

COMMUNITY CARE COMPASSION for people in our town

In this Issue

Page 2

Interview with GTCC
volunteers Sue and
Russ Clark

Page 3

GTCC Pancake race

Page 4

Local Mayor praises
volunteers and
welcomes Noelle

Page 5

Out and About

Page 6

Info and forthcoming
events.



Chaplain shares our success

A couple of weeks ago the Trustees and staff of GTCC had an "Away-day", an opportunity to come together and evaluate where we are with our three projects in a peaceful environment of prayer.

There was so much to give thanks for; our amazing and committed volunteers, the opportunities to walk alongside those who are struggling for many different reasons, the support we receive from many individual people, churches, businesses, council, university, trusts. I would like to say a big thank you for placing your trust in us and your loyal support.

Practical support from our friends from so many churches is so especially encouraging. Merrow Methodist church recently had a coffee morning and plant sale raising a stunning £497.

St Martha's Church is opening its doors for us to sell cakes and tea on 6 July. On 21 July the Vox choir will be singing in Guildford High Street and they would like us to shake our collection buckets. 'Walkfest' in September (Yes, I will do the 20k as long as someone can carry me to my car at the end!) Quiz and Curry night at St Saviours Church in November and I do believe there will be a Christmas tree festival at Guildford URC in December. These are just some of the initiatives that keep us operating and offer us a chance to meet each other.

Psalm 127 says 'Unless the Lord builds the house those who build it labour in vain'

We continue to give thanks while moving on into the future: to responsibly and prayerfully, with your support, build the work of GTCC.



1



 provide care and support

2



CHAPLAINS

 Visit local companies and businesses

3



COMMUNITY ANGELS

 Practical, emotional and listening support





Keeping it in the Family

Sue and Russ Clark (left) are both GTCC volunteers, but serve in different ways. So how did this married couple become so involved and how do they feel about their voluntary roles? Sue takes up their story:

'I was in the first tranche of Street Angels, training more than 10 years ago. I believe Tim Wears spoke about the initiative and I really felt that god was calling me to be involved. Nevertheless it was scary to be interviewed by Rod and the police, but

nothing like as scary as my first night out...Halloween.

Street Angels has given me the opportunity to walk the streets with many different people and encounter (mostly) young people when they are at their most vulnerable. It also means I have had a chance to chat to people on the doors and on the streets who are happy, sad, cheerful, celebrating, depressed, lonely and everything in between!

The Lord has blessed me with the chance to chat....one of my favourite things...and has given me great prayer support so I can be bold or sensitive in my approach to those I meet. Meanwhile...Russ, had no desire to be out late on the streets of Guildford, possibly meeting rude and drunk young people...but he was happy to pray for me and listen when I unloaded the issues of the nights I was out.

That all changed after he went to a talk by Rod Boreham, where he talked about Town Centre Chaplains. After lengthy training and prayerful consideration about his "patch", it was time for Rod to be moving out of Guildford police station...and Russ was ready to move in!

There followed a further time of training, checking and induction, before he became a Police Chaplain and was allowed to visit the station alone.

This experience has been brilliant. Russ had the chance to go out with the Neighbourhood Patrol Team (very fast along the Hogs Back!), and has also visited the Custody Suite and the Contact Centre. A real privilege, to be able to see the breadth of work covered by civilian staff and uniformed police. The Lord has blessed Russ with great listening skills, which has been invaluable for this new role. Taking 60 hot cross buns into the station in Easter week was a great way to start conversations and become instantly popular!

There is a great cross over when we talk together about the situations that Street Angels encounter and the issues that are faced by the police. Our joint experiences have given us a fuller picture and understanding of the pressures on the police in their daily/nightly work. We are glad that God has used the gifts He has given us, so that we can serve Him in these different roles, which we both enjoy immensely.'





Angels tossing batter in the High Street!

On Shrove Tuesday a Chaplaincy team of Street Angels and Community Angels entered the annual community Pancake Race in Guildford High Street, raising funds for the Mayor's Charity, Guildford Young Carers. There were 8 different races, our relay race was sponsored by MW Solicitors and our Angels were competing against teams from Waitrose, the Weyside Pub, some enormous Gorilla's from Go Ape, plus others. Our speedy Community Angel Co-ordinator, Rachel Guilford, gave us a good lead despite dropping a pancake! Team members Joy, Nicky and James kept up the pace as they completed their stints up and down the cobbled High Street, supported by cheering crowds. At the finishing line the Angels and Gorillas were neck and neck, after a tense photo finish, the jubilant and worthy winners were declared to be our very own Angels. Congratulations and thanks to our racing team. They enjoyed meeting Peter Gordon from Eagle Radio on the balcony of the Guildhall afterwards and being presented with prizes and a coveted badge!

