


The Newsletter of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

Be An Angel 



COMMUNITY
CARE

COMPASSION

for people in our
town

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GTCC.org.uk



Back together at Commissioning Service

We were so pleased to be able to hold our annual commissioning service face to face and online this year at Millmead Baptist Church. 37 new Volunteer chaplain's, Community Angel's and Street Angels were commissioned.

Councillor Mrs Marsha Moseley, the Mayor of Guildford with her Consort Councillor Nigel Manning attended along with Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey, Lady Elizabeth Toulson, Guildford Neighbourhood Specialist Officer PC Victoria Detomaso, Surrey County Councillor Fiona Davidson, Councillor John Redpath, Pub Watch chair Jane Lyons, Independent Chair: NHS Guildford and Waverley Health and Care Alliance Dr Susan Tresman and various other distinguished guests.

Ruth Cheah, who is a Street Angel and Trustee, baked a celebratory cake to mark the occasion which was shared afterwards with hot drinks.

Lady Toulson presented a special award to the GTCC team in recognition of our contribution to the community during the pandemic, which you can read more about on page 2.



Surrey Police Commissioner & Deputy join Street Angel night out

GTCC was delighted to welcome Lisa Townsend, Surrey Police Commissioner and her deputy Ellie Vesey-Thompson out with us back in August. Both guests showed interest in what we did and how we serve the local community, whilst working alongside other agencies such as Surrey Police. We shared some of the challenges we face, such as when CCTV support is not available or where there is alleged drink spiking. Chaplain Noelle, who was on duty that evening said afterwards she looks forward to working together with Lisa and her team over the coming months.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups



GTCC receives award recognition for service during the pandemic

GTCC is proud to announce that the charity was presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Covid Award at their annual Commissioning Service in front of many supporters and volunteers held at Millmead Baptist Church.

The Lord Lieutenant, Michael More-Molyneux had suggested to his Deputies in Surrey that they should name 5 or 6 organisations who merited recognition, praise and gratitude for all they have done with courage and tenacity to continue to serve their cause. As a Patron of GTCC and Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey, Lady Lizzie Toulson (pictured right) said

"I had much pleasure in choosing and nominating the Street and Community Angels because it seemed to me that the volunteers have been outstanding in every way, throughout the severe restrictions and difficulties presented by the 'lock down' in particular and the pandemic more generally."

Revd Noelle Coe, Town Chaplain said

"What an incredible honour to receive this prestigious Award which recognises the contribution of our brilliant volunteers throughout the many



challenges presented by the pandemic. We look forward to continuing to serve and bless the vulnerable in our community with this wonderful encouragement!"



The Surrey Lieutenancy exists entirely to serve the people of Surrey in ways that value their volunteering contributions personally and within the charitable sector – in which so many are productively engaged for the benefit and welfare of so many. In essence, it celebrates and encourages volunteering, community service and the work of youth organisations. It can help with the promotion of an organisation and, in cases where it is needed, with media releases or speeches to raise profile and fund raising. It should be noted that, through the Lieutenancy, it is also possible to arrange a visit from the Royal Family to your charity – a substantial profile raiser. Assistance can also be given towards the nomination of an individual for a national honour. Furthermore, it is also feasible for an individual who has given outstanding service to be nominated for a Royal Garden Party in the summer months.



A huge thank you to Ecclesiastical Insurance and their 'Movement for Good' fund which donated £1000 to GTCC after volunteers and friends nominated us for it. During December the company is inviting further applications when it will give 120 charities £1k over 12 days so please nominate us by checking it out on our social media streams.

🎄🙌 Wishing all our GTCC Staff, Trustees, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends a Merry Christmas, with the hope of 'Peace on Earth and goodwill to all people'. And the desire and prayer that in the New Year 2022, we continue to bless the people of Guildford through our volunteering work and activities. 🙌🎄

New Leaflets arrive

During 2021 we worked closely with Guildford based marketing agency, Delivered Social, to produce three new leaflets to highlight GTCC, our Street Angel and Community Angel projects. Delivered Social were a delight to work with, especially as they offered most of their design work for free. The company also designed our Annual Review for the second year running, an electronic copy can be found on our website. We are so grateful for their generous and professional support which will help tell our story to current and future supporters. Jon Bird, Head Honcho at Delivered Social said

“Supporting GTCC has been a pleasure as part of our charitable work at Delivered Social. I'd encourage every business in Guildford to do their bit for this fantastic bunch.”

