

COMMUNITY

CARE

COMPASSION

for people in our town

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GTCC.org.uk

An exciting new venture for



in 2021

We are delighted to announce the launch of a pilot scheme to provide chaplains in GP surgeries. We are starting small and we will see how this scheme develops. Dr Martin Brunet and the team at Binscombe Medical Centre will host our first GP chaplain, Annie Cox (pictured right, outside the Binscombe surgery). The scheme is supported by Rev Noelle Coe and Dr Ann Hennell (retired GP).



GP chaplaincy has been

running very successfully in other parts of the UK and is a service which is needed more than ever with increased isolation, loneliness and feelings of loss. The GP chaplain provides a safe, non-judgemental and compassionate presence for people to talk through things that concern them. Recognition that we are physical, psychological and also spiritual beings is very much part of the holistic care of general practice and is a growing part of the well-being agenda within the NHS. Chaplains can also provide support and a safe place for general practice staff to air their own feelings. Staff have had to rapidly change their way of working with the background fear for their own and their families' health.

We recognise this is a particular type of chaplaincy and we are slowly starting this to ensure we develop a safe and relevant service. For further information please contact Rev Noelle Coe.


chaplain@gtcc.org.uk Mobile Tel 07500 834658



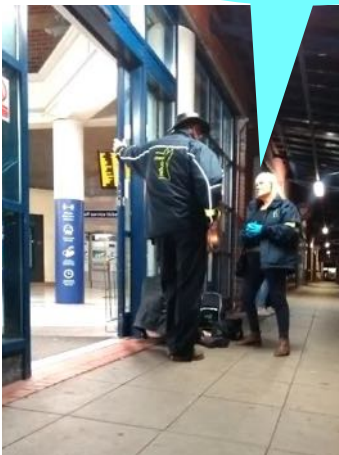
GTCC Welcomes New Angelic Staff

The world may have been in lockdown but the work of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy has proved more important than ever with demand for Community Angel services rising steeply. To help meet that need and to support our main projects we extend a very warm welcome to Ben Pitt, our new Street Angel co-ordinator and Susanna Hoar who is supporting Anne with the Community Angels.

Social Media stories

 "they have helped a young lady feeling poorly at the station, we are proud to have met such lovely caring people and they gave us a lolly and they even have hair tie's" JS

Many congratulations to our Street Angels who collectively were awarded the prestigious Mayor of Guildford's Award for Service to the Community 2020 – sadly the presentation ceremony planned for the autumn could not take place but all Street Angel volunteers received their personal certificates from the Mayor's Office in the post instead!



Guildford Borough Council
#StayHomeSaveLives



@GuildfordBC

"Their stories are inspiring and confirm the wonderful sense of community that we have in Guildford"

Congratulations to all recipients of the 2020

[@Mayor_Guildford](#)

Award for Service to the Community, sponsored by

[@thecountyclub](#)

Full details here <https://bit.ly/2VvEM0X>



You can now find media clips about our work on our new Youtube Channel - 'GTCC Media' including (L) Ben Pitt and Charlotte Coe singing on the 'Real change' Christmas service video, demonstrating how GTCC aims to work with other agencies to support the homeless. Ben was central in bringing this collaboration together.



Funded by



Collaborative Partners



Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy has 'collaboration' as one of its core values. We believe it is important to build and maintain strong partnerships with Churches, organisations and supporters across the town who are all working for the well-being of the people in Guildford. The Chaplaincy is grateful for all their prayers and generous help.

Guildford is a thriving, bustling town, and we work with our partners to keep it safe, welcoming and an enjoyable place to visit, work, and play in. We would like to thank the following organisations for funding support in the last couple of years; The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey (PCC), The Community Foundation for Surrey, Guildford Borough Council, The Bishop of Guildford's Foundation, Poyle and Surrey County Council and the numerous Churches who regularly support us.