Chaplain Noelle said "It was great to take part in this local event, working alongside other community groups who support our vibrant town centre in different ways. I am sure that our winged team had more cheers than anyone else from the crowds, and I was delighted to talk to a number of people who wanted to find out more about our work. Our winged runners really helped to raise the profile of the work of the Chaplaincy, and it was a fabulous example of how volunteers from our different projects share the same values and work so well together. I am hoping to continue to provide opportunities for volunteers to collaborate, learning from each other as the Chaplaincy grows, serving our town"

Mayor gives welcome speech for Noelle and thanks our volunteers

When our Town Chaplain, Rev Noelle Coe was inducted into her post, a Civic reception was held at the Guildhall in Guildford High Street on 23 January. Councillor



Mike Parsons, who at the time, was Guildford

Mayor, welcomed Noelle and reflected on the work of GTCC. Here is a copy of his speech.

Lord Lieutenant, Councillors, Ladies & Gentlemen and Angels, I am delighted to attend this event to extend a warm welcome to Noelle Coe as the town's second ever Chaplain.

Guildford Borough Council value the contribution that the Chaplaincy has made to the well-being of our people and the fabric of the town. Over the last ten years your Street Angels have reduced crime, picked up 10,000 bottles, helped us win the coveted Purple Flag award and transformed the night time economy, making it safe and welcoming. But your energy and authenticity mean you do not stand still and your Community Angels are now transforming individuals lives through working in homes alongside some of the most lonely and isolated in our community.

I have been humbled to learn about some of the positive life changes which Community Angels have been able to trigger by offering time, compassion and reconnections to the wider community. Let me share with you some examples which touched me.

A lady aged 23 has bipolar disorder, lacks confidence and seeks a healthier life. She has 3 young boys and spends her energy and time looking after them but doesn't do anything for herself, even when walking her dog she would go to the same location. Recently, she has been walking new routes with the volunteer, has started a Maths GCSE and they plan to try Aquafit together.

A man in his 80s lives alone, lacks confidence and is very isolated. He has macular degeneration and can't read the post himself. A volunteer now takes him for weekly outings, spends time listening and assists with reading the post. Following a visit to a Sight for Surrey open day to address his eyesight problems, he is now receiving additional treatment and has seen a specialist.

On behalf of the people of Guildford, we welcome Noelle and take this opportunity to thank all those who are involved in the work of the Chaplaincy and its projects. You truly are Angels and we offer our wholehearted support to your work. We look forward to working with you, Noelle, to make Guildford a safer and more caring place to work, rest and play.

Out and About



The Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' was very well supported by GTCC volunteers this year. Local MP, Anne Milton, did one of the Bible readings and our chaplain Noelle spoke to the hundreds of people who joined the procession when it stopped outside Holy Trinity Church.



GTCC would like to extend warm congratulations to Street Angel Team leader, Peter Jackson and his wife Chris on the occasion of their Golden wedding anniversary, which they celebrated in April. The couple commemorated their 50 years of marriage with several family events and a drop in high tea at their home church, Millmead.

The national founder of Street Angels and the associated Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Paul Blakey and his wife Jean were spotted locally at the Big Church Day Out over the late May bank holiday weekend. There are currently over 130 towns and cities running Street Angel or similar projects across the UK and abroad. In recognition of this amazing work, Paul has been awarded an MBE by the Queen. Local Street Angels helped out on the CNI stand during the weekend.



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
Text Giving to the number 70085

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/guildfordtccchaplaincy/?q=Guildford%20Town&cat=cause-autosuggest>

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 costs around £80,000 per year 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 visit our giving page here:

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

GTCC EVENT DIARY 2019

Saturday 6 July Tea Bar fund raiser at St Martha-on-the-Hill 10.30am - 2.45pm. We welcome donations of cakes and volunteers through the day

Sunday 21 July Guildford High Street Collection with GuildfordVox choir pop up concert 12noon and 1.30pm

Saturday 28 September: 'Walkfest' Sponsored Walk, Guildford to Dorking

Sunday 3 November: Commissioning Service @ Christ Church, Guildford

Friday 15 November: Fundraising Quiz and Curry night @St Saviours Church, Guildford

Saturday 7 December: Town centre Street collection in aid of GTCC

Saturday 6 June 2020

Guildford Chamber Choir Concert
In aid of GTCC Guildford United Reformed Church

For further updates please check our web site or on Facebook or Twitter accounts detailed below:

www.gtcc.org.uk



Guildford Street Angels
Guildford Community Angels



@AngelsGFD
@ComAngelsGFD

GTCC Registered Charity Number **1126056**