If you would like a bundle of the leaflets for display in your church, community centre or GP surgery etc, please contact the office who will be delighted to send you some copies. Electronic copies are available on our website.



**DELIVERED
SOCIAL**

CHAPLAINCY in a GP surgery

It's a huge privilege to be part of a new venture! Since February 2021, I have been volunteering at Binscombe Medical Centre as their Chaplain. It's the most wonderful role that brings so many opportunities to connect with people from all walks of life and to simply be there to LISTEN.

The setting is unique in that it is very much a joint partnership between the GTCC and the Surgery. The practice's holistic approach seeks to provide care for patients in the widest sense, recognising that emotional and spiritual wellbeing play a vital role in physical and psychological (ill)-health.

The GPs refer patients who they feel might benefit from some time to talk, in confidence, about any worry or concern they may have. For some patients a one-off visit might be just what they need; others may come for several visits.

COVID and lockdown have caused or increased peoples' anxiety and affected everyone in one way or other so stress, anxiety, depression and feelings of not being able to cope, are almost always prevalent.

Bereavement of some sort often emerges during conversation; not necessarily recent or close. So often, those who have had a difficult relationship with a loved one, find it especially hard to cope with.

Sometimes people want to talk about faith or 'religious' issues, especially where bereavement is a factor. I try to be very sensitive to peoples' beliefs and always feel that it's the good in every person that matters, whether you see that as God or not, it's the overarching and uniting thing that we can and must recognise in each other.

Likewise I try to be very sensitive about praying with people – sometimes simply saying I will pray for them during the week offers comfort; for others, deeper conversations and prayer together is a valuable part of their visit.

There is a huge need out there; every person is unique and precious to God and so many are really struggling with life and feel overwhelmed by their circumstances. Sometimes just 'listening' can be that Light in a very dark place.

Annie Cox - Volunteer Chaplain



We are currently extending our recruitment of Volunteer Chaplains in response to local need, please get in touch with Noelle to find out more



Out & About
with our
Volunteers,
Trustees &
Supporters

In October we
met revellers
celebrating
Oktoberfest.
Whilst most
enjoyed their
evening out, we
were called to
several semi
conscious
people around
Bridge Street.



We were
pleased to
welcome
Guildfords
Mayor and
Patron Lady
Lizzie Toulson
to our
commissioning
service in
November (see
full report on
page 2)



Guildford
Walkfest
supported
GTCC with a
fundraising
walk from
Guildford to
Farnham in
September
raising an
incredible
£6,300.





Christmas Reflections from our Chaplain Noelle 🎄



I recognise that this year has been a particularly tough one for so many of us and in so many ways. Who would have thought that we would be the people to live through a worldwide pandemic? In the midst of people's loss, fear, bereavement's, mental, spiritual and physical health challenges somehow, we have kept going as individuals and communities.

At GTCC we have been so thankful to everyone who has prayed for us, supported us financially and volunteered with us. I know some have needed to step back from the front line and I would like to share my appreciation for all you have done and hope you will continue to walk alongside us and keep in touch. We have been so grateful to welcome new volunteers to our teams but with growing demand we are increasingly finding it difficult to respond to known need, so do please get in touch to find out more about how you might be able to help in a range of volunteer roles, as an opportunity to support others. In the normal course of life there are many people we would not naturally come in contact with. To be a listening ear, a helpful, non-judgemental friend is sometimes all it takes to make a difference.

As we approach Christmas, May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wisemen, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours. Amen 🛎

Street Life

Retired Nurse, mum and grandmother Philippa Skinner was a volunteer Street Angel for over 5 years, here she reflects on her Angel journey.

'When I first heard about the work of the Street Angels my first thought was 'I could never do that'. At that time I was a full time carer for my terminally ill husband, so I wouldn't have been able to even if I had wanted to.

