

Newsletter

March 2008

Great progress!

Good progress continues to be made towards launching the Chaplaincy and Street Angels projects. We remain on target to launch the Street Angels in the autumn. Over 20 churches and Christian organisations/ groups have expressed support and more funding has been pledged. The Police have responded positively to the Street Angels business case and offered to work with us to help make it work. And we're making good progress setting up the new Charity. Anne Milton MP has expressed strong support for the projects and says:

"The Chaplaincy and Street Angels project has only got to this stage through the amazing hard work and complete commitment from those involved. I am delighted for local people who live in Guildford, and those that visit us, who will soon see the results on the street. Working together we can achieve so much more and my thanks go out to all those including the local police, the council and of course our churches who have given so freely to support this."

Police support

Following consideration of the draft business case and a visit to the Street Pastors programme in Portsmouth, Surrey Police have expressed great enthusiasm for the Street Angels project. They have particularly stressed the importance of close working with them and the Borough Council and the pivotal role of the

Street Angels Coordinator. The Police will be working with us over the next few months on the details of the project and will help with training, recruitment and publicity.

Support from churches and fundraising

The following churches/church leaders and Christian organisations/groups have so far been consulted about the development of the Chaplaincy and Street Angels and expressed their support/interest:

Burpham Parish Church
Christ Church
Eternity
Good News in Guildford
Guildford Anglican Deanery
Guildford Anglican Diocese
Guildford Community Church
Guildford Methodist
Guildford URC
Guildford YMCA
Holy Trinity and St Mary's
Millmead
New Hope Guildford
The Bishop of Guildford's Foundation
Shalford Methodist
St Mary's Rydes Hill
St John's Stoke
St Joseph's
St Nicolas
St Pius Merrow
St Saviour's

Some have already pledged money (£17,000 so far), including £2000 recently awarded by the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation. Many more have said they will provide financial support and other funding bids have also been submitted recently.

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Now we have firm Police support for the Street Angels project we will increase our efforts on fundraising. If you or your organisation can make a contribution towards our target of £65,000 per annum (for both projects) we would love to hear from you.

Seeing for ourselves

A number of us recently spent a Friday night on the streets of Guildford observing the situation. While we picked a relatively quiet night (it was wet and cold!) it did give us a valuable insight into some of the dynamics of Guildford late at night and made all the more clear the need for the Street Angels project.

A couple of us will also shortly be accompanying the Police on a Friday night to experience the town centre from their perspective.

What next?

With the level of financial support already pledged the Steering Group is confident that sufficient funds will be available to launch at least the Street Angels project later this year. We expect to begin recruitment for the Coordinator as soon as possible and for the first wave of Street Angel volunteers in April/May. Recruitment of the Town Centre Chaplain will follow later in the year once sufficient funding has been raised.

Prayer support

Prayer support for these projects continues to be essential. Please pray

for this work and, if you can, please include these projects in prayers in your services and prayer groups. If you would like someone to come and speak about these projects in your services or to a meeting at your Church please contact Julian Lomas (details below). Please also let us know of anyone who would like to receive these newsletters. The key prayer needs right now are:

- Give thanks for the progress made in building relationships particularly with the Police and Council
- Give thanks for the funds raised to date and the support expressed by such a wide range of churches and other organisations
- That we will find the right person to be the Street Angels Coordinator.
- That the Christian Community in Guildford will continue to show its generosity in pledging the remaining funding and raising up volunteers when the time is right.
- For approval of the funding bids submitted to various funds
- For wisdom and discernment for Julian and the Steering Group as they develop these projects further with partners.

Contact us

If you're interested in participating in or supporting these projects, or just want to know more, please contact **Julian Lomas** on **07802 957938** or at almondtreeconsulting@ntlworld.com
We look forward to hearing from you.