



Hark!



The Newsletter of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

GTCC Volunteer Wins Surrey Police prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award



GTCC are very pleased that one of our fantastic Volunteer Chaplains, Russ Clark, has been honoured by Surrey Police, winning their volunteer of the year award. Congratulations Russ on the award and for making a difference amongst Surrey's hard working Police. Below Russ tells us bit about his role.

Chaplaincy in the Police Service

I never expected that one day I would be a Police Chaplain. I had always had a very healthy respect for the Police and the thought of being surrounded by Police Officers on a regular basis filled me with a fair degree of trepidation!

However, when asked whether I would consider the role some 4 years ago, I must say that the sheer privilege of being part of a group of people

dedicated to helping keep Surrey safe was all I needed to sway me.

My base is Guildford Police Station where I work alongside maybe one or two hundred officers and staff, though many are still working remotely following the pandemic. I tend to visit on Fridays and am usually there for about 4 hours. When I arrive, I don my Chaplain's fleece which is a great way for anyone I meet to recognise me. Most of the time I simply walk around and chat to people. There are 8 floors so it's pretty good exercise!

Everyone who works there is carrying a huge responsibility and one of my greatest challenges is knowing when to interrupt and when to pass by. The lovely thing is that so many want to chat. It may be for just a few minutes or it may be for more than an hour. We cover everything from work and family issues to health and faith.

The bottom line is – I am there to listen - and to listen sympathetically and without judging. I am not allowed to evangelise which is fine with me as I'm not an evangelist! However, I am allowed to respond whenever someone asks me a question which involves faith, and, believe me, I have had some great conversations!

I simply love what I do. The people I meet are dedicated, professional and a joy to know.

I always pray the Prayer of Jabez, 1 Chronicles 4v10, on my way to the station.

"Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory. Will your hand be upon me and will you keep me from harm?"

And the Lord has never once failed to answer my prayer!

Russ Clark

Volunteer Chaplain



COMMUNITY

CARE

COMPASSION

for people in our town

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GTCC.org.uk

Captain Peter 'Putts' GTCC financially towards the 'Green'

Great news from Golf Captain Peter

Last year HARK was pleased to report that Street Angel Peter Samuel had been voted Men's Golf Captain at Hankley Common Golf Club and he had named GTCC as his Charity of the Year 2021. The Club members enjoyed a busy year of dinners, tournaments, fun days and many happy hours on the golf course – donating as they played.

GTCC's Chaplain Noelle Coe was honoured to be able to attend the Club's annual dinner in the autumn and have the opportunity to tell Hankley members about the work of the Chaplaincy. As Peter steps down from his Captaincy year he was absolutely thrilled to be able to share the great news that GTCC would benefit from the generosity of his fellow golfers with a gift of £15,500.

Louise Kenyon, Trustee responsible for Fundraising said "We are absolutely over the moon at the generosity of the members of Hankley Common golf club, and so grateful that Peter nominated us as his Charity of the Year. Many of Peter's golfing colleagues had no idea that he regularly volunteered as a Street Angel and to receive such overwhelming support from a group who largely knew nothing about our work previously, is such an encouragement. These additional funds are a well-timed blessing as the Chaplaincy extends its work in response to increased demand for our services. Well done Peter, and an enormous thank you to Hankley Common Golf Club members – brilliant shot!"



Andrew Hodges, GTCC Trustee

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death of GTCC Trustee Andrew Hodges on Tuesday 12 April 2022, age 73. Andrew was highly respected in the local community, being appointed a Guildford Honorary Freeman after representing Christchurch ward for 35 years as a local Councillor. For GTCC, in addition to serving as a Trustee, Andrew was a friend, a volunteer, a long serving Street Angel and an active supporter of the Charity. He will be sorely missed. Andrew was also involved in a wide range of other local organisations including Christ Church Guildford, Guildford Cathedral and Guildford Book Festival.



Chris Britton, Chair of Trustees said "Andrew was a great ambassador for GTCC, his local knowledge, calm nature and compassion for those in need were highly valued by all who knew him. His very sudden death has denied our community of a faithful and wise friend. May he rest in peace and rise in glory". Andrew's well attended funeral took place recently at Guildford Cathedral.



