

Hope *unlimited*



Welcome to the first edition of *Hope Unlimited*, a community newsletter from Grove Free Evangelical Church. We hope that you will find it informative and helpful. Our aim is to serve you in whatever way we can and in this first edition we begin by examining the rather pressing question...

Who cares?



Where do you go when life gets too big?

Plus...

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Who Cares...

when life just gets **TOO BIG?**



In a day in which there is so much change and when many people's lives are so constrained by schedules and the demands of 21st century life, it is not surprising that, increasingly, there are those who feel very much left behind. As the pressure builds on us to achieve more, consume more, focus on ourselves more, there are those around us who virtually become invisible.

Doubtless, right here in our lovely community, there are people who are genuinely struggling, some with serious health issues, others with marital or family problems, unemployment, the problems of getting older, crushing financial situations, drug and other addictions, bereavement, depression and other mental health issues, and so much more.

Those of us who are not faced with such problems can often find the sheer pace of modern life bewildering and it seems that our time is rarely ever truly ours. Even children and young people are not immune to the stresses and vagaries of life.

It can seem a long and lonely vigil to the one struggling under the burden of his or her circumstances and for them the often unspoken question is, who cares? Whether it be the daily struggles of life or more pressing and urgent needs, what *can* one do when it seems like there is nowhere to turn and no one to help? Really, does *anyone* care?

We are so glad to be able to answer with a resounding "Yes!" for God cares. He cares profoundly about YOU. Jesus knows all about the extent to which this life can inflict excruciating pain upon us. He was referred to as "...a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering" (Isaiah chapter 53, verse 3 (NIV) – the Bible).

Con't on pg.3

If you have ever wished that there was an opportunity in which you could ask **any question** you ever had about what real Christianity is all about, then this is for **you**:



Introducing

Christianity
EXPLORED

Starting **Wednesday 12th October 2011 @ Cornerstone Café, Savile Way, Grove**

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. each week

There is **no charge** and **all are welcome**

To register or for more information call 01235 210037

or go to www.gfec.org.uk



Grove Community Life



Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue.

It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now over 100 teams around the United Kingdom including Wantage and Grove.

Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies.

Yvonne Cavanagh from Wantage and Grove Street Pastors says, "Wantage and Grove Street Pastors and Prayer Support Volunteers **are** making a difference.

People we meet on the streets are telling us that they feel safer because of our presence, as are the police statistics.

Sometimes that difference is very visible when someone in a vulnerable or potentially fraught situation can be calmed or moved away from any danger. Other times it is simply a case of being a presence on the streets, someone people can say hello to or share a joke with.

We still meet people who have not met Street Pastors before and it good to be able to share again our reasons for doing what we do, to explain that as Jesus loves and cares for people we want to do the same for other people."

Street Pastors teams are on the streets in Wantage every Friday night and an early team is building up their contact with younger people in Wantage and Grove. They are working towards having teams out on Saturdays as well by the end of 2011.



That will take twelve teams of four trained Street Pastors, double the number we started with; and a similar number of Prayer/Support Volunteers. PSVs make up the base teams who support the Street Pastors who are on the streets in prayer and by practical means.

Who Cares? (con't from pg.2)

He cared deeply for the rejected, the broken hearted, the sick, the left behind. He cared, not just for their material and temporal well-being (important as that is) but also for their spiritual and eternal condition. Jesus cares still and so do we.

We hope that you will afford us the very great privilege of being of whatever service we can be to you.

If today you feel that you are at the end of your ability to cope, please know that we are here, that we care and that as far we possibly can, we want to help.

At the end of this publication you will see details of how you can contact us directly or anonymously leave a request for prayer on our special phone line or email specifically set up for that purpose.

In the meantime, please know that though we may not yet know you personally, you matter to us and we are praying for you.

You are not alone



We understand that there are times when the stresses of life are simply beyond us and we want you to know that there are people who care and who want to help. Above all, and most importantly, God knows and cares.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew chapter 11, verses 28-30 (NIV) – the bible).

We have therefore set up a 24 hour, 365 days a year **Prayer Line**. Simply ring anonymously and record your prayer request. We will be closely monitoring this line and a team of dedicated individuals will be praying for you in minutes. If you are in urgent distress and also want to talk to someone please say so when you ring, leaving a name and contact number and we will ring you back as soon as possible. You may also email your prayer request to **prayerline@gfec.org.uk**

You are *not* alone.

Grove Prayer Line

01235 201067



Opening hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm
Sat 10am-4pm

Cornerstone
10 Savile Way
Grove
OX12 0PT

Bibles & Christian Books
Christian CDs & DVDs
Fairtrade Goods
Cards & Gifts



You'll find us near the Co-op in Savile Way

We are open for coffee, tea & cakes all day.
Sandwiches & hot food prepared to order till 2pm.
Free Wi-Fi internet access

Churches Working Together Serving the Community
Registered Charity No 1046923



Grove Free Evangelical Church

Meeting at Grove C of E Primary School
North Drive, Grove, Oxfordshire, OX12 7PW



Sunday service times:

10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Morning service includes Children's Sunday Club and Youth Groups

Contact us on 01235 210037 (Paul John - Pastor)



www.gfec.org.uk

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU