



HARK!

THE NEWSLETTER OF GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAINCY



Agile Angels soar to fundraising success

In the sixteen years Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy has been running our volunteers have come into contact with around 75,000 people. To celebrate this amazing number and also raise funds for our three projects to continue, chief fundraiser Louise Kenyon challenged us to climb 75,000 steps and where better to do so than with our friends at Guildford Cathedral. So on May 11th staff, volunteers and members of the public along with civic dignitaries and our amazing supporters began the 'Angel Ascent' challenge. It would take 150 climbs of the bell tower to achieve our goal with 249 steps on the way up and the same descending. We were blessed to have 42 climbers, including the new Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Sallie Barker.

The original challenge was to raise £5,000 but our amazing fundraisers reached that milestone ten days before our climb day and in the end, after the incredible generosity of our friends, supporters and Angels, we raised £10,500, after expenses were paid.

How can I contribute to the Angel Ascent fundraiser effort? Just visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/gtcc-angelascent> and click the donate button which will remain open until mid August. Thank you to all our generous donors and fundraisers.

See page 9 for more photos



volunteerchaplains

CHAPLAINCY TOOLBOX OPENED AT FREE TRAINING EVENT MARCH 2024

GTCC hosted a training event in March with our Volunteer Chaplains project. Eighty Chaplains and Angels attended, some travelling from Hampshire, Susses and even Essex to be with us!

The morning conference brought together both experienced and fledgling chaplains, giving us opportunities to network, share experiences and learn together in a welcoming environment.

The Reverend Canon Paul Morris led the training, drawing on his experiences working as a director in a Christian association and subsequently as a Vicar in Derby, where he led a movement of voluntary workplace chaplaincy. Paul was able to give us very practical ideas about how to approach the Chaplaincy role and underpinned it with the Bible based principles on which it is founded.

Two of GTCC's home grown chaplains shared with the delegates how they worked in different frontline services and were able to support and build up positive relationships with employees or patients through their regular visits.

We were also grateful to receive support on the day from our patron HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux. Thanks to St Saviour's Church team for supporting us and to Cilla and team for feeding us so well.

A recording of the event was made on the day and the highlights have now been edited and are available on our GTCC Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEshln-tMDY&t=4738s>

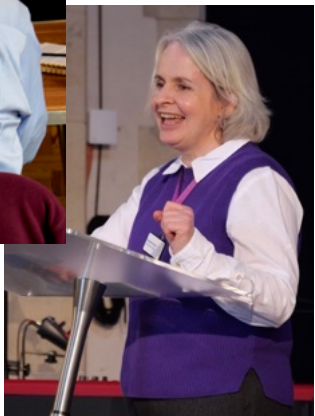
Susanna Hoar our Volunteer Chaplains Coordinator told Hark:

"We had a fantastic morning, with more than 80 people registered, all either already working as chaplains, interested or supporting others in chaplaincy.

Paul shared his experience of growing chaplaincy in different workplace sectors from 12 to 150 chaplains (80% lay) across towns in Derbyshire. He encouraged, inspired and challenged us to step outside our comfort zones and be creative in how we see chaplaincy;"

'Churches tend to retreat into becoming gated suburban spaces dedicated to the wellbeing of their 'members' and inviting others to be 'converted' into dwelling in such a safe place. The true task of the church is to go out into the mix and messiness of the market, acting out a transformative difference'.

Alastair Redfern, former Bishop of Derby



After four years of absence from the cobblestones of Guildford High Street pancake flippers of all ages and abilities took part in the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake races. Plenty of costumes were on show at Tuesday's (February 13) event, in which teams of four battled it out for top spot in a number of races. Spectators lined the pavement outside the Guildhall Clock to watch the action unfold. Kicking off the event were the children's races, full of enthusiasm and determination. After that, it was the turn of the adults, where a range of teams represented their companies, charities and groups.

The event was organised by the Guildford Charlotteville Jubilee Trust. GTCC is grateful that we were chosen as the recipient of entry fees and sale of pancakes as well as a street collection during the event. An amazing £800 was raised at this event which was topped up to £1000 by local business, Delivered Social. The money raised which will be put to good use in our voluntary community projects.

The Chaplaincy provided 'Tossing Marshalls' for the 100m race course, checking that competitors complied with the strict tossing rules! Many pancakes did not make the finish line so our marshalls picked up the broken remnants to avoid other runners slipping over in the already damp conditions. Other volunteers collected money, provided first aid and race administration. Local broadcaster and panto legend Peter Gordon provided race commentary from the Guildhall balcony. Former Guildford MP, Anne Milton and Guilfest's Tony Scott, Surrey County Councillor, and Fiona Davidson were very efficient pancake makers and tossers and the local Waitrose kindly provided two hundred pancakes, free of charge, for the races.