Fast forward 5 years. I was in church one Sunday morning and Rod Boreham the then GTCC chaplain was speaking to the congregation about the work the Street Angels were doing and the impact it was making. Something he said about an 80 year old granny being a comfort to young people in distress made an impression on me. After the service I found myself going up to Rod and volunteering.

The only things I remember about my taster night were how nice everyone was and how confident they seemed.

I enjoyed the training and reported for my first night as a fully fledged angel excited, but nervous.

Every night as an angel on the streets of Guildford brought something different. There were conversations with fascinating insights into the lives of young people. Some joyful but sadly some tragic stories were told. On one memorable occasion a young lad sang a hymn with me.

It was always a privilege to be asked to pray with people, but once a young lad asked if he could pray for us which he did, and that was a real blessing.

It was quite distressing to see so many rough sleepers, despite all the help there is, but some of them didn't seem to want the kind of help that is on offer.

Probably the most embarrassing incident was the night my own son needed our help. The less said about that the better! His mum didn't have to come far to take him home!

I shall miss being an angel, but sadly the limitations of age have caught up with me.

God bless all angels everywhere whatever title you have, and may your work continue.'

Philippa Skinner



Philippa is pictured second left whilst out with one of our Street Angel teams

Reflections from Paul Blakey

Paul Blakey MBE, is the founder of the Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network, the umbrella organisation for around 130 local projects like ours, working predominantly within the night-time economy or at major events, such as music festivals across the UK and in America, Spain, Seychelles, Australia and Brazil



Facebook post from October 2021

"Tonight I did a talk in a local church around my brokenness as part of the journey I have found myself on. I have never shared so personally before yet this journey and connecting and supporting others has helped me see:

There is beauty in brokenness. Out of the brokenness of Jesus comes healing, restoration, forgiveness, hope, peace, purpose and a filling up so emptiness becomes fullness.

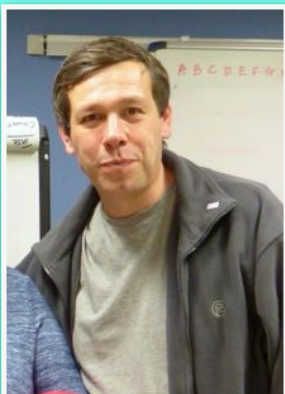
We need to meet people in the brokenness - walking some of their journey with them, helping people become the person God created them to be. This involves listening, identifying, sharing own experiences and sharing sensitively the broken Jesus who offers hope.

Let us be people of love and action. Within a few hours of posting on Facebook that I had tested positive for covid one neighbour came to the door with Sunday lunch and cooked beef for sandwiches the days after. Another messaged to ask if I like lasagna and on replying yes said I will bring some round tomorrow - and she did enough for 4 meals! Others offered to shop. A friend came round with some bulbs to plant to ensure I got out in the garden. Let us be people who simply love and are kind to one another.

We need to view people with God's perspective - God created every single person who will ever be on this planet. He created them, he knit them together in their mother's wombs. Every single person you will ever meet is an amazing, beautiful, God created, miracle!

Within that we need to learn and help others to love themselves. Jesus said love others as you love yourself - broken, damaged and bruised people need to begin to see themselves as beautiful, amazing, God created miracles. It is hard! If you are broken it is easy to think of yourself as a failure because of the situation - loving yourself is a difficult concept to get hold of - yet Jesus said it was key. Let us help people to love themselves.

Finally if our nation is running on empty then we need to be seekers and influencers bringing the wisdom and kingdom of God into every place and situation we can. Into the empty places and empty people declare and work towards a filling of up of God and his Kingdom."



Picture shows Paul visiting GTCC in 2015

Hello, your charity helped me last night and I just wanted to apologise and say thank you. My girlfriend and her friend said you were amazing to me, taking care of me when I got sick, giving me a blanket and carrying me though town. The fact that they said that about you probably means you were even better than amazing.

