



Hark!



The Newsletter of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

Angelic response to the Coronavirus

For the first time in our 12 year history we have had to stop our Angels patrolling the streets of Guildford, as part of governments plan to stop the spread of Corona-19 virus. As Chaplain Noelle Coe explains:



'This has been necessary to ensure the health and wellbeing of the public, our staff and our volunteers. We are committed to following official government guidance and will continue to review the situation on an ongoing basis.

Our Community Angels befriending project is experiencing growth in demand for its services and we are planning for further expansion as social distancing and lockdown conditions continue. We have made the decision to cease home befriending visits and replace these with regular phone calls instead, to enable us to continue to support existing clients in the community. This switch has required some re-training of our experienced volunteers and we are using this opportunity to offer Street Angels the chance to work on our sister project at this difficult time. Our

experienced Angelic volunteers continue to serve the vulnerable in our community, as they have been doing since 2008.'

Unfortunately the shut down has affected many of our planned events in 2020 such as the June concert and Good Friday 'walk of witness', but we are hopeful that we will continue to be blessed by generous benefactors to help keep the three streams of volunteering up and running. For ways you and your friends can help us, please see the last page of this newsletter.

We are delighted to announce that the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux has agreed to become our new Patron. We are also pleased to hear that we have been selected finalists in the 'Biz' Awards 2020 - see page 6 for further details of the final and your opportunity to join us on the virtual red carpet!

Virtual Quiz night helps brings our dedicated supporters together

By the wonders of Zoom we were able to unite many of our volunteers and supporters in a virtual quiz all from the comfort of our own homes! Around 36 teams of Angels and friends enjoyed an online general knowledge quiz. The winning team of Coe & Co achieved an amazing 41/50. We all joined in a rendition of 'Hey Jude' at the end, whilst the scores were being added up by the excellent quiz master, Michael Tame.

It was really good to see so many of our volunteers and our supportive friends as well, even if only online. A special welcome was reserved for some of our supporters, including Surrey County Councillor, Mark Brett-Warburton and friends from Guildford Town Guides. This was the first public opportunity to thank the Town Guides since the Chaplaincy was selected to be their Charity of the Year 2020.



COMMUNITY

CARE

COMPASSION

for people in our town

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GTCC.org.uk

Meet the FRAC!

The Fund-Raising & Communications Sub Committee (affectionately known as FRAC) was established in 2017 in response to the need to raise income for the Chaplaincy with the expansion of our work to include the Community Angels project. The small subcommittee was established with the brief to find new sources of funding to secure the long term financial stability of the Chaplaincy. The group initially met monthly, but now meets quarterly and currently has five permanent members, although others join as appropriate. Louise Kenyon (Sub group chair, Trustee & Volunteer Fundraiser) Chris Britton (Chair of Trustees & Street Angel), Noelle Coe (Chaplain), Mike Gercke (Trustee & Hon Treasurer), and Mike Smith (Street Angel and volunteer responsible for Social Media). The group has worked to develop a new focus in marketing and fundraising activity to drive this aspect of the work of the Charity, aiming to raise the profile of the Charity, encourage new supporters and better engage with current volunteers. Equally, we have sought to proactively gain new sources of funding, reaching out to churches, businesses and trust funds.

This small group of people work well together planning events, developing fundraising strategies, and promoting activities. We have been overwhelmed with the support that has come from all quarters for our fundraising events; from fielding teams for quizzes to participating in sponsored tower climbs and walks. We have been particularly thrilled with the new partnerships we have been able to nurture with local organisations, churches and community groups, such as the University of Surrey, Surrey County Council, Waitrose, the Surrey Hills Society, the Cathedral and Guildford Town Guides; we appreciate their support and their gifts. We are also very grateful to Trust Funds who have supported our work for the first time, especially the Community Foundation for Surrey, Poyle Charities, the Loseley Christian Trust, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioners, and the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation. We are also proud of the awards that have come our way in recognition of the work of our amazing volunteers. In the last few weeks it has been announced that our Street Angels are to be awarded the Mayor's Award for Service to the Community 2020 and they have also been nominated as Charity of the Year finalists in the Eagle Radio Biz Awards 2020. Great news indeed!

FRAC also organises social events such as the recent Zoom quiz and the annual Pancake Race, to encourage everyone who is involved in the Chaplaincy to have the opportunity to meet, to share ideas and encourage each other through participation in our community. With the faithful help of GTCC supporters and a lot of cake, FRAC have raised over £20,000 in each of the first two years of operation, ensuring that the Chaplaincy has a solid sustainable base to enable it to continue to deliver its work to support the vulnerable in our community. One area we have found it hard to reach is local businesses – we would love to get in touch with suitable businesses who are looking for a local charity to support financially, do get in touch if you can help!

