

Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS



Registered Charity 1134429

Annual report 2018-19

July 2019

This annual report is based on a financial year rather than calendar year and covers the period April 2018 to March 2019.

Thanks to . . .

. . . our members All members of Wantage and Grove Street Pastors;
members who are SPs (trained or training Street Pastors)
or PSVs (Prayer/Support Volunteers).
or who pray at other times and places;
members who make occasional or regular donations;
members who help with events;
members who are our representatives in our partner churches;
members who are trustees.

Thank you once again to all those volunteers for your ongoing hard work, flexibility and perseverance whether on the streets, at the base, on the committee, in churches, in prayer at the base or at home and in many other ways. Thank you!

. . . our participating churches Providing people, premises, prayer and financial support are:
Ss Peter and Paul Wantage;
Holy Trinity Charlton;
St John Vianney;
Wantage Baptist Church;
Wantage Christian Fellowship;
Wantage Methodist Church;
Wantage Community Church;
St John Baptist Grove;
Grove Methodist Church;
Vale Elim Church;
Grove Free Evangelical Church; and
St Mary's Uffington.

. . . other organisations Also supporting us with grants and donations were:

Oxfordshire County Council,
TVPA Property Act Fund,
Wantage Town Council,
Penue! Trust,
White Horse Harriers,
Wantage & Grove Lions Club,
and Caritas and Crescendo choirs

What we achieved

Caring Listening Helping

We have now been operating on the streets of Wantage and Grove for 9½ years. We have continued to meet often needy and vulnerable people on the streets and offered the love of Jesus through practical help and prayer.

Throughout 2018-19 we patrolled on three Friday nights and three Saturday nights each month (but see “*patrols combined*” below).

We made contact with over 520 people. We were able to calm 6 potentially aggressive situations and support 66 vulnerable people (see the table “*On the streets in numbers*”, page 5).

We continue to have the respect and support of the police, who consider our presence invaluable.

Highlights

On a rainy day Street Pastors met a man who was sleeping rough in Wantage and was cold and wet. It just so happened that we had been given some soup, leftover from a church lunch and so we were able to give him some hot soup. We also have a few supplies just in case we meet a homeless person, so we gave him a space blanket, a hat and a pair of gloves, and some snacks. He was very grateful and let us know that he was also being helped by social services.

On one occasion we saw a young man, sat with his head in his hands. He told us that he had had quite a bit to drink and was feeling dizzy. He also said that his friends had left him and that one of them had his phone. We offered to call someone for him and so rang his mum and arranged for her to come to Wantage to pick him up. We stayed with him until Mum arrived and he tearfully shared with us how he had been to his gran’s funeral the day before.

Another team met a young man that had had too much to drink, and was sleeping on the ground with a small group of friends around him. Concerned for his wellbeing we checked that he was asleep rather than unconscious and decided it wise to call a parent to come and take him home. Mum arrived with a helpful neighbour and took the young man home in a car - however, we saw him back in Wantage later that night.

While Street Pastors were visiting a Sweatbox youth event at Manor Park, a member of the public called to ask us to attend to two girls in Wantage who were very unwell through alcohol use. The member of the public also called for an ambulance to attend. Working alongside leaders of Sweatbox Youth Centre, we cared for the two girls, assessed the situation and contacted their parents. Due to some complications, one of the girls needed urgent hospital treatment but paramedics released the other girl to be taken home. Street Pastors helped Mum get her daughter in the car and walked to their home to help at the other end too. Both girls made a full recovery and have been offered further support.

One of our teams spent a long time in Grove with a man and two young people that were causing a disturbance. Together with staff from a nearby shop, we tried to mediate between the two sides but unfortunately, as the situation became more aggressive, it was necessary to call the police. Things soon dissipated upon the arrival of two police officers and we were then able to spend time with the man to help calm him down. We offered to walk home with him, which he accepted saying that he felt safe with us.

