



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Quarterly News

OCT
2024

Celebrating 15 years of Patrols



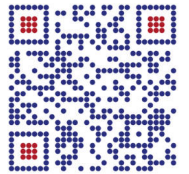
Bejoy Pal
CEO

Ascension Trust

Congratulations on celebrating 15 years of serving your community through **caring, listening and helping**. We are so grateful for all that you have done and all that you are doing. Fifteenth anniversaries are traditionally celebrated with **crystal**. Crystals grow when molecules that are alike get close to each other and stick together, forming chemical bonds that act like Velcro between atoms. The molecular structure of crystals is super well organised and form a grid like pattern. Each atom in the party has its place and it's this repetitive layout that puts it under the category of **crystal**. Wantage & Grove Street pastors you are **crystal** for a reason. You stick together, you get close to each other and those in need. And you are repetitive and consistent in all that you do. You are all uniquely and wonderfully made to play your unique part that no one else can. A united group of churches and Christians together with one cause: take Jesus and all he offers to the streets, to the community and to all in need so that people can know the promises of safety, security, peace, love, hope and grace to everyone who you make encounter him. For 15 years you have been shining like **crystals** as you allow light to flow and shine through you. We thank you for your service and encourage you to grow stronger together, shine brighter together

and move forward together to continue **caring, listening and helping** to all who are in need of the love that flows through you, in you and with you for his kingdom and his name. We pray that His Kingdom come, His Will be done in Wantage and Grove as it is in Heaven and will be through eternity. God bless you, and all our love with you today and always. Amen.*

*Highlights of Bejoy's message. Watch Bejoy's full video message here: bit.ly/wgsp-bejoy



Pasties on patrol



Paul Gander
Chair of Trustees

In October Wantage & Grove Street Pastors celebrated 15 years of the charity by giving out free 'Cornish Pasties' to late night revellers! Over the years the Street Pastors have often been called "street pasties" so the teams decided to give out free pasties to everyone they met in Wantage Market place. It was a great day as the Mayor joined us on Saturday morning and in the evening at midnight the street pastors gathered to celebrate 15 years of

caring, listening and helping people in the night time economy by giving out pasties to those that were out in the evening.

Watch the full video here



Paul Gander, Chair of the Trustees said, "It was wonderful to celebrate 15 years of service to Wantage and Grove by giving out the pasties, we hope all enjoyed their free snack and we hope that we will be able to continue serving the town for another 15 years!"

Neil Townsend from Wantage Community Church, along with Wantage Christian Fellowship, gathered all the churches to initiate the charity as they were motivated to help and serve the vulnerable people of the town. Neil said, "God has allowed us, together, to pray to Him to bless the town and that has enabled us to go and be that blessing to the town - and I love that we have done that week in week out for over 15 years".

Curry & Quiz Night

Saturday 23 November, 7 pm - Wantage Methodist Church Hall

Our much anticipated Curry & Quiz Night is back!

Now is the time to book in your team of up to 6 people - but don't delay there can only be 10 teams!

Email wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk or call 07554 655 594 to book your place.

£15 per person

Raising funds for Wantage & Grove Street Pastors



Afternoon Patrols



It's been a long journey to get to this point, but our very first afternoon patrol hit the streets of Wantage on Friday 27th September. The rain held off while Street Pastors Paul Gander and Laura Kent explored areas around Wantage town centre, roads around King Alfred's Academy and Betjeman Park. They also chatted to several shopkeepers en-route.

We look forward to more afternoon patrols each month. If you're available once a month on a Friday afternoon from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm, and want to get involved in this exciting ministry, either in prayer or as a Street Pastor please do contact us! It's never too late to join us!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sky Shoemark (our Online Networker) and her husband Max on the birth of baby Ray.



Jim Sibbald DL on patrol

We were delighted to have retired Major and ex-Mayor, Jim Sibbald, now Deputy Lieutenant for Grove with us on patrol as an observer in August. Jim has supported us from our beginning and in 2019 he nominated us for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Posting to the Oxfordshire Lieutenantcy Instagram account (@lordlieutenantoxfordshire), Jim said, "I'd observed them previously within Wantage when I was Mayor, but this was my first sampling of the night-time economy in Grove. Extremely quiet... Lots of hedgehogs!". Visit the Oxfordshire Lieutenantcy at [oxfordshire-lieutenantcy.org](https://www.oxfordshire-lieutenantcy.org)



15th Anniversary

Thank you to **everyone** who helped us celebrate our 15th Anniversary and to those who helped us eat the pasties! Special thanks go to the "mystery knitter", who knitted us a wonderful post box topper for the Mill Street Post Box. It has a knitted Street Pastor cap, a bag, a pair of knitted flip-flops and even a little knitted pack of Love Hearts. It's brilliant - we love it! Thank you soooo much!



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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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.