



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Annual Report

APR 22
to
MAR 23



Paul Gander
Chair

Hello! As Chair of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors, thank you for reading our annual report and for any support you have given the charity over the last year, we really appreciate it. As I write it's a beautiful sunny day, the promise of summer and warmer times are here but winter memories aren't far behind. Being a Street Pastor and meeting people on the streets you can sometimes meet people who are doing well, they are in their "spring time" and feeling sunny, meaning they are happy to stop and talk. However, there are other people the Street Pastors meet who are very much in a "winter season" and it's in those conversations that we aim to bring a bit of hope or light into a dark situation. As I joined the Street Pastors this year on patrol I saw and experienced these conversations in just one evening, someone who was sofa-surfing and in need of some good advice and someone else who was just delighted to see the team and get a free lollypop!

Thank you to everyone who keeps enabling these conversations and support to happen through the work of Street Pastors. In the last 4 months of our year, we appointed Sky Shoemark as our Online Networker, and I say on behalf of everyone on the trustee board we are delighted with

what Sky has achieved in such a short time. A highlight was Wantage & Grove Street Pastors debut on TikTok, with a splash of music and colour and getting 4,500 views on the platform! Thank you to Sky and all she has done to meet and speak into that online space that so many people inhabit. I look forward to the next year of Street Pastors and all that will entail.

Thanks to...



Members



Friends



Partner Churches



Grove Parish Council



Wantage Town Council



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council



Thames Valley Police



Police & Crime Commissioner



Ascension Trust

Thank you to all our volunteers whose hard work and dedication has help us achieve another year of caring, listening and helping in our communities. Thank you too to all those individuals and organisations who have supported us in so many ways throughout the last year from prayer and patrols to finances and provision of our base - **Thank you!**

Who we are



137 Members



14 Friends



13 Partner Churches



18 Street Pastors



23 Prayer Support



5 of 7 Trustees (2 vacancies)



5 Prayer & Patrol Teams each month



Coordinator Nigel Watt (Part time)



Online Networker Sky Shoemark (Part time)

We recruited two new Street Pastor trainees and 3 new Prayer Support Volunteers. We have two Friday teams, one patrolling 8 pm - midnight, one patrolling 10.30 pm - 3.30 am; and three Saturday teams out from 11 pm to 3.30 am.

The year in patrols

	2021/22	2020/21
Patrols	45	46
Hours covered	189	184
Supporting vulnerable	35	16
Calming aggressive	13	9
Flip-flops	14	2
Lollypops	~2040	~1140
Water	67	25

People we engaged with:

	Male	Female	Total	2021/22
Under 13 yrs	0	0	0	5
13 to 17 yrs	48	56	104	51
18 to 25 yrs	154	86	240	156
25+ years	163	47	210	150
Totals	365	189	554	362

How we helped on the streets

In the last year we have seen an increase in the numbers of people in Wantage and Grove on Friday and Saturday nights. The opening of Delaney's Club (previously Shush!) in August seems to have boosted the night time economy, although it's not back to pre-Covid levels just yet.

During 2022/23 we cared for 35 individuals who were in some way vulnerable and attended 13 incidents that were in some way aggressive. In September our team were in Wantage when a man, who

was spoiling for a fight, went off and brought back a kitchen knife. No one was injured by the knife and our Street Pastors did exactly the right thing by staying at a safe distance, calling the police and helping people when it was safe to do so.

As well as responding to incidents as they happen, Street Pastors spend time listening to people and praying for them either by contacting our Prayer Support Volunteers or taking time on the street to pray with the individual if they wish.

One night we met a man who was leaving one of the nighttime venues and was fearful that he was going to be beaten up for some reason. He came straight over to talk to us until his potential assailants had gone. We spent some time with him and prayed for him and his family situation.

For more information about our activities, check out the [Reports page on our website](#).

See bit.ly/wgsp-reports

Community involvement



Wantage & Grove Neighbourhood Action Group



Wantage & Grove PubWatch

SWEATBOX

Sweatbox Youth Centre



Missing People



Wantage & Grove Community Alcohol Partnership



Youth Challenge Oxfordshire

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors **works alongside** and supports a number of local, regional and national groups. We regularly contribute to the Neighbourhood Action Group, which seeks to identify and resolve issues that arise in our local communities. In February, Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber joined one of our teams as an **Observer**. If you would like to join one of our teams to see first hand what we do, please do get in touch with us.

Charity overview

Trustees

Paul Gander - Chair
Marj Lunn - Secretary
Michael Elliott - Treasurer
Steve West
Hilary Moore
Sarah Goodall (resigned September 2022)
Vacancy for two more Trustees

Employees

Nigel Watt - Coordinator (part-time paid role)
Sky Shoemark - Online Networker (part-time paid role appointed 8 December 2022)

2022 AGM

Our 2021/22 AGM took place in July 2022 with both in-person and on-line attendance on a hot and sunny evening at Wantage Baptist Church, which was quite a shift from the dark October pattern we've had previously. The main reason for the change was to progress our **vision** to employ a part-time Social Networker and we wanted the input and prayers of our members to progress this. As well as the usual business we were encouraged to proceed with the recruitment plan to raise the profile of Street Pastors caring, listening and helping on the streets of our local communities.