Our teams frequently receive compliments and expressions of gratitude from people on the streets, maybe from people that we’ve helped, their friends, parents or grandparents, or from people that have seen what we do. One man said we are ‘...just like Jesus’

What changed from the previous year?

Seasonal patrols

In 2018 we patrolled on Christmas Eve for a few hours, however, due to illness, we were unable to patrol on New Year's Eve. Snow and ice prevented 2 of our teams from patrolling on one weekend at the beginning of February.

Patrols combined

From January it became necessary to merge our two early Friday teams again due to insufficient numbers of Street Pastors. The minimum number of Street Pastors on a team is three.

Numbers available

Recruitment of SPs and PSVs remains challenging. Visiting partner churches gained 43 new members and several people expressed an interest in SP or PSV roles but this hasn't led to actual recruits. Currently one of our PSVs is keen to begin training as a SP and another SP application is in the pipeline.

Less aggression?

Compared to the previous year we appeared to encounter fewer aggressive situations (6 compared with 22 last year), however, teams have noticed more aggressive behaviour in the early hours over the last year, but the increase in aggression has necessitated more involvement from the police to bring things under control.

Afternoon Patrols

In response to a request from King Alfred's Academy, we are exploring the possibility of expanding to include an afternoon patrol on one or two afternoons each week during term time.

At the end of the school day, hundreds of pupils leave King Alfred's on foot or on bike and make their way through the town on their way home. Managing this mass exodus is no small task and King Alfred's has asked for some help from us, especially with regard to road safety, reinforcing KA's values and working with shopkeepers and members of the public who may find groups of young people a little unsettling.

Currently nine people have expressed an interest in the SP role and two people in the PSV role. We are now looking for those interested to complete an application form.

If you are available for up to 2 hours in the afternoon, monthly, fortnightly or on a weekly basis and are interested in either of these roles, please do contact us.

Who we are

Teams: SPs and PSVs

We have 18 trained or training Street Pastors (11 female, 7 male) in six teams of three or four, with some who are reserves to be called on when a team member is unavailable.

We have 19 PSVs (Prayer/Support Volunteers) who mostly work in teams sharing shift times with a Street Pastor team. A few have committed to pray for the teams from home and at other times.

Coordinator and Prayer Coordinator

Nigel Watt is our part-time Coordinator. He manages the rota for patrols, arranges training, most of our communications with Ascension Trust and with other Street Pastor initiatives in the area, and much of our administration.

Orazio Camaioni stood down as volunteer Prayer Coordinator. We thank Orazio for the time he was with us and we are now looking for someone to take on the role. If you are passionate about prayer and would like more information about the role, please to contact us.

Trustees

The trustees (seven at present) meet with the Coordinator monthly as the Management Committee for the work.
More about the trustees later in relation to the charity..

Contact and connect

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On the streets in numbers

Who and when		2018-19				[2017-18]
Street Pastors	18	7 male, 11 female				24
PSVs	19				18	
Monthly patrols	62	Two early Friday patrols (8 pm – midnight) (January to March, only one) One late Friday patrol (10.30 pm – 2.30 am) Three late Saturday patrols (11:30 pm to 3.30 am)				62
Other patrols	1	Christmas Eve				2
Nights out	63	29 Fridays, 33 Saturdays, 1 Monday				64
Street Pastor hours	1,069				1,114	
Types of encounter			Male	Female	Total	[2017-18]
		under 13 years	13	6	19	
		13 - 17 years	39	26	65	
		18 - 25 years	155	74	229	
		over 25 years	154	54	208	
		Total	361	160	521	551
Incidents classed as “supporting vulnerable people”					66	79
— direct assistance given to vulnerable people						
Incidents classed as “calming aggressive situations”					6	22
— eg defusing potential fights						
Flip-flops (pairs)	71				96	
Lollipops	3,230 (estimated)				4,100	

The charity

Members

Wantage and Grove Street Pastors is a member organisation; all our regular volunteers are members of the charity, and there are other members who help, donate or take an interest in other ways; at present 145 in all. One of the privileges and duties of the members generally is to attend the AGM (next 9th October 2019) and elect the trustees.

