

Newsletter

July 2008

Street Angels launch on 17 October

Guildford Street Angels will be launched on Friday 17th October 2008, when the first Street Angels will take to the streets wearing their distinctive uniforms. Amongst them on their first night will be the Chief Constable of Surrey Police!

Street Angels Coordinator recruited

The post of Street Angels Coordinator has been offered to Rebecca Edmonds. Becky was appointed from a strong field of candidates and will start in the autumn. We and Becky are excited about this significant step forward for Street Angels and we look forward to working together.

Almost 50 volunteer Street Angels

After most of the interviews we expect to have 45-50 volunteer Street Angels (subject to CRB checks). This is great news and will enable us to have three teams out on each Friday night. Thank you so much to all those who have volunteered and to Surrey Police for assisting with all the interviews.

Our Street Angels will be commissioned in an ecumenical service at Guildford URC on Sunday 5th October at 6.30pm. Please join us, the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Mayor, Bishop of Guildford, senior Police officers and many more for what promises to be a very special occasion.

Street Angels training starts soon

All Street Angels must attend 6 training sessions starting in September. Each session will run twice to give a choice:

Session 1: Roles, responsibilities and knowing your town
9 am, Saturday 13 Sept
7pm, Thursday 18 Sept

Session 2: Personal Safety

1pm, Saturday 13 Sept
7pm, Tuesday 23 Sept

Session 3: Relating effectively

9 am, Saturday 27 Sept
7pm, Wednesday 1 Oct

Session 4: Drugs and alcohol awareness

1pm, Saturday 27 Sept
7pm, Monday 13 October

Session 5: Safeguarding vulnerable people

9 am, Saturday 11 October
7pm, Tuesday 7 October

Session 6: Working practices

1pm, Saturday 11 October
7pm, Tuesday 21 October

Thank you to Surrey Police, Jon Pickerill, Charlie Kendall, Kingsley Coomber, Chris Howard and Andy Wheeler for giving up their time to provide the training.

Fundraising and support

Police support for setting up Street Angels continues to be outstanding: participating in interviews, providing training, assisting with policies and procedures, putting us in touch with other partners and much else besides. Thank you so much to Inspector Julie Murray and Sergeant Steve Juliff in particular for their support.

Thank you to Linda Haynes, who is providing invaluable administrative support in this busy and complex phase of the volunteer recruitment and project start up. Thank you also to Kishan de Silva for the time he is giving to design the Town Centre Chaplaincy and Street

Newsletter

July 2008

Angels website (we hope it will be launched soon).

Further funding has been pledged by Guildford Baptist Church with some individual donations, bringing the total for 2008 to over £30,000 ! Thank you to all our supporters for your generosity.

Further pledges of support for 2009 have already been received from some existing supporters and from the Diocesan Mission and Parish Development fund. These donations will help to ensure Street Angels continues through 2009 and set us on the road to establishing the Town Centre Chaplaincy service. Much more is needed though to enable the recruitment of a Town Centre Chaplain: our next big goal. If your church/organisation is not already providing financial support, please consider prayerfully if you can do so, by:

- making a regular or one-off donation;
- taking up a special offering; or
- “sponsoring” Street Angels from your congregation. It costs around £250 to recruit, train and equip each Street Angel.

Prayer

We are convinced that powerful prayer across Guildford has been essential in getting us this far. Please continue to pray and include Street Angels and the Chaplaincy in intercessions, prayer diaries and other prayer groups.

Ongoing prayer support is vitally needed. Particular prayer needs are:

- To praise the Lord for Becky’s appointment as coordinator. Pray that she will settle in well when she starts.
- Praise God also for our volunteers. Pray that they will all be able to attend the training and that it will inspire and equip them.
- Give thanks for the generous financial support we have received so far and pray for further support to be forthcoming from the Christian community of the town.
- Pray that all the myriad arrangements and tasks that need completing before 17 October will go smoothly: including organising the training, delivery and distribution of the uniforms and volunteer packs and organising the deployment of Street Angel volunteers.
- For rest for Julian over the summer period and for God’s guidance for him, Becky and the Steering Group as they move into the training and launch phase of Street Angels.
- Praise God for His anointing of this ministry and for all those (whom I have forgotten to mention by name – sorry!) who have committed funding and other generous support so selflessly.

Contact us

Please do contact us for more information or with any queries. You can reach Julian Lomas on 07717 876853 or at almondtreeconsulting@ntlworld.com.