A fantastic bunch of people doing amazing things... (FB comment)

Recent Social media comments

Responding to Spiking and Injecting concerns in Guildford

Ben Pitt, Street Angel co-ordinator shares about how organisations in Guildford are responding to the rising concerns. In late October organisations that included venue managers, Surrey Police, The Council, Experience Guildford, Pubwatch, and more, came together to share how they are tackling the increase in spiking incidents and concerns. It also gave the students at Surrey Uni an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

Here are the key points that were made which will be important information for us to know when we are out on the streets:

- Threatened student boycott of Guildford Night-time economy if spiking not taken seriously
- 95% of spiking is drink on drink, not drugs added or injected by needles
- WAVE Welfare and Vulnerability engagement being flagged up with venue staff
- Ask for Angela campaign awareness increased - posters on toilet doors.
- Anyone who thinks they have been spiked should tell staff straight away and look at CCTV which is in venues. If it is not taken seriously then they should ask for manager.
- If spiked should go to A&E so that they can test for substances. (The University is looking into being able to test for substances in house so that it relieves pressure on A&E)
- Venues are looking at introducing drink covers, they will also throw away unattended drinks. they

would encourage people to finish a drink before going to toilets and buying a new one on return. If a friend is buying drinks, go with them so that you can receive yours straight from the bar staff some venues now have undercover staff and security in place

If one thing was clear from the meeting it is that the Guildford organisations are taking this matter very seriously and doing what they can to tackle this issue. From our relationship with the Police we know they are investigating as much as they can.

If you'd like to talk to someone further about this please contact Ben directly.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Since the last edition of HARK in the summer our main fundraising event has been our fabulous sponsored walk, kindly organised by Guildford Walkfest. The walk from Guildford to Farnham generated much interest from within the Chaplaincy with some 30 people joining the walk, collectively raising a tremendous £6300 for the work of our Street & Community Angels projects. We were honoured to have the company of our two Patrons, Michael More-Molyneux (Lord Lieutenant of Surrey) and Lady Lizzie Toulson and we were delighted to be joined by several dogs and a baby – a great day in the sunshine was had by all. We are so very grateful to our friends at the Surrey Hills Society who chose us to be their Charity of the Year for a second time. Many thanks to all those who took part, sponsored us, and cheered us on our way at the Watts Gallery coffee stop.



In August, Katherine Dienes Williams (pictured left), the Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral, raised a fantastic £207 at a spectacular lunchtime organ recital at High Cross Church in Camberley – this was a belated celebration of her special birthday that took place during lockdown – Happy Belated Birthday Katherine from all at GTCC and thank you for your support.

In the autumn, many GTCC supporters nominated us as part of a competition organised by Ecclesiastical Insurance, and we were thrilled to win £1000 for the second time. Many thanks to those who supported us, it made a huge difference having so many nominations – do follow us on social media so you don't miss similar initiatives.

We were grateful to receive a further generous grant from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioners for our Community Angel project, recognising the difference our work makes to the lonely and isolated. Other autumn gifts, including those from Guildford Cathedral as our Mission Partner, a grant from Burpham Church for new publicity material, and a contribution from the University

of Surrey for our Street Angel work, have made a significant impact on our income this year, with grant/fundraising income totalling over £20,000. Regular gifts from our many supporting churches and faithful individuals continue to provide most of our income, for which we are so very grateful.

Looking ahead to 2022 we are making plans for a GTCC quiz night on Friday 18 March, so start swotting up and recruiting your teams. We are also looking forward to news from our Street Angel Peter Samuel who has been busy this year being Captain of Hankley Common Golf Club; Peter chose GTCC to be his Charity of the Year, the outcome of his very varied fundraising efforts will be announced in January after he steps down!

If readers wish to fundraise for GTCC, or have access to appropriate funding, please contact Louise Kenyon, our Fundraising Trustee, via the office, who would be delighted to hear from you.

Community Catch-Up

Community Angels are being kept busy with continuing high levels of demand for befriending as the year draws to a close. We have been delighted to see more of our volunteers over the past months, following the introduction of 'volunteer drop-ins' on the first Wednesday of each month. These are a fantastic opportunity



for our Community Angels to get to know one another, and for us to get to know them better and have useful chats and catch-ups over coffee!

Our November drop-in fell in National Volunteer Befriender week and the Open Grounds Café at Guildford Baptist Church treated us to cake in celebration of all that our volunteers do. We asked some of our volunteers to reflect on their experiences as Community Angels:

'I have gained so much from my befriending. The people I have met are lovely and have taught me so much.'