We are grateful for grants from the NHS, the University of Surrey, and the Governments Coronavirus Community Support Fund for our work with the vulnerable in our town. We also appreciated gifts received from Guildford Town Guides, Guildford Lions, the Coop and Guildford Waitrose Community Matters.

As we start a new financial year, like many charities we face the challenge of being unable to organise our normal fundraising programme of events and will be seeking the support from a range of appropriate funding partners where competition is tight. Do remember GTCC in your prayers as we look to balance the books again in 2021, we are most grateful for such faithful support from so many of our friends and partners.



It's 'Halo' from our new Community Angel assistant Susanna Hoar

I am delighted to be working with Community Angels as Anne's assistant and being part of the Chaplaincy team. I have lived in Guildford and worshipped at a local church in Guildford for 26 years. It feels very special to have this opportunity to invest my work in the place I live. I am married to Jeremy and we have three children, two attending George Abbott school and our eldest studying at Birmingham University.

Things that have kept me sane during these difficult months are my early morning dog walks on the Downs, baking and enjoying the results! Saturday film nights with a curry and the positivity and energy of Joe Wicks! In a year when we were hoping to celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary, 50th, 21st and 18th family birthdays, I am very much looking forward to getting back to having time with friends and extended family.



I have previously been working with Citizens Advice in Wandsworth as a disability benefits adviser and so really pleased that in this new role I can still get to work and train with volunteers, meet clients in their homes and hopefully be part of bringing about a

positive change in their lives.

The highlight so far has to be the training day for new volunteers. I was so impressed and encouraged by the number who attended, their enthusiasm and commitment along with the great experience they can bring to the role.

I am excited about the future for Community Angels and look forward to meeting clients and volunteers in person hopefully very soon in 2021.

University of Surrey supports Guildford Street Angels scheme for second year



The University of Surrey is providing further financial support to local charity Guildford Street Angels. The £1000 donation will help towards covering the cost of providing their night-time patrols, on Friday and Saturday nights.

Guildford Street Angel volunteers have been patrolling Guildford Town Centre at weekends, late at night, since 2008 – listening, caring and helping vulnerable people. Street Angels have been recognised as making a significant contribution to ensuring the welfare of people on the streets of Guildford at night, including many students.

Nikki Dormon, Public Engagement Manager at the University of Surrey, said "We are delighted to be able to support and work collaboratively with the Street Angels project again this year. Students, as well as many other members of our community, benefit from the care and support offered by the Street Angels night-time patrols, and we really value being able to work closely with the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy and the rest of the team. Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students is our top priority and the Street Angels programme, alongside our own Street Marshals initiative, helps us to achieve this."

Rev Noelle Coe, Guildford Town Chaplain, thanked the University for their support saying: "The Chaplaincy is thrilled and most grateful to receive this on-going support for our Street Angel project. Many of the people that we help are students, so we are pleased to be working collaboratively with the University to help care for them."

She added "Street Angels are known and respected in our Town and are there to assist people of any age in need, which is particularly valued at the end of the night to encourage people to disperse quietly and get home safely. The Angels work closely with the police, providing additional eyes and ears, working to avoid conflict and reducing pressure on the emergency services."

To find out more about the University's work in the local community visit: surrey.ac.uk/community (article from Surrey University media)



Archdeacon walks with Angels!

It was good to have the Archdeacon of Surrey, The Venerable Paul Davies (below) joining us for our last night out before the second lockdown. Paul joined the team and toured the town centre seeing some of the things we get up to as we care for the town. Unfortunately we'll be hanging up our hats & halos for a bit now but we plan to be out as soon as we safely can.





GTCC Chair Awarded BEM

GTCC is delighted to announce that our Chair, Chris Britton, was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, 2020. The award was made in recognition of his many years of community service, especially with young people, in Guildford. Chris, who has lived in the area for nearly 40 years, was appointed Chair of GTCC in 2016. He joined as a volunteer Street Angel in its first year of operation and has since then been regularly out on the streets, as well as championing the work in his role as a Trustee. In addition, Chris has steered the inception of the Community Angels project which now serves the lonely and isolated in our local communities.