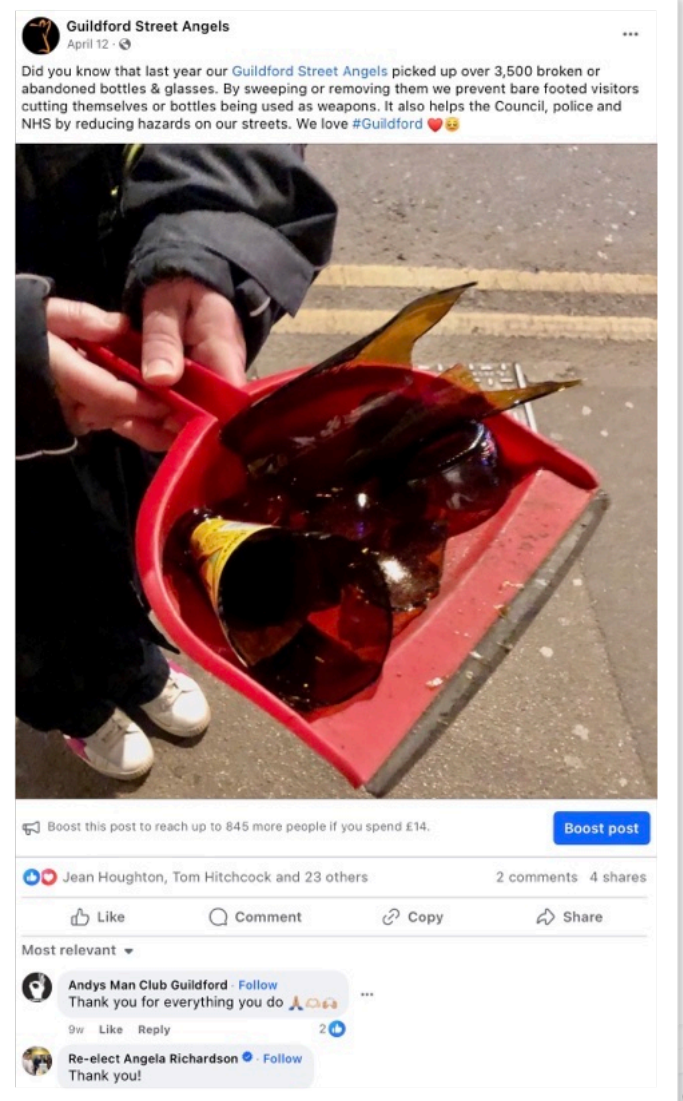
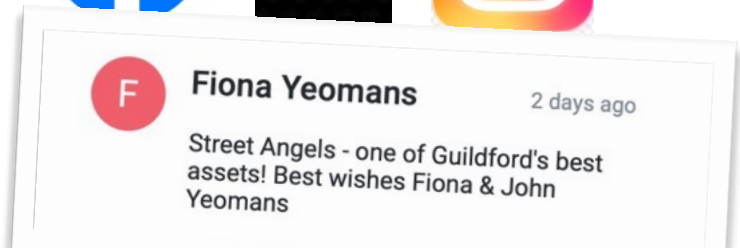
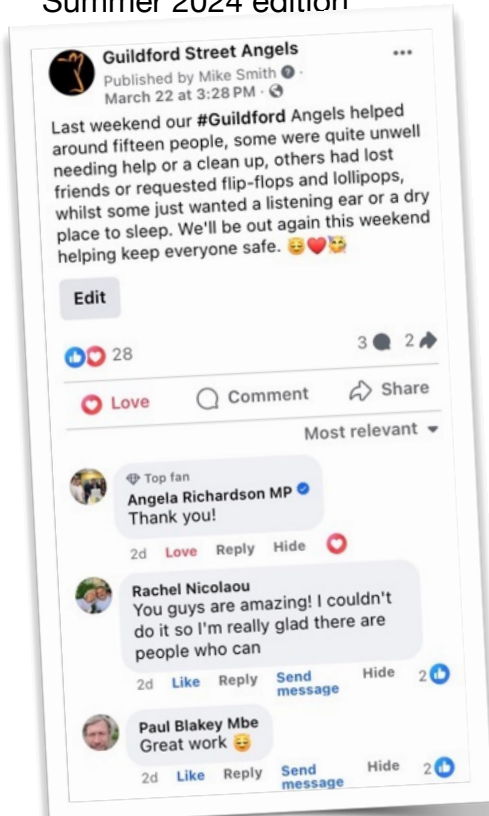
A team of fully winged Angels also entered one of the races but sadly only managed fourth position in their race, so will be working hard to improve tactics for the 2025 race! The last race featured five local mascots such as Surrey University's Steve the Stag, but the race was won by Kelly's Storage mascot.