Easter Walk of Witness

On Good Friday, several hundred people gathered together to walk from the Friary Centre to Holy Trinity, stopping en route to reflect on the significance of the day, sing Easter songs and witness to the town about our faith based beliefs. GTCC Chaplain Revd Noelle Coe, (4th photo) was involved in the planning of the event and other speakers included the Bishop of Dorking, Revd Dr Jo Bailey Wells (3rd photo) Rev Wayne Hawkins (URC) and Rev Robert Cotton (Holy Trinity). A number of our Angels joined the walk and participated in this act of witness and worship.





A new Community Angel promotional video has recently been released and we're pleased to say that around 1000 views on our various media platforms have seen it. You can watch it here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MAb_UVTcc0

Catching Up with Community Angels

People often ask us, "What does a Community Angel do?" and our answers are as varied as the people we support. You don't usually know if you've seen one out and about. That couple sitting behind you in the cafe? That could be a someone with their Community Angel. Or the pair strolling along the river bank, deep in conversation. Or maybe those two new faces at your choir last week, or trying out the walking football, or the shopmobility scooters. The supportive companion offering a shoulder to lean on at the hospital or an extra pair of ears at a CAB appointment could well be a Community Angel. As could one of those friends admiring the view at Newlands Corner or the flowers at Wisley.

Community Angels visit people in their homes, or encourage people to come out of their homes, for the first time in a week, or a month, or a year. They might be teaching someone to crochet, helping them connect to others online - or enjoying the classic befriending activity: catching up on the week over a nice cup of tea!

Because the support we give is confidential, we don't have lots of great photos to share, but thanks to Ben and his technical prowess, we now have our video. We hope you enjoy seeing some Community Angels and hearing what they do and why they do it.

And as always we would like to give an enormous thank you to all of our volunteers, for the many different ways that they support those in our community who are lonely and alone. You may not be seen, but your impact is truly felt.

Some recent quotes from CA clients:

"I'm so glad I took the step [to have a Community Angel's support]...she makes me feel better as a person...my confidence is so much better...I can't believe it's gone so well..."

"The week goes so quickly when I have his visit to look forward to."

"She's my hero"

"She's my inspiration...she's always so cheerful..."

Anne Thornton
Community Angels Coordinator



From the chaplain

- What would you do if you have lost your friends on a night out and the charge on your phone has run out? Find a Street Angel, they carry chargers along with many other useful bits of equipment.
- How about having someone come alongside you for six months after a loss such as bereavement, unemployment, mental health struggles. Our Community Angels can be a helpful friend to build confidence and make positive connections.
- Having a safe, confidential place in your workplace where you can express personal concerns and feel listened to by one of our Volunteer Chaplains could have a very positive impact on someone's life.

Over this last couple of years our staff, trustees and volunteers have been incredible in the way they have adapted working practice so that GTCC can continue to reach out to a whole variety of people and places on behalf of the Christian churches in and around Guildford. We don't evangelise, preach or judge anybody. We go out to help, come alongside and provide safe spaces.

If you or someone you know would like to enquire about volunteering in one of our teams we would love to chat to you and answer any queries you may have.



Building Community Bridges

Deputy Leader of Guildford Council, Julia McShane, recently took time out of her busy schedule to meet with us to discuss some of the challenges we face whilst serving our community, such as the closing of all overnight toilet facilities. Julia listened and thanked us for bringing the matters to her attention, promising to try and take things forward in partnership with key stake holders. Julia has a wide portfolio in her Council role which includes leader Councillor for Community and Housing. We thank Julia for listening.



