



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Quarterly News

JUL
2023



Hilary Moore
Trustee and SP

Greetings. Happy summertime to you all. This is my 2nd article for Quarterly News, my first was written with my Street Pastor 'hat' on. This time I'm wearing my Trustee 'hat', but it will be my last in this role as I am hanging up my Trustee 'hat' after nearly 5 years - although I will continue to serve as a Street Pastor. One of my tasks has been taking responsibility for collection tins which we have placed in several pubs, The Cornerstone in Grove, The Kings Centre in Wantage, and in one of the local churches.

During these 5 years (and for the previous 9 years), there has been lots of cake and curry consumed! Cakes for social events and celebrations, and curries for our annual Quiz and Curry Night. I have helped on many of these occasions and look forward to being on the other side of the serving hatch from now on! Of course, there has been much more than money and munching going on - follow us on social media and, for those who like a paper copy, in Quarterly News, to stay up to date with all our news.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Management Committee and I thank God for his faithfulness. Thanks too to fellow trustees and our co-ordinator for their support.

There are now two trustee vacancies so please do consider if there is a role for you.

A love of cakes or curry is not necessary.

How we helped on the streets

In Grove one evening, Street Pastors saw a young lad fall off his new bike. We went over to check he was ok and used our torches to help him check if his bike was ok too.

We spent a short time talking to a young man on a bench who had a bag of his belongings with him at the bus stop in Wantage. He had had an argument with his other half and was expecting to spend the night in his car! We suggested other options but he seemed content to sleep in his car. It was fairly warm evening, so we weren't too worried about him.

One of our teams visited Sweatbox Youth Centre and spent time chatting with the young people and staff. The same night we cleared up a lot of broken glass in

the Undercroft Car Park – our kit bag includes a dustpan and brush for this very reason.

Another night in Wantage town centre, we found that some of the plants in one of the Wantage planters had been uprooted, perhaps by a frustrated reveller.

Before heading home for the night, one of our Street Pastors replanted the plants.



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

David Johnston MP on Patrol



David Johnston MP joined one of our Friday night Street Pastor patrols as an observer at the end of June.

David said,

"It was great to take part in a session with the Wantage and Grove Street Pastors. These volunteers play a really important role when they're out and about and it was a pleasure to spend time with them and see first-hand how they help to keep people safe."

If you would like to see first-hand what the Street Pastors do, you are welcome to come out as an observer too. Just send us an email to arrange a date - wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Street Pastor Sunday & Commissioning

We enjoyed a very warm welcome at Wantage Parish Church on Sunday 18 June where we held a Street Pastor Sunday and commissioned Sylvia Ward as a Street Pastor. Sylvia has been patrolling since August 2022 and recently helped re-plant some of the town's flowers after a frustrated reveller uprooted them!

Our Coordinator, Nigel Watt, spoke about the ways we care, listen and help and went on to talk about our hopes for the future. Paul Gander, our Chair, brought the message from Matthew Ch 9 + 10, where Jesus sends out the disciples.

We aim to hold 4 or 5 Street Pastor Sundays each year to update the churches on our ministry and to encourage greater involvement and recruitment.

Watch this space for details of our next Street Pastor Sundays at Holy Trinity, Charlton and Vale Elim in Grove.



Afternoon Patrols

We are very excited to announce that Afternoon Patrols are one step closer to becoming a reality after we received our first afternoon patrols Street Pastor application form!

Thanks to Paul Gander, our Chair and Pastor of Wantage Community Church, for getting the ball rolling and spearheading the way ahead for this important part of our ministry.

It's a great start, but Paul is going to need a few more people to sign up and build the team together.

Are you:

- > available once a month on a Thursday or Friday afternoon from 2.30 pm to 6 pm
- > passionate about serving God in the local community
- > willing to step outside your comfort zone

Street Pastor and Prayer Support roles are available!

For more information and an application form, send us an email to wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk.

AGM



Thank you to everyone who made it to our AGM at the beginning of July and special thanks to St John's Church, Grove for hosting us. As you read in our opening article, Hilary Moore stepped down from the committee, but we are delighted that Andy Smith was elected as a new trustee. We do still have 2 vacancies on the committee so please do consider if this is something you could help us with. Some of the roles and activities that we are interested in are Secretary and event management - but we would love to hear from you whatever your skills and interests.

The date of our 2024 AGM is Tuesday 2 July 2024

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

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Registered Charity: 1134429

Supported by grants from
Oxfordshire County Council
TVP PCC Community Fund
Wantage Town Council
Grove Parish Council

Thank you

To all our supporters!

Quiz & Curry Night

It's time to brush up on your general knowledge and keep up to speed on current affairs because our very popular Quiz & Curry Night is back this November!

7 pm Saturday 18 Nov

Wantage Methodist Church Hall

Book in your team of 6 people now!

Email us on...

wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk



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.