Trustees

At least three of our members must be voluntary trustees, and we aim for the most allowed which is seven. At present the seven trustees are:

Dave Coombs, Wantage Community Church (Chair)
David Law, Wantage Parish Church (Treasurer)
Marj Lunn, Wantage Baptist Church (Secretary)
Helen Carter, Wantage Methodist Church
Stephen West, Wantage Parish Church
Hilary Moore, Wantage Baptist Church
Sarah Goodall, Vale Elim Church

The trustees meet monthly, mostly with the Coordinator and as the Management Committee, normally with the leader of one of the participating church communities and three times a year with as many of the church reps as are able to attend.

Trustees are elected or re-elected at the AGM, and may also be appointed by the existing trustees at any other time

What changed from the previous year?

Movements

Hilary Moore was elected a trustee in October and Marj Lunn and Sarah Goodall in November. Marj Lunn was appointed Secretary in January.

Rodney Tillotson stepped down as Secretary and trustee in October. Thank you to Rodney for all his hard work on the committee.

Was this all we had hoped for?

We are pleased to have a full compliment of trustees, enabling the workload to be shared out more broadly than last year. Trustees are responsible for a wide range of activities including health & safety, fundraising events, grant applications, document review, prayer, church reps, etc.

We have now achieved our goal of a spread of the management committee across at least four of the thirteen participating churches.

Events

AGM

The AGM in October was our ninth anniversary and as well as the short formal business we had live and video messages of encouragement from SPs, PSVs and others. In prayer we gave thanks for the work so far and of trust that we would take it forward with enough resources of people and money; and it was a time of fellowship for members and friends.

Fundraising

The following events helped raise funds and our profile in the community:

Grove & Wantage Extravaganza (June);
What The Fest, Sweatbox (July);
Wantage Dickensian Evening (December);
and carol singing in Wantage (December)

Thank you to everyone involved in these events.

Community involvement

Community Alcohol Partnership

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors is a member of the Wantage & Grove Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP), which seeks to reduce underage drinking and the anti-social behaviour that so often goes with it. Our coordinator is chair of the local group meetings. Our local CAP has transitioned to CAP+, which allows the group to review and refocus work in specific areas. With the success of working with King Alfred's Academy, a key area for us is education. In July we attended *What The Fest* at Sweatbox as part of a CAP stall, engaging with young people and parents about our work as Street Pastors and the CAP.



Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Wantage and Grove Street Pastors is a member of the local Neighbourhood Action Group, a multi-agency, problem-solving group that includes local partner agencies, key stakeholders and, most importantly, members of the local community.



Missing People

From time to time we receive information about missing people who may be in our area. We also receive advice and support both for us, in the event that we meet a missing person, and for those missing individuals. We were asked to look out for three people during 2018-19, two of whom have now been found. Although we didn't meet them, we asked our prayer teams to pray for them.



Patrolling other events

One of our Street Pastors joined patrols at Reading Festival in August.

Looking ahead

The trustees set goals for each calendar year (so as to report them to Ascension Trust in January as we are expected to). The nine current goals are in the areas of delivering patrols, finance and relationships; and all are connected.

As with last year, recruitment of both SPs and PSVs is the key to ongoing patrol coverage, Not all church communities are well represented and we are working with church reps to find new people wherever we can. We will also invite more church communities to work with us.

Goals for 2019

To ensure sufficient income as the availability of grants declines, we are encouraging more members to make modest but regular donations by standing order; and we will discuss with the participating church communities any other commitment they might be able to give corporately.

We are reviewing the arrangements for membership, hoping to increase the involvement particularly of those not yet regularly volunteering and to bring in new members; and we will build links with local bodies to increase our visibility and make more funding available.