Trustee Angel ties the knot

GTCC are very happy to send warm Congratulations to Trustee and Street Angel, Ruth Cheah, who recently became Mrs Heaton after marrying husband Sam. In a packed Millmead Centre, many GTCC staff, Trustees and volunteers witnessed the ceremony, enjoying refreshments and fellowship afterwards. We wish Sam and Ruth all the very best for their future life together





Out & About
with our Staff.
Volunteers,
Trustees &
Supporters





Summer Tea Event

Calling All Angels, Friends & Supporters, please visit our **Tea Tent Fundraiser** with spectacular views @ **St Martha's Church** Parking Halfpenny Lane, & Newlands Corner GU4 8PZ, on **Sat 16 July, 10.30-4pm**. Home made cake & biscuit contributions welcomed along with helpers to serve teas.

For offers of help please Email chaplain@gtcc.org.uk Join us at 11am when we welcome the Mayor of

Guildford, Dennis Booth. We look forward to welcoming a host of Angelic people!

Barratt Homes Support Guildford Street Angels

The £1000 donation from Barratt Southern Counties, whose head office is also located in Guildford, will help cover the charity's ongoing costs in the winter of 2022.



Kimberley Benson, Sales and Marketing Director for Barratt Southern Counties, comments: "We found out about the Street Angels initiative during our office opening in late 2021, and discovered how the charity is very close to the hearts of the Guildford Borough Councillors.

As a house builder operating in and around Guildford, we wanted to do our part and support such a vital initiative within our community."

Ben Pitt, our Street Angels Coordinator, comments: "Practical acts of kindness make a real difference for someone in need, and sometimes, our input can be life changing. We are incredibly grateful to Barratt Southern Counties; this donation will help us continue the work that we are doing in the coming months."



GTCC Annual Report & Accounts 2021 and our glossy Annual Review 2021 are now available on our website, click here for a copy <https://gtcc.org.uk/gtcc-annual-report-accounts/>



Chair of Trustees Chris Britton attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May 2022 in recognition of his work with GTCC and the Boys Brigade, for which he has been awarded the British Empire Medal

volunteerchaplains

What better start to my new role than to meet all our chaplains and supporters of the project over a meal one evening back in April. I feel very privileged to be working with such an amazing group of wise, faith-filled and compassionate people. In seeking to grow that team, we have already held a training session for new volunteers and I have met with more who are interested in exploring the role further. It is an exciting time for Volunteer Chaplains!



As I talk to friends and family about my new position, I am often asked 'Do you have to be ordained to be a volunteer chaplain?' The short answer is no! Our volunteer chaplains come from all walks of life and are motivated by their Christian faith to gift their time and reach out to others, listening without judgement, helping with both pastoral and spiritual support. As Ben, one of our chaplains explains: 'In this life every one of us faces difficulty, which can cause all kinds of stress. Sometimes what you need is to have someone there, who wants to listen. I volunteer as a Chaplain to be an option for someone if they want to talk'

Annie, who volunteers in a GP surgery, meets the patients who

have made an appointment. For Russ at the police station, those confidential conversations come about during his visits as he checks in on members of staff.

Part of my role is to help our new volunteers discern where they would be best placed, looking at their skills, interest and life experiences.

We are always looking for new placements ready to welcome chaplains. We currently have volunteers working in local GP surgeries, the police station, St Mary's Church and with Open Church. In the past volunteers have visited shopping centres, offices, the fire station and supported the homeless. As our Street Angels support the night time economy, our volunteer chaplains are GTCC's daytime gift to the people of Guildford.

Please do have a think whether you would be like to be part of our team or if you know someone who just needs the encouragement to find out more. Help us to make our vision a reality and increase the number of chaplains across our town. I am looking forward to the day when the maroon Chaplains' fleece is just as familiar in our town during the day as the Street Angels' uniform is in the evening!