It was an amazing morning and despite the weather hundreds of people joined in the fun and helped make it such a worthwhile event. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, supporters, local businesses, Guildford Borough Council, Experience Guildford and charities for assisting in making it happen after so many years.

You can see many more pictures on our Street Angel Facebook page @AngelsGFD

Angels Take a Battering!





Social Media Messages

I just wanted to drop you a message to thank you for looking after my son last night! I can't express my gratitude enough, what a wonderful job you all did, who knows what would have happened to him had it not been for the care from you and your team!! He is now ok, not much recollection of the evening but we have managed to retrieve his coat complete with all his belongings from the "five and lime" pub, how very lucky he was all round last night!!! Thank you again and please pass my thanks to your colleagues!! A.

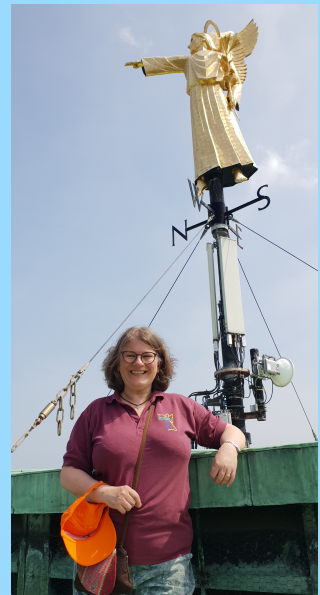
We can't thank you enough for your help, god only knows what would've happened to him if you and your team weren't there. Thank you again, H.



Angels Transforming Our Community

Community Angels continues to be busy, with referrals coming regularly from new sources as word of our service spreads through the borough. Our fantastic volunteers offer befriending to adults of all ages who struggle with loneliness and social isolation. It can make so much difference, not just to our client, but to those around them, when someone gives their time and a listening ear, as this quote from a recent client shows:

"I am in a much better place now that I am coming to the end of my support with a [Community Angels] volunteer. At the beginning of this year I was at my wits end and it is amazing for me to look back and see how much happier I am now. You have matched me with someone with whom I could connect. She has a lovely nature and is very wise with great energy. It has really helped that we have so much in common and we are on the same wavelength. She has just been so understanding and really listened to what I have to say. I have found that really settling. While physically things have not changed for me, she has helped me see things differently and breaks things down into smaller steps so things feel more manageable. Because I have been able to offload with my problems, it has given me the space to be able to give back and give time to my neighbours. Because I have been listened to, I feel I can now listen to them."



If you have time to offer, we'd love to hear from you. We still have more referrals than we can support. We take care to make matches which will work for both client and volunteer and will support you throughout your time volunteering with us.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their time and compassion and wish you all a very happy summer.
Anne Thornton, Community Angels coordinator



"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

People deserve care and love in their time of need. No matter what weather conditions or circumstances our Street Angels are always there to help, provide support and guidance, and strive to make a difference! We look for opportunities to help others feel secure, valued, and listened to; a place where they can begin to find themselves and a sense of purpose.

We spend the majority of our evenings looking after those enjoying a night out. Unfortunately, there are times when we are called upon to assist individuals in distress or with mental health concerns.

We are so proud of our volunteers, and one example, provided by volunteer Sue, shows the dedication and support that impacted on one individual's life. Hopefully, he will receive the support he needs and we wish him all the best for the journey ahead:

"The one incident of the night was very time consuming and distressing, L was found slumped in a corner under Wetherspoons arches. He was drunk and distressed, trying to contact his girlfriend in a club. He freely admitted to having had a cocaine habit in the past and also suffered from ADHD. Street Angels were able to keep him upright and helped answering his phone and made text messages on his behalf. The club staff were eventually able to retrieve his girlfriend and brother, so they were emotionally reunited. By this time L was considerably more agitated and hyper-ventilating. Street Angels were able to move him to different location, where we all waited for his parents to arrive. It was a very difficult situation to manage as L was not happy to sit quietly and had to be physically held to stop him hurting himself or others. He continued to be very distressed and inconsolable. Finally the parents came and were able to take everyone home. We were emotionally and physically exhausted but delighted to be returning to base."

Success on these nights is not only measured by the tangible assistance provided but also by the sense of reassurance and community spirit it instils. The Street Angels' commitment to creating a safer and more supportive environment in Guildford is epitomized by the incredible efforts of our dedicated volunteers. If you, or someone you know might be interested in finding out more about what is involved please get in touch, I'd love to hear from you - we are always looking for new members to join our fabulous team!

Angela Gammage, Street Angel co-ordinator

Christmas Tree Festival brings generous gift

GTCC are extremely grateful to Guildford United Reformed Church (URC) in Portsmouth Road, Guildford, who, once again made us a beneficiary of their annual December Christmas Tree Festival.

