



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Quarterly News

JAN 2026



Chair Paul Gander with Howard Hill on guitar

A Happy New year to everyone reading this! No doubt Christmas and New year may seem a long time ago for some of you. As I look back on 2025 and Christmas I have some fond memories of the Street Pastor events that we did. In the summer on the longest day we spent the evening giving out pasties and on the shortest day in winter we went around the pubs singing carols. They were real highlights for me as people were so pleased to see us and receive from us whether it was a pasty or to sing along with our carols. I think however, one moment really stood out to me at Christmas as someone came up to me and, even though they were a student, they wanted to give to our cause. They didn't have a lot but they still wanted to give. As volunteers, sometimes we can feel like that, "I don't have a lot but I still want

to give to help people" or, "I want to pray or give up my time to be on the streets to help people". Jesus, when feeding the 5000, took what had been given and gave thanks - and God multiplied it. As we give to the Street Pastors (it might seem small) but, I hope and pray that God will multiply it and therefore, I look forward to 2026 and all that God has in store for Wantage and Grove Street Pastors.



How we helped on the streets



Winter weather hasn't stopped us nor the people we seek to help from going out in Wantage and Grove. We helped a lady who had lost her friend and her phone by letting her use her social media on our phone. Early November, in Grove, our team cleared up lots of litter at the Skate Park following the fireworks event. In Wantage our team helped a lady get her drunk friend home. We walked with them and made sure they made it home safely. We attempted to bring peace to a situation where a man had got into an altercation with a group of lads. Despite our presence and the assistance of two other ladies, a scuffle broke out but the police arrived within minutes. Our New Year's Eve patrol was busy but peaceful. We helped several people who were unwell from too much alcohol. Our afternoon teams continue to build connections with the town's young people.

Street Pastor Sunday

Street Pastor Sundays are times when we visit our partner churches to share all the good things we've been doing and how we've been caring, listening and helping in Wantage and Grove.

We want to thank those who support our work and we want to inspire others to get involved with us caring for people in Wantage and Grove month by month.



Join us on
Sunday 12 April at
Wantage Baptist Church
from 10.30 am



Spotted in Lanzarote



Spotted in Lanzarote our very own Wantage & Grove Street Pastors flip-flops catching some winter sun down at the beach!

1,700 miles from home

Where will your flip-flops take you? Send us your flip-flop holiday snaps on email to...

wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Fundraising fun!

We had lots of fun at the end of 2025 and raised some funds at the same time!

Our infamous (bigger, not necessarily better) Curry & Quiz Night was a huge success and raised **£1,275** on the night. With a larger venue we were able to cater for 15 teams, which made it a much Bigger event than previous years!

Our thanks go to everyone who helped us in so many different ways: planning, cooking, serving, quizzing, helping, arranging, clearing, stacking, cleaning! We are also very grateful to Grove Parish Council who gifted us the Old Mill Hall for the occasion.



BIGGER *not necessarily* BETTER



Ornithology is the study of what?
The Sphinx has the body of which animal?
'Lights' was a 2010 number one album for which artist?
What is the maximum score in a game of ten pin bowling?
When is the next Curry & Quiz Night?

Curry & Quiz Night 2026
Saturday 7 November!



Carol Singing

On a cold, dark December night, a small group of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors Friends joined together to help keep Christ in Christmas and to bring joy and hope to several local pubs through carol singing. Armed with sing-a-long carol sheets our band of carol singers made a huge impact getting everyone singing along to their favourite carols! They even raised £175 too. Our thanks go to Howard Hill on guitar, our singers and to King Alfred's Head, The Swan, The Bear Hotel and The Shoulder. Thank you for your tuneful support!



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

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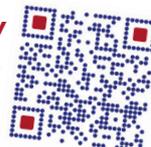
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Supported by grants from
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Thank you

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.