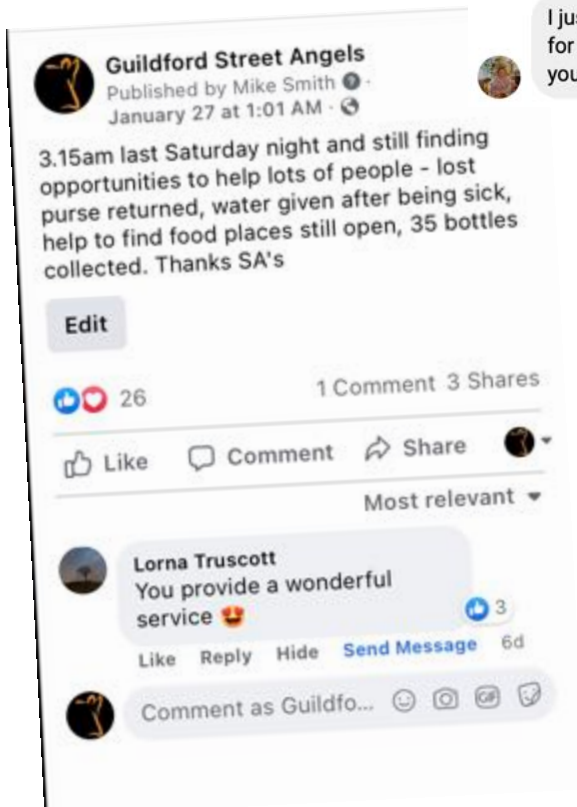
Susanna Hoar, Volunteer Chaplains Project Coordinator



Social Media Responses to GTCC projects

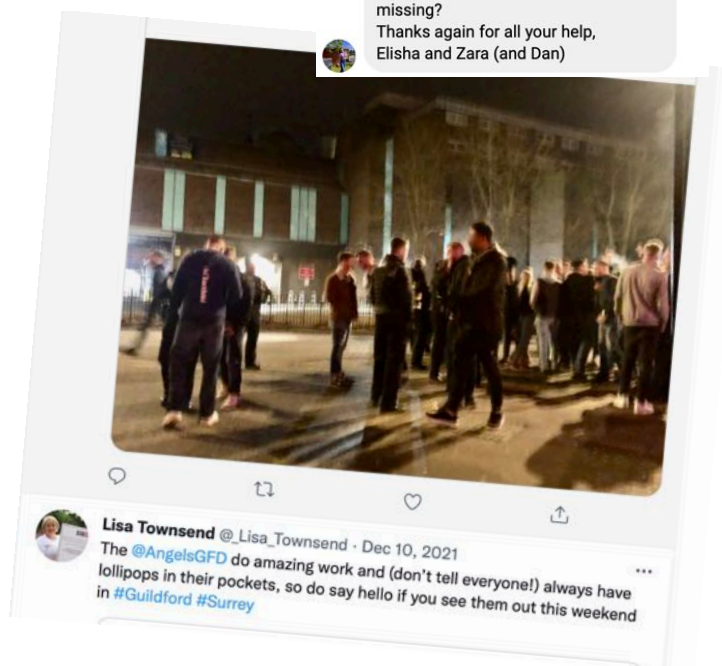


May 28, 2022, 4:40 AM



I just wanted to say thank you so much for helping with my friend last night, you are absolute angels thank you xxx

Hi
Just wanted to say a huge thank you for the help with our friend Dan tonight. I can safely say he is home and doing a lot better than when you last saw him by Subway.
Would you possibly be able to tell us if he had his phone with him when you contacted Zara as it seems to be missing?
Thanks again for all your help, Elisha and Zara (and Dan)

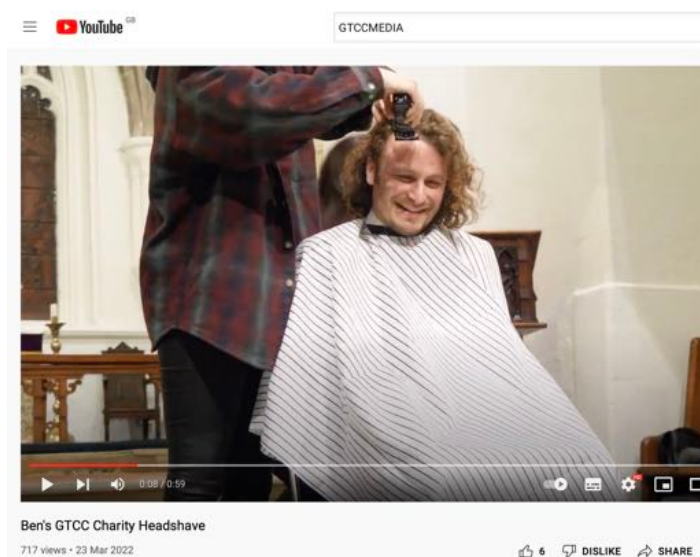




Quiz Night Amazing Success

A huge thanks to our Street Angel co-ordinator Ben Pitt after he shaved his luscious locks for GTCC as our

