evacuated to allow emergency services to attend to a lady who had had a medical emergency. Street Pastors chatted to those who had been evacuated, gave out lots of lollies and bottles of water and generally helped to keep everyone calm while they waited to be let back in and continue with their evening.

Street Pastors met a young lady who had had too much to drink and so we gently suggested it would be good to make her way home and we offered to go some of the way with her. We also helped a young man who tripped and fell, dropping his bag and wallet as he made his way home at the end of the night. We picked up his things, gave him some water and a lolly and checked that he was ok to go the rest of the way on his own.

We met a man who seemed a bit wobbly and asked if he was ok. He said that he had lost his keys but that he didn't need any help and that he was going to lie on a bench for a while. We gave him a bottle of water and a space blanket to help keep him warm and checked in on him later in the evening.

One night we spent some time with a young woman who explained how she was sleeping on a friend's sofa having escaped an abusive relationship. We listened to her and signposted her to an organisation that may be able to help her further.

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

AGM 2023 - Change of Date

Our 2023 AGM will be held on:

Tuesday 4 July 2023

7.30 pm at

Lower St John's Room

St John's Parish Church

Grove

Please put the date in your diary and note that this is a change from previously advertised date of 3 July.

With 138 members, we need a quorum of 14 people.

More information coming soon!



Quiz & Curry Night

Our very popular Quiz & Curry Night is back!

7 pm Saturday 18 November

Put the date in your diary and start putting together your team of 6 people!

More information coming soon!



TikTok Success ▶ 4000+



With over 4000 views, our first ever TikTok video has been incredibly successful. The short video (just 28 seconds) is a fast-paced review of our year so far set to the apt, catchy and trending sped-up take on Echosmith's "Cool Kids" tune.

4054 views, 251 likes, 147 shares, 28 comments - and growing!

-  jem east · Friends
absolutely love you guys 🥰 thank you so much xx
-  Jade
Loved the Wantage street pastors when I was a teen, always had a lolly pop from them 🥰🥰 keep up the good work guys 💖
-  Pollinos
It's been a while, you still got the good lollies?
-  amalia.flanagan
best people 🍷🍷
-  kezzamitchell
Hero's

-  Owen Maynard
Doing gods work 🙌😊
-  Franco xxx
👊👊❤️
-  Charlotte Ellis
i love them so much 😭
-  hölsman 🇪🇺
our heros 🙌

🎵 I wish that I could be like the cool kids
'Cause all the cool kids, they seem to fit in
I wish that I could be like the cool kids
Like the cool kids

You can follow our TikTok and Instagram by searching for [wantage_grove_pastors](#)

Committee Goals 2023/24

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 and online presence, finances and relationships.

Here is a summary of our 2023/24 Committee Goals:

- ▶ Delivering Patrols and Online Presence:
 - ✦ Increase numbers of volunteers, Street Pastors & Prayer Support Volunteers
 - ✦ Online Networker to continue to grow our social media presence including Street Pastor messages and Bible verses
 - ✦ Pursue Daytime Patrols
 - ✦ Hold at least one fundraiser and one awareness event
 - ▶ Finance:
 - ✦ Secure funding to cover our costs
 - ▶ Relationships:
 - ✦ Complete the transition of WGSP into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
 - ✦ Recruit two new Trustees
 - ✦ Work with statutory and third sector agencies to help people in the night time economy
- For more information about our goals, please do talk to a Trustee or send us an email.



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Website: www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

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

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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.