



# Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

## Quarterly News

OCT  
2023



Nigel Watt  
Coordinator

As Coordinator of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors, I'm so grateful for everyone who is involved in this wonderful ministry, serving God by serving people - bringing the love of Christ from church to street; from heart and minds to hands and feet! I'm sure that everyone involved has got a really good reason NOT to volunteer with us!!! Busy with work, hectic family life, don't do late nights, health not great, getting a bit old, starting to creak! Despite the difficulties, it all comes together to enable us to care, listen and help in Wantage & Grove week by week.

In the Bible, God was able to use all sorts of people for his glory despite their personal situations - here are just a few:



*Abraham & Sarah were old, Moses had a stutter, Gideon was afraid, Rahab was a prostitute, David had an affair, Jonah ran away, Naomi was a widow, Job lost everything, Martha was a worrier, the Samaritan woman was divorced (several times). Zacchaeus was short, the disciples were sleepy, Peter denied Christ, Thomas doubted and Paul was religious!*

There are many ways you can volunteer with us from admin/secretarial to event management, prayer support to Street Pastoring. check out our [Join Us](#) page on our website and our [Vacancies](#) page for more ideas!

So, what are your reasons to NOT volunteer? Drop us an [email](#) and let us know - we'd love to hear from you!

***Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6***

## Afternoon patrols to launch spring 2024

It is always a delight to serve the community of Wantage & Grove and show others all about the excellent work that Street Pastors do.



In June I was able to observe as a Street Pastor and take the MP for Wantage and Didcot out onto the streets of Wantage. Later in the evening we came across a group of young people who were drinking and talking. The conversation quickly turned to why are you here,

what do you get out of being on the streets late at night? We were able to explain and talked about how, as Christians, it is important for us to serve the community and to help people. Shortly after those conversations the young people dispersed, and we carried on with our evening. It was a great example of

witnessing to people but also by being there, potentially stopping something else happening.

This little story is a good reminder that we are wanting to help the young people of Wantage & Grove by having an afternoon patrol. I am training up to be a street pastor and one or two others have come forward, but we are in need of more to come forward in order to launch next Spring. Please do get in touch if this is something you feel you could do to help the young people of Wantage & Grove.

Paul Gander

Chair of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

## Curry & Quiz Night - Saturday 18 November

Last few spaces remaining for our Curry & Quiz night on Saturday 18 November so, do not delay - sign up your team of 6 today and start thinking about the all important Team Name! Email us on [wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)

**7 pm Saturday 18 November**

**Wantage Methodist Church Hall**

**Teams of up to 6 people**

**£12 per person**

**Includes a meal, a soft drink and lots of fun for the whole family!**

...and if you win, a little prize that may bring you joy for several minutes



## How we helped on the streets

In the early hours of one Saturday night, an argument broke out among a group of about 15 people, which soon became aggressive. There was much shouting, pushing and a few punches were thrown. We called the police and waited at a safe distance until they arrived. Although the incident had mostly subsided and many of the people left the scene, the police apprehended the main perpetrator and spoke to others from the group.

In September one of our teams met a homeless man sitting in a shop doorway with a sleeping bag. It is unusual to find homeless people sitting on the street in Wantage. When we do meet them, they are usually heading to Oxford where there is some provision for homeless people and are only here in Wantage for one night. We carry a few basic supplies for homeless people – just enough to make one night a bit more bearable. The man was very grateful for a pot of hot noodles and a pair of clean socks.

One of our teams met a group who had been to a wedding celebration in Wantage. One of the ladies, who wasn't wearing shoes, gasped when we handed her a pair of flip-flops. We also handed out lollies and chatted for a while leaving them very happy at the end of the night.



Part of what we do is to listen to people. One night we chatted to two young men, one of them stayed with us for a while and said how he had been through some really dark times recently but things were brighter now. We also chatted to a couple who said that we had helped them home when they were drunk about ten years ago!



## Your Street Pastor Church Rep

Many of our partner churches have a wonderful person who we call our Church Rep. This is someone who helps us stay connected with the church and helps us communicate all that's going on in Wantage & Grove Street Pastors. We are very grateful for the time and effort that they put into promoting our work within their church community. Thank you! Here are some of the ways your Church Rep can help you:

### Latest news & reports

- Quarterly News
- Monthly report
- Annual report
- Event information



### Prayer pointers

- Giving thanks
- Local community issues
- Street patrols
- The future



### Info & resources

- So, what's involved in being a Street Pastor?
- So, what's involved in prayer support?
- Observing a patrol
- Afternoon patrols



### Opportunities to serve

- Our current needs
- Role descriptions
- How to get involved



### £ To give financially

- Standing Orders
- One-off donations
- Give.net/wgsp

## Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

**Website:** [www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk)

**Email:** [wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)

**Mobile:** 07554 655 594

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors](https://facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors)

**Instagram:** [wantage\\_grove\\_pastors](https://instagram.com/wantage_grove_pastors)

**TikTok:** [wantage\\_grove\\_pastors](https://tiktok.com/wantage_grove_pastors)

**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!



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.