

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors - Coordinator Report – May 2025

Health, Safety & Safeguarding: We received further communication via Anne Cheeseman following on from a safeguarding concern raised about some of our Social Media posts. The latest email from the person said, *“Thanks so much for following up on this-I think at this point I'm pleased that the concern has been noted, and plans made for the future. thanks to all of you for your efforts.”*

No other safeguarding or health & safety incidents were reported.

Friends and Recruitment: We have 137 local friends (45 active) and 14 friends further afield.

Street Patrols

John Rogers hopes to come out as an observer on Friday 30th May.

Elisabeth Atkin (previously a Street Pastor) will join afternoon patrols as a Prayer Support Volunteer – Elisabeth was inspired by the item in April Quarterly News.

Afternoon Patrols

Paul Ganda and Laura Kent led our most recent afternoon patrol on Friday 2 May. Next afternoon patrols are: 13 June, 18 July (early).

Training

We hosted County Lines training in Wantage. Twelve SPs attended, including 2 from Newbury and 1 from Oxford. Three SPs attended Drug & Alcohol training in Abingdon. One SP attended Youth Culture training in Reading.

I am arranging a Mental Health training session with Oxfordshire Mind.

Refresher Training	Sat 21 June	Newbury	
Good News	Tue 23 Sept	Wantage	3 SPs booked in
Mental Health	Summer/Autumn	Wantage	
Refresher Training	Summer/Autumn	Wantage	

Events

We attended the OX12 Health & Wellbeing event at the Beacon on Saturday 26 April. Several people took resources away and many thanked us for our work.

We have Street Pastor Sundays Vale Elim – 20 July – tbc and Wantage Community Church 26 October.

Documents

We are currently reviewing our Social Media Policy and Guidelines.

April Quarterly News was issued to Friends and Church Reps and is also available on our website.

I have started to prepare our Annual Report for April – December 2024. I have also started work on an organogram to help represent all the people who volunteer in Wantage & Grove Street Pastors.

Liaison

Oxfordshire County Council's Daniel Courtney recently observed an afternoon patrol and said, "I wanted to extend my thanks for inviting me to join the team for the patrol last month.

I was incredibly impressed by the initiative—particularly from a practical, contextual safeguarding perspective. Your presence in key locations around the town at critical times plays

a valuable role in supporting and protecting young people from potential harm and risk. It's a thoughtful, proactive approach that clearly has a positive impact on the community. Following my visit, I've shared my observations with my Service Manager, who is very interested in the model and the work being carried out. He is keen to see if there is opportunity for this in Oxford."

The Neighbourhood Action Group met on 14 May. I spoke about the OX12 Health & Wellbeing event, Afternoon Patrols and new SP recruit. The chair, Andrew Forsyth thanked us for our work.

The Police reported 2 drug-related knife attacks in Wantage and a 17% increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour. However, many crimes are also reported as being ASB (a tick-box in the system), which skews the data.

The Police are planning to set up a Cobra-like meeting following local incidents to better inform us as to what has happened.

Sweatbox reported slightly reduced numbers attending; ~60, perhaps due to nicer weather. Next meeting is Wednesday 9 July, 7 pm at Sweatbox.

Libby Hawkness-Smith emailed about afternoon patrols and exploring the possibility of joining us.

Nigel Watt
Coordinator

Forthcoming Meetings and Events:

An evening with Bejoy: Tue 3 June, 7 – 9 pm on Zoom

Afternoon Patrols: Fri 13 June, Fri 18 July (early)

SP Sunday: Grove Free Evangelical Church Sunday 20 July - TBC

NAG: Wed 9 July 2025, 7 pm Sweatbox

AT National Gathering: 19 – 20 September 2025

SP Sunday: Wantage Community Church, Sun 26 October 2025, 10.30 am