fundraiser quiz. Ben raised nearly £1000 and was delighted with the new look! You can watch the whole thing on our media channel GTCCmedia link here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9QKwaS8AWw>



We were amazed at how successful our latest Quiz night and meal turned out to be. Space was limited to 100 guests and despite several Covid cancellations, all seats were taken. GTCC Chair Chris Britton introduced the evening and chaired the auction which followed the Quiz. Our Quiz Master Michael Tame gave his services freely to the cause and produced a splendid and sometimes challenging set of questions. GTCC Trustee and Manager of the Millmead Open Grounds Cafe, Ruth Cheah and her dedicated team produced a splendid Thai Chicken meal and delicious sweet.

Following the Quiz and meal it was time for the Auction which included generously donated items such as the use of a holiday home, which sold twice! Next it was time to shave Ben's head and the honours went to Ben's wife, Gina. The transformed Ben said afterwards that he liked his new look and found it refreshing after having longer hair through lockdown. Ben then went on to interview Street Angel Sue Clark, as she was team leading the group patrolling that night and so was able to give a first hand account of what they might be faced with and how people could support the teams week by week.

We are grateful to St Mary's church for hosting us, the many volunteers who helped put the event together and deliver it so well on the day and to all the guests who generously helped us raise around £4,500 in total on the night. Thank you so so much!



Fundraising Update

As our supporters will know, the Board of Trustees took the decision to invest in developing GTCCs work with workplace Chaplain's in 2022 which has meant that the need for fundraising has never been more demanding. It will cost over £100k to run the Chaplaincy this year, almost half of that comes from the faithful and regular donations from partner churches and individual donors, for which we are very grateful. 2022 got off to a tremendous start with the extraordinary generosity from Hankley Common Golf Club and with a brilliant quiz night in March, which together raised over £20,000 for the Chaplaincy. Behind the scenes we have been submitting funding applications, mainly to local Trusts and Foundations.

To date, in 2022, we have been very blessed by very generous support from the following funders Guildford Poyle Charities, Guildford Town Guides, Experience Guildford, The Borrows Charitable Trust, The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey, The Buchanan Programme (Richard Boyd), The Erica Leonard Trust, Surrey County Council, The John Beane Charity, The Hospital of William Parson, Ecclesiastical Insurance and Guildford Scottish Country Dancing Club.

Looking ahead we have three more fundraising events planned, please get involved to help raise much needed funds or simply come along to meet others and say hello!

Saturday 16 July – St Martha-on-the-Hill tea bar 10.30am- 4pm - donations of cakes and volunteers needed

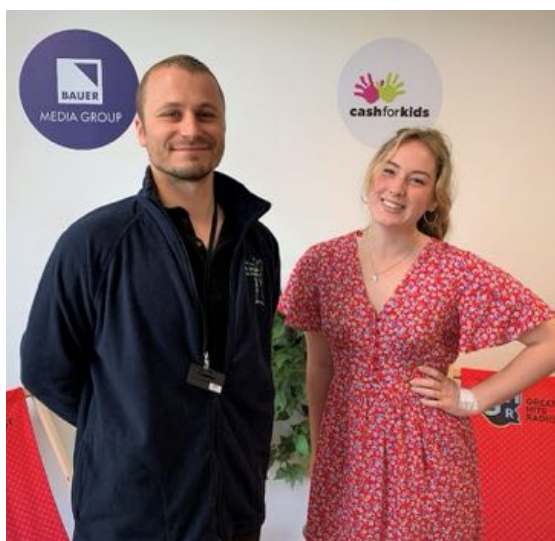
Saturday 1 October – Walkfest sponsored Angel walk – details available shortly

Saturday 3 December -Guildford High Street collection – could you shake a bucket or provide musical entertainment?