The BEM citation referred to Chris's work with young people, and he has been a

voluntary leader in the Boys' Brigade for 45 years, 30 of which have been with the 1st Guildford Company, which he led for 15 years. Recently, Chris has been instrumental in a local initiative to start new after school clubs, called 'Fusion' groups.

Chris and his wife and family have been members of their local church, since 1981, where he has also served in many roles. Chris said "I am so proud, and humbled, to have been awarded the BEM, it is such an unexpected honour. To be able to be involved with projects that have helped so many people, from all walks of life, and particularly have helped young people has been a privilege in itself. I believe this special recognition reflects on the work of all the teams of volunteers at GTCC and the other charities I am involved in, who share my passion about serving others, motivated by putting faith into action".

Chris will be presented with his medal by Michael More-Molyneux, HM Lord Lieutenant of Surrey (who also has a role as Patron of GTCC), at a special ceremony.



'Fairway' to Peter, 'putting' Angels first

GTCC sends its congratulations to Street Angel Peter Samuel, who has been elected Men's Captain at Hankley Common Golf Club for 2021. Peter, who has been a Volunteer Street Angel since 2017 has generously chosen the Street Angels to be his Captain's Charity of the Year. We are most grateful for this support, thank you Peter!

Peter is pictured far left with Chaplain Rev Noelle Coe in 2018, after GTCC helped Guildford achieve Purple flag status for safety in the town at night.

CO-OP generously donates to GTCC project

A new CO-OP store opened in Guildford on Saturday 5th September. It is located next to G-live at the top of the High Street. To mark this special moment Christopher Yates, who heads up Coop member Pioneer initiative, invited Guildford Street Angels, Fiona, Sue and Dale and the Guildford Town Chaplain Noelle to the opening ceremony where councillor Maddy Redpath cut the ribbon. A cheque for £250 was generously given to GTCC for our charitable work.

Noelle commented afterwards 'At GTCC we are delighted that there is a new CO-OP store open at the top of Guildford High Street. I would like to say a big thank you for the £250 gift they gave to celebrate their opening and to support the valuable work of Guildford Street Angels. Partnerships with local businesses, individuals and Churches helps our charity and makes Guildford a special place. Thank you for being a part of that.'



First Impressions from Ben

With the impact of Coronavirus, Street Angels have adapted their times of operation. For the first time in its thirteen year history, while in tier 4 restrictions we stopped going out for a period of time. We stayed operational for as long as was safely possible, we have been on duty earlier in the evening and continued to be a helpful, calming, listening presence at this time of uncertainty. Our normal operations from the YMCA needed to stop to protect their residents and limit people coming in and out of the building. Our grateful thanks are given to St Mary's church on Quarry Street for coming to our rescue and opening their doors to us.

Ben Pitt, our new Street Angel Coordinator, gives his first report from the front line!

"On starting with Street Angels in December I was able to go out with two teams before national lockdown. Guildford town was bustling. Restaurants were making the most of outside space, venues had adapted to the two meter rule and table service and there was a general feeling of well being. Some people were not great at social distancing. We tried to encourage them to be aware, along with the new Street Marshals and police. Normally, Street Angels are needed to assist individuals who might have partied a little too hard but with the earlier closing hours and no stand up venues we've seen less of that. Although it must be said that folk are still drinking heavily straight from work to try to

get a full night in rather than going home first. There were also numbers of people out on the street and down by the river who had not pre-booked venues so wandered around and were of higher concern. There was a significant rise in anti-social behaviour mainly among the younger groups of teens and we saw the need for our calming presence when tensions rise. For the period of the covid pandemic we have had a trained nurse on each team to help with careful PPE guidelines and to provide first aid at times where fights have broken out or injury and sickness. Earlier closing times has meant that there is still public transport running for people to get home and it seems to be easier to reunite those who have lost their friends. It was great to be part of a great team and know that Street Angels do make a difference. Can't wait for it to be safe to get back out into Guildford."