CIO Progress

Members endorsed a proposal to transfer Wantage & Grove Street Pastors from an *Unincorporated Group* to a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation** (CIO) at our 2020 AGM. We submitted our paperwork and are still waiting to hear back from Ascension Trust Legal Team.

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Anne Cheeseman (07827 750 217)
Deputy DSO - Paul Gander (07812 136 031)

Street Pastor Sundays

Grove Methodist Church - 9 October 2022
Wantage Methodist Church 6 November 2022
Grove Free Evangelical Church - 29 January 2023

Events & Fundraising

Thanks & Prayer Afternoon Tea - 22 May 2022
Beacon Open Day - 3 October 2022
Quiz & Curry Night - 19 November 2022

Financial overview



*Michael Elliott
Treasurer*

We ended the 2022-23 financial year with a surplus of £650 compared with a surplus £4,942 in the previous financial year. The table below summarises our income and expenditure.

We continue to receive grant funding from Oxfordshire County Council and also an increased amount from the TVP Community Action Fund. We also received some smaller but welcome grants from other supporters of WGSP.

Church support is lower than last year mainly because last year there was a substantial one-off donation from one of our supporting churches.

We are grateful to those supporters who give by standing order (18 in total) who have maintained their giving at the same level as last year and also to other supporters making one-off donations.

Some areas of expenditure have increased, in particular staff costs due to inflation and the development of our social media presence. These have been more than offset by reduced costs elsewhere, however, some of these relate to one-off expenses from last year.

We are grateful for the continuing support we receive from members, the public and charitable bodies, especially at this time when many are experiencing reductions in their income together with greater demands on available charitable funds. Our work continues to be recognised and valued at all levels within the community. **Thank you!**

Income		2022/23	2021/22
Church support	Grove Free Evangelical Church, St John's Grove	2,200	9,585
Grants	Oxfordshire County Council, TV Police Community Fund, Penuel and Kingsgrove Trusts	7,150	6,200
From Individuals	18 standing orders, and one-off donations	3,558	3,090
Events	Quiz & Curry Night	480	645
Collecting boxes	Cornerstone, Kings Centre and various pubs	77	197
Gift aid recovery		572	445
Interest		27	-
Total income		£14,064	£20,162

Expenditure			
Staff costs	Salary and related	10,736	9,808
Cost of fundraising	Catering and hall hire at events	204	375
Training & Safeguarding	SP training and safeguarding costs	269	1,027
Operating costs	Flip-flops and lollipops, refreshments for those on duty, kit, mobile 'phone top-ups, printing, etc.	1,082	825
Ascension Trust fee	15% of income (except OCC grant) paid to Ascension Trust	1,123	2,385
Donation	(2022 – AT fees of neighbouring SP initiative)	-	800
Total expenditure		£13,414	£15,220

Closing Bank Balance		£21,029	£20,379
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Reserves Policy

To maintain reserves of half our annual cost of operations.

Online Networking

Since employing Sky Shoemark as our Online Networker we have:

- ▶ **Researched** what other Street Pastor initiatives are doing online - what works and what doesn't work.
- ▶ **Created** accounts with Instagram and TikTok
- ▶ **Developed** a plan for regular social media posts throughout the year
- ▶ **Improved** our facebook page
- ▶ **Posted** SP & PSV team pictures & videos, encouraging Bible verses, safety advice and guidance for the night time economy
- ▶ **Grown** our following:
 - Facebook: 311 followers (up from 160)
 - Instagram: 241 followers (up from zero)
 - TikTok: 153 followers (up from zero)

We were very pleased with our first TikTok video having 4,000+ views - but our most recent video has 37,000 views. Keep up the good work, Sky.

Safeguarding

In the past year, the trustees have reviewed and approved the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Anne Cheeseman (our Designated Safeguarding Officer) delivered two in-person Safeguarding training sessions. 12 Street Pastors from Wantage & Grove attended, with 8 participants from other local areas. Feedback was very positive and included the following comments:

"Engaging and thought provoking."

"Fabulous. Informative, relevant, enjoyable and interactive for a subject that can be quite complex and procedural. A well spent Saturday afternoon."

"The best interactive course I can remember attending – of the many courses that I've done."

A key message from the training is that if anyone has the slightest concern about something that occurs while on patrol, please discuss it with your Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

In the last year, two incidents have been raised with the DSO; while neither of these incidents met the threshold for reporting to Adult Social Care, it was helpful to discuss them and records have been kept on file in our locked filing cabinet.

Trustee Goals for 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, finances and relationships.

- ▶ **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
- ▶ **Finance:**
 - ✦ Secure funding to cover our costs
 - ✦ Hold at least one fundraiser and one awareness event
- ▶ **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



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Once again, thank you for your support of our work in our local communities.

For more information about our work or for details of how you can get involved, please visit our website or contact us using the details below:

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.