We are still seeking funding for our projects and are always delighted to discuss opportunities that might exist – just get in touch with me via the GTCC office.

Thank you – your gifts make a huge difference to our work, we could not do it without you!

Louise Kenyon, Trustee & Chair of Fundraising & Communications Committee



Greatest Hits Radio Interview

In April, SA Co-Ordinator Ben had the pleasure of visiting Greatest Hits Radio – Surrey & East Hampshire (formerly known as Eagle Radio) to be interviewed by Ellie about the work of the Street Angels for a short segment about local issues. It was a great opportunity to share the wonderful work of the Street Angels and the difference they make to the atmosphere of the town at night and to the individuals we support. Now just as ever, there is such a need for our Street Angels project in Guildford and we at GTCC are so grateful to our fantastic volunteers for their selfless service.

Experience Guildford – Lollipops donation

Once again, Experience Guildford have kindly donated a fresh batch of lollipops! GTCC greatly values its relationship with Experience Guildford as one of our key partners as their mission is to make people's experience of Guildford the best it can be. These lollies, plus a whopping 21 more tubs will help the Street Angels to diffuse tension in certain scenarios, as well as aiding the sobering up process for some individuals. As equally important as this, they will continue to represent the warmth, kindness, and generosity of our volunteer Street Angels. Big thanks to Amanda at Experience Guildford and the fantastic Town Ranger Dave, posing for the photo.



Ways to give to GTCC

SMS Text

To send a donation by text via your mobile provider please send an SMS message starting with the word

ANGEL followed by your donation amount of either 5, 10 or 20, e.g. **ANGEL10** would donate £10

amazonsmile.co.uk is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device each time you shop on Amazon. Choose Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy as your charity and 0.5% of purchases will go to GTCC. Full details can be found on this link [About AmazonSmile](#)

GTCC and all our projects rely on generous giving from the local church community, organisations and individual donations.

However, the real support comes from people getting involved either by giving their time volunteering on one of our projects, or dedicating time to pray for our town and the work we do. We need your support in order to continue this valuable work in our community.

It will cost over £100,000 in 2022 to run all of our three community projects. Outside of our generous church donors, much of our income comes from individual supporters who have set up monthly standing orders with Gift Aid declarations, so we can claim back the tax on their kind giving.

If you can help us out in this way, have links with local businesses which might like to nominate us as their chosen charity or want to see how you can support us in other ways please get in touch. We are still seeking funding for our projects and are always delighted to discuss opportunities that might exist - just get in touch with Louise Kenyon via the GTCC office or visit our giving page here:

<https://gtcc.org.uk/donate/>

Gift Aided Regular Giving

To find out more about how to give electronically and set up a regular gift download a Gift Aid donation form here: <https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GTCC-Donors-Gift-Aid-Declaration.pdf>

Further information is here: https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018_GTCC_Aid_Form.pdf

Easy Fundraising - How does it work?

easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal.

Our retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you". So if you online shop at Sainsbury's, Argos or many other retailers, you can help us raise funds. Our page link is here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/guildfordtcchaplaincy/?q=Guildford%20Town&cat=cause-autosuggest>



GTCC EVENT DIARY 2022

July 16 10.30-4pm Tea Tent Fundraiser St Martha's-On-the-Hill

October 1 Sponsored Surrey Hills Walk

November 20 Commissioning Service, Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, 6.30pm

December 3 Town Centre Christmas Street Collection

For further updates and to meet our Trustees and wonderful team please check our web site

www.gtcc.org.uk

GTCC Registered Charity Number **1126056**

Next issue of Hark is planned for Winter 2022

Let us know if you have a story to share!

You can also help by following us on Facebook or Twitter accounts detailed below and sharing our posts with friends and family from time to time to raise awareness



Guildford Street Angels
Guildford Community Angels



@AngelsGFD
@ComAngelsGFD