Looking ahead, against the background of Covid 19, 2020 is presenting new challenges for charities worldwide. A number of GTCC fundraising events have already been cancelled or postponed and many of our future trust fund applications are at risk. **So how can "Hark" readers help?** We would ask you to stay with us, as part of the GTCC family, and continue to volunteer with us, pray for us and donate to us – as much as you are able. We invite you to follow us on facebook and Twitter – sharing our stories. We have seen considerable growth in demand for our services as the vulnerable become more exposed and believe that after the current coronavirus crisis, there will be even greater need for the compassionate support of our volunteers on the streets, in homes and in the workplace. Do get in touch with any FRAC member if you think you can help its work!



Top pic Louise Kenyon;
#2 Mike Gercke
#3 Mike Smith
#4 Chris Britton



Pan-tastic Fundraiser

Angel's flipping pancakes

A team of Chaplaincy Angels donned their wings again to take part in the annual Guildford High Street Pancake race on Shrove Tuesday.

The team, made up of volunteers; Margarita, Sabine, Margaret & Louise entered the first relay race of the day, competing against local teams from Experience Guildford, Eagle Radio, the Surrey Advertiser, Vantage Point Magazine and others.

Former Guildford MP, Anne Milton, was on duty making pancakes and selling them to raise funds for Real Change Guildford. The Mayor opened the event and Peter Gordon, from Eagle Radio was the compere.

Our Angels put on a stirring effort in the sunshine on the High Street sets, demonstrating fabulous tossing techniques, engaging with the crowds, running and flipping. The team were also grateful to be able to wear the new Street Angel beany hats on such a chilly day, but sadly they were not first past the finish line this year.

Our friends from Experience Guildford were the worthy winners of the first relay, sponsored by Charles Stanley. The event, which attracts enthusiastic crowds, involved a dozen different races, with entrants from businesses, local organisation mascots, children from Holy Trinity school and toddlers, as part of the Shrove Tuesday traditional celebrations.

The 2020 Angelic team enjoyed taking part to represent the Chaplaincy, using the opportunity to talk to people about the work of the Chaplaincy and generally being part of this cheery community festival. Our warm thanks to the Charlottesville Jubilee Trust and Eagle Radio for organising such a great event, GTCC was delighted to be able to get involved, maybe we can enter additional teams in 2021 to represent our different projects! Readers will be thrilled to hear that the event raise a stunning £812 for Real Change Guildford, working to end homelessness in our town.

148 Years of Angel service celebrated at Development Day

February was a busy month for our band of awesome Angels. As well as serving the communities of Guildford in our various roles, we had an opportunity to reflect on how we can look after each other at the training and development day held at St Nicholas Church on Saturday 8 February.

Three workshop sessions allowed delegates to explore mindfulness and dealing with stress, whilst another workshop looked at 'Goals in life, do we need them? Why is it hard to stick to them?' Chaplain Noelle Coe and Co-ordinator, Fiona Ford, ran a workshop exploring real life issues we are faced with when out volunteering.

It was also an opportunity to see our new range of equipment, including waterproof back packs, new Beanie hats for those cold nights out and Street Angel umbrellas so useful on those damper evenings.

However the highlight of the day was when 27 Angels received long service awards, who between them had clocked up 148 years of service on the streets of Guildford! The Angels whose service ranged between three and ten years, were given certificates of appreciation by Chair of GTCC Trustees, Chris Britton.

The day finished with Angels and Chaplains sharing lunch together along with some tasty cakes and plenty of tea being kindly provided by the Church and our volunteers. Thanks for making it a fab day!



Faith Forum on Homelessness

February also brought representatives from GBC housing, Real Change, Police, HOST, Councillors, local GP's, representatives from across all the churches in Guildford and voluntary groups such as ourselves together, to hear about what is being done for the homeless in the first 'Faith Forum on Homelessness' event kindly hosted at the Millmead offices of Guildford Borough Council.

The aim was to raise awareness of what is available in ways of help, to share information about all the initiatives that are currently happening, plus identify where the gaps are. The Council chambers were packed including a good number of our volunteers from across the three GTCC projects and our new Patron Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux. Our Chaplain, Noelle chaired the evening, which was beneficial to many of those able to attend. Picture shows delegates chatting during one of the break out sessions.

GTCC in numbers 2019



Out and about with our Projects



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

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 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/>

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 2020

Many of our planned activities for the Spring and Summer have had to be put on hold because of the Coronavirus situation. At the moment we have these diary dates:

Thursday 21 May 2020 12:00 midday - Angels are finalists in the Biz awards in association with eagle radio - Virtual award ceremony <https://www.eagleradio.co.uk/biz/> or listen via <https://www.eagleradio.co.uk/biz/eaglebizstream.php>

Friday 25 September 2020 7.30 – 9.30pm
Evening Bat Walk : as part of Walkfest, to finish at Night Vision, St Marys Church, Guildford
All welcome, watch out for details

Sunday 1 November 2020, Commissioning service for all three projects. Venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

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

Next issue of Hark is planned for October

GTCC Registered Charity Number **1126056**