Recruitment of Street Pastors and Prayer Support Volunteers remains a challenge as we look forward. With little slack in the system it becomes more difficult to fill gaps on teams, especially in trying to resolve last-minute problems due to illness, etc.

Recruitment

We have an urgent need for more Prayer Support Volunteers on late Friday and Saturday teams. We also need more Street Pastor recruits to enable us to return to two early Friday teams (8 pm – midnight) and to bring on a fourth Saturday team (11 pm to 3.30 am) to patrol on the third Saturday of the month.

Other churches

We will continue to arrange for some of the village church communities of the area to participate on the same basis as those actually in Wantage or Grove; that is, for people of those communities to become members and volunteers.

Tenth anniversary celebration

Ten years is a great achievement and will be a time of celebration and thanksgiving, firstly to God for his faithfulness and provision and to all those that have helped us achieve so much over the years. We are delighted to have Revd. Jonathan Aitken as our guest speaker as we celebrate on Saturday 5th October 2019 at The Old Mill Hall, Grove from 7.30 pm.

Finances

Income and expenditure

We ended the 2018-19 financial year with a surplus of £2990 compared with a deficit of £3481 in the previous financial year.

The table on the following page summarises our income and expenditure.

Grant income

Our income from grants and church support rose dramatically. The grant of £2000 from the Police Property fund was unexpected and the grant of £2500 from Oxfordshire County Council matched last years award. We also received some smaller but welcome grants from other supporters of WGSP

Donation income

Individual donations increased by over £1500 with the number of supporters giving by standing order increasing from 6 to 19 by the end of the financial year. Amazing!



Income from collection boxes and fundraising events was down on the previous year. Collection box locations around Wantage and Grove include:

- Cornerstone, Grove*
- The King's Centre, Wantage*
- Grove & Wantage Extravaganza*
- Wantage Presents*
- The Swan, The Blue Boar and The Kings Arms public houses*

We are grateful for the support that we receive from members, the public and charitable bodies. It is good that they continue to recognise and value the work of Street Pastors. Thank you!

We are currently looking for someone to work alongside our coordinator and treasurer to help us deliver charity boxes to shops and pubs around Wantage and Grove and to replace them as and when necessary. If you would be able to help us with this, please contact us.

Financial overview

Income		2018-19	2017-18
SP training contributions	Uniform and training fees from new Street Pastors	0	900
Church support	GFEC, St Johns CE Grove, Wantage Christian Fellowship, Grove Methodist, Wantage Methodist, Wantage Community Church	4,185	1,989
Grants	Oxfordshire County Council, TVPA Property Act Fund, Wantage Town Council, Penuel Trust, White Horse Harriers, Wantage & Grove Lions Club,	5,360	2,745
From individuals	19 standing orders, and one-off donations	3,519	1,980
Events	Caritas/Crescendo Concert, Dickensian evening and carol singing.	762	1,067
Collecting boxes	Cornerstone, Kings Centre and various pubs	274	505
Gift aid recovery		1263	0
Miscellaneous		0	225
Total income		£15,364	£9,411
Expenditure		2018-19	2017-18
Staff costs	Salary and PAYE	9,118	8,996
Cost of fundraising		0	437
Training and safeguarding	Speakers for SP training sessions	116	80
Operating costs	Flip flops and lollipops; refreshments for those on duty; kit, mobile phone top-ups; printing etc.	1,545	2,478
Ascension Trust fee	15% of income (except OCC grant) paid to Ascension Trust	1457	719
Bank charges	Bank charges £5 per month	60	182
Insurance	Additional premium for SP's over 80 years of age	78	0
Total expenditure		£12,373	£12,892
Closing bank balance		£13,895	£10,905

**Note:
Reserves policy**

Totals do not add up exactly due to individual categories being rounded up or down.
To maintain reserves of half our annual cost of operations.