

Street Angels update

Friday night Street Angels continues to go from strength to strength. We are blessed with wonderful, faithful and committed volunteers who are making a real difference in our town. So far, Street Angels have made contact with nearly 2000 people on the street, many of whom have needed assistance that would otherwise have taken up Police time. They have been received very positively – people are grateful for the help and support they offer and they have helped calm situations that could have turned violent. Early indications show a



fall in violent crime in the town centre and Guildford's neighbourhood policing team is pleased with the positive interaction the Street Angels are having on late night revellers.

Over the last three months we have been recruiting more Street Angel volunteers so we can run Street Angels on Saturdays as well as Fridays. This has been very successful and at the time of writing we have received 43 applications from potential Street Angels, which means that we will be able to run on Saturday nights from late June (once the new volunteers have completed their training). Overall, we hope to have just under 100 Street Angel volunteers. There will be an ecumenical Commissioning Service for new volunteers at 6pm on Sunday 7th June 2009 at Guildford Methodist Church.

Town Centre Chaplaincy: an exciting next step!

After careful prayer and discernment, we believe that the time is fast approaching to move forward to the next stage of our ministry: the recruitment of a full time Town Centre Chaplain who, with a team of volunteer chaplains, will bring a spiritual dimension to town centre life. Our aim is to build bridges of understanding, trust and cooperation between communities of work, faith, leisure and society and to provide daytime pastoral care for anyone who lives in, works in or visits the town centre.

Assuming that some important fundraising activities progress well in the next couple of months, we hope to start this recruitment before the summer break. We're really excited at the prospect of embarking on this next stage of our town centre ministry.



Please sponsor Paul France (London Marathon, 26th April 2009)

Paul France (son of our Treasurer) is running the London Marathon on 26th April this year and has offered to collect sponsorship for his run in aid of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. If you are able, please can you (and perhaps your friends and colleagues) honour Paul's generosity by sponsoring him: a sponsor form is attached to this newsletter. Any amount, however small, will be thankfully received and put to good use. **Please return your sponsor form and sponsorship money to Brian France, 5 Grantley Gardens, Guildford, GU2 8BS (cheques should be made payable to "Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy").** Thank you for your support.

More exciting fundraising challenges on the way

Over the coming months we hope to offer further exciting fundraising opportunities and challenges to help ensure we can maintain funding for Street Angels and the Town Centre Chaplain through 2009 and 2010 (a total annual budget of over £70,000 is required to operate both these ministries).

Two particular opportunities we're developing are:

- An opportunity for supporters to enter the Y2Y cycle ride and collect sponsorship for Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. The ride is from Hove to Guildford (approximately 40 mile) along the Downs Link former railway line and takes place on 13 September 2009. **If you're interested in riding or helping out as a volunteer on the day, please contact Julian at julian.lomas@gtcc.org.uk or on 07802 957938.** This event is being organised jointly with Guildford and Hove YMCAs. We will circulate more publicity nearer the time.
- In summer 2010 we hope to organise a large party to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and then spend a few days working with a number of Christian charitable projects in northern Tanzania. We're looking for 30 to 40 people to take part and raise sponsorship, which will be shared between the costs of the trip, Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy and our Tanzanian charity partners. **If you're interested in helping us to fundraise in this way, please also contact Julian.** We will send out more details and publicity later this year.



Prayer

Thank you so much to everyone who continues to pray for Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy and for Street Angels. We hope that these newsletters give you encouragement that your prayers are being heard and answered. Our prayer needs for the coming weeks and months are:

- Give thanks to the Lord for raising up many more volunteers for the expansion of Street Angels to Saturdays and pray that His Holy Spirit will be with all our volunteers as they participate in training and do His work on the streets of Guildford. Give thanks also for the continued positive relationships Street Angels enjoy with people on the streets and partner organisations.
- Give thanks for Maria O'Shaughnessy, Vice Principal at Christ's College and a member at St Mary's Rydes Hill, who has recently joined as a new Trustee of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. Also for Katy Hutchinson from Emmanuel, Stoughton who is helping out as a volunteer fundraiser, please pray she will enjoy this new role and that it will bless her as much as it blesses the work of the Town Centre Chaplaincy.
- For wisdom, faith and trust in God for our Trustees as they discern the right timing to start recruitment of a Town Centre Chaplain.
- That God will raise up the right person to take on that role.
- For Becky, as she continues to settle into her role, including for wisdom in finding the balance between work and family life.
- That our fundraising will be successful and for more volunteers to help with fundraising.
- For the Police as they uphold and protect our communities, in particular for Christian Police Officers for their witness and faith in Christ.

Contact us

For more information on Street Angels, please contact Becky on 07717 876853 or at becky.edmonds@gtcc.org.uk or otherwise please contact Julian on 07802 957938 or at julian.lomas@gtcc.org.uk. You can also visit our website at www.gtcc.org.uk.