If you are interested in becoming or finding out more about Street Angels get in touch with Ben who is taking names now for training this autumn.

You can contact Ben by email streetangels@gtccc.org.uk or mobile 07717 876853

Community Angels Step Up to continuing rise in referrals



communityangels

Our wonderful Community Angels volunteers have worked hard to help us to respond to an unprecedented level of demand for befriending services over the past months. At a time of uncertainty for everyone, we've been so grateful for their faithfulness, flexibility and commitment.

Late summer and early autumn gave us the opportunity to get back to meeting some of our clients face-to-face, enjoying socially distanced walks and doorstep chats, and finding opportunities to offer support in the open air wherever possible. Renewed lockdown has brought a return to telephone befriending. These weekly chats help ease the loneliness, by offering a caring, non-judgemental ear, and providing some structure and motivation when the days are long and the weeks are empty. This latest lockdown is not an easy time for our clients, and we are all looking forward with hope to the time when we can resume weekly meetings, and support and empower those who have little contact with their local community to make new connections.

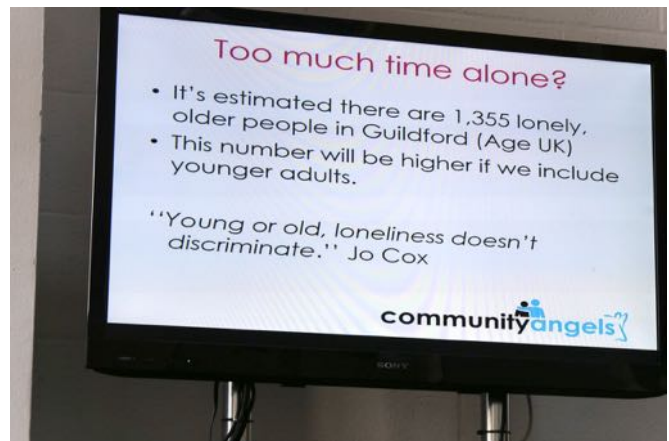
Susanna is a most welcome addition to the Community Angels team, and it's great to be able to work together on the rising numbers of referrals that we're receiving. We've also been delighted to welcome a number of new volunteers in 2020. Some joined us as telephone befrienders during the first lockdown, while their usual volunteering activities (Street Angels, Samaritans etc) were temporarily suspended, and have stayed on. In mid-November we held the first ever Community Angels online training session for face-to-face befrienders, who are now at work by phone and are ready to offer support in person when circumstances permit.

We're excited to be launching the first **Community Angels hub** in collaboration with St Saviour's church on February 7th. This will be an opportunity to link referrals living close to St Saviour's with Community Angels from within the St Saviour's congregation. We look forward to welcoming these new volunteers to Community Angels and to seeing relationships grow between the church and its neighbours. We hope to be able to establish others in the future in different places.

Our next training course will be on Saturday 27th February. We are always looking for more volunteers to help us reach out to those around us struggling with loneliness and social isolation, so if you would like to learn more about being a Community Angel, please do get in touch. 07925 799309 email communityangels@gtcc.org.uk

Anne Thornton

Community Angels Celebrated their 3rd birthday in January, unfortunately no parties were allowed but we shared a few photos on our social media pages marking the occasion Happy Birthday CA's!



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

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 around £90,000 in 2021 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/>

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

GTCC EVENT DIARY 2021

Friday 19 February 8.15pm Angel Quiz night on zoom for supporters

Saturday 27 February Community Angel Training day

Autumn Street Angel Training Sessions, tbc

Sunday 7 November 6.30pm

Commissioning Service at Millmead Baptist Church

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

www.gtcc.org.uk

Next issue of Hark is planned for Summer 2021

GTCC Registered Charity Number
1126056

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