Providing support to help them is a real privilege and so enjoyable. This is, undoubtedly, one of the best things I have done since I retired.' Martyn

'I have got so much out of volunteering as a Community Angel. I have been given the privilege of listening to her stories and experience of her life. She gave me as much as I gave her' Anita

'Volunteering as a Community Angel has given me a huge sense of worth and really opened my eyes, as well as hopefully improving my ability to empathise and see the world from a very different perspective' Nicky

'I love meeting new people and learning from new experiences. I'm aware that many people are lonely or shy, and if as a Community Angel, I can be helpful in giving them the confidence to take up some fresh opportunities, then that's a really worthwhile venture to be involved in.' Jenny



'For me, the most rewarding element of being a Community Angel, is seeing people make changes to their lives that have a positive and lasting difference. I have really enjoyed getting to know all my clients and the feeling that you're helping is really special.' Julie

This autumn we have trained 5 new volunteers. If you or anyone you know would like to find out more about becoming a Community Angel, please do give us a call. Many of our clients are in Guildford itself, but we find it a particular challenge to match people at the edges of the borough, and would

love to hear from people in Send, Ripley, Ash or Ash Vale who would be interested in volunteering with us. Our next introductory training course will be in February. In the meantime we are planning a listening skills workshop for our volunteers early in the new year. Watch this space...

As always we are hugely grateful to all our volunteers for their commitment, enthusiasm and empathy. Warm wishes from Anne and Susanna.

Street Angels Blessed with generous support and continue to make a difference to Guildford

New Volunteers:

This autumn we, in partnership with Woking Street Angels, have trained and commissioned our first new batch of volunteers since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. I am very excited to see these Angels take to the streets as they each bring their unique gifts to the work of GTCC and have stepped forward at just the right time as Guildford Town centre begins to look more and more busy as the weeks progress and the need for Angels is as crucial as ever. That being said, we are still very much in need of more volunteer Street Angels...so spread the word!

Purple Flag:

Street Angel Co-ordinator, Ben Pitt, was able to join our partners in Guildford for the Purple Flag virtual inspection and just as before, when Guildford was initially accredited the Purple Flag award, Street Angels are clearly still just as valuable to the Guildford night time economy. The decision is coming in January and hopes are high for Guildford to retain its Purple Flag accreditation. The assessors had a number of questions about the work of the Street Angels and were clearly very impressed with our impact.



University Support:

The University of Surrey has further cemented their support of the work of Guildford's Street Angels as they announced a further three-year commitment to offer a financial boost to the local charity, to extend the current three year package of support. The most recent £1000 donation from the University of Surrey will help towards covering the cost of providing the volunteer led night-time patrols.

Co-ordinator Ben thanked the University for their support saying:

"Following lockdown, tensions can feel higher at times and our calming presence continues to make a difference to the atmosphere in the town centre. Many of the people that we help are students, many of them are away from home for the first time, so we are pleased to be working collaboratively with the University to help care for them if they get into difficulty and keep them safe. We are enormously grateful for the University's on-going support."

Ross Kelway, Public Engagement Manager at the University of Surrey, added:

"Working alongside our own Street Marshals in local roads, the Street Angels team provide a really important safety and wellbeing facility to our students and others in the town centre at night. We're really pleased to continue our partnership, working together to make Guildford a safer and friendlier place for our students to spend their evenings out."

Equipment Donations:

This autumn we received a very generous donation in the form of 10 brand new first aid kits totalling over £200! We are so grateful to **the Safer Guildford Partnership** for their generosity here as we were certainly in need of some new kits in our backpacks! Similarly we were given a fresh batch of dustpans and brushes from **Guildford Borough Council** to help us as we continue to sweep up the broken glass, protecting any bare feet late at night! We are grateful to all our partners for their ongoing support



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 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 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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), 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 2021-22

Christmas Tree Festival, United Reformed Church Portsmouth Road, through December. Check website <https://gtcc.org.uk/whats-happening-2019a/> for opening times.

Tuesday 1 March 2022 Pancake Races, Guildford High Street

Friday 18 March GTCC Fundraising Quiz

Training & Development Days to be confirmed in 2022

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 Summer 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