We were both delighted and surprised to receive an amazing £1,130 towards our ongoing work. Many thanks to all at the URC and those who gave generously during the festival.



Castle Grounds Blooming Picnic in the Park & Plant Sale



On the 1st June a host of Angels and GTCC staff were invited to join the 'Blooming Picnic' in the Castle Grounds run by Guildford in Bloom & sponsored by Guildford Fringe Festival, Experience

Guildford alongside several commercial sponsors. The event featured local choirs and singers and special stalls featured local voluntary groups as well as some commercial ones.

Our volunteers grew tomatoes, salvias, geraniums, petunias, succulents and many other plants to help raise money for the charities attending. Around £75 was raised at this event which also generated good conversations and networking opportunities.

Our stall was visited by local 'celebrities' including our new mayor Councillor Sallie Barker MBE and our former MP, Angela Richardson. Thanks to the many supporters and members of the general public who kindly donated by purchasing the plants we had nurtured for this special event, and thank you sponsors and Experience Guildford for the kind invitation to participate.



Tasty Treats tempt Angels!

A big thank you to Gary and the managers and staff of our local McDonalds, 13 Friary Street, who have generously given our volunteers sustenance to help them get through many busy nights, since 2021. We very much appreciate this kind gesture, in fact 'We're lovin' it!'

Bless you



A 'Board' doesn't need to be Boring!

When I tell friends I am on the Board of the GTCC charity, and moreover in the position of Chair, they might be forgiven for thinking that sounds rather dull! But nothing could be further from the truth. We are blessed with having a lovely group of ten people who give up their time and commitment as Charity Trustees to making sure the Chaplaincy and all its projects runs smoothly and effectively – and at the same time enjoy the sense of camaraderie and fulfilment of being part of an amazing team!

As well as attending around 4 formal meetings a year, you will find our Trustees at social and fundraising events, and we are just embarking also on an effort to raise our profile among local churches. It is my joy and privilege to lead the enterprise and of course support our fantastic staff team and encourage the volunteers!

We have a diverse spectrum of ages, gender, church background and skills represented on our Board, which is something we give careful thought to every time a vacancy arises. You can find out who we are by visiting the GTCC website <https://gtcc.org.uk/who-we-are/>



Within the Board we have some specific roles, such as Treasurer (responsible for our finances), Secretary (responsible for Legal and Policy issues), and Head of Fundraising (who chairs a subgroup responsible for Fundraising and Communications we call FRAC, which is also open to non-Trustees). Some who sit on the FRAC take particular interests, such as in social media or making grant applications. All this work goes on, behind the scenes, to ensure we not only are constantly refreshing our vision for serving the local community, but also communicate that effectively to everyone involved and the wider public. Being on the GTCC Board definitely does not need to be boring!

If you think you have a specific skill that could support the smooth running of GTCC, specifically running events, working on funding applications, making films, or help with general admin - to name but a few, please do get in touch for a chat. As GTCC grows, its needs are growing too!

Chris Britton BEM, GTCC Chair of Board of Trustees

Chaplain Noelle's blog

Wow – This has been an amazing year at GTCC as we celebrate our sixteenth anniversary. On looking through this summer addition of HARK you will see that it highlights just how many things we are involved with and the lives we touch. This is only possible with the commitment of our wonderful team of volunteers who give their time and talents so generously. Thank you so much.

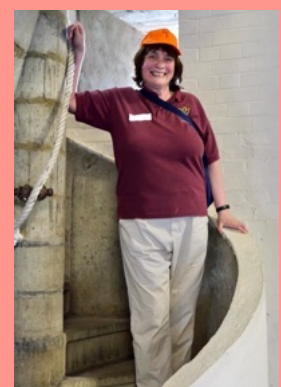
I recently received an encouraging note from someone I had spent precious time with, just listening to her. They said that being valued and in a safe space, had helped them move forward with their life and release them from a particular situation that had hung over them for many years. I can honestly say I did nothing, I was just 'there', and therefore give thanks to God for that time. This 'being there' can be seen across all our three projects. It's about caring, listening and valuing others. What a privilege.

We do need more volunteers. This is because our work is growing as more people reach out for support. As a Community Angel you give a couple of hours a week over six months for someone who is lonely and socially isolated. Chaplains, regularly go into a specific 'work' place for a few hours a week. Street Angels have a great night out once a month with other team members. This is all supported by our staff team. Are you interested in or know others who would love these opportunities? Please get in touch and have an informal chat.

For those who don't feel they have these particular skill sets, that's fine, this isn't for everyone. However, you may be able to help our work in different ways: share what we do with others, commit financially, help fundraise, give IT support. Please do get in touch: noelle.coe@gtcc.org.uk

In these challenging times, help GTCC make a difference and become part of our family.

Rev'd Noelle Coe.



Sunrise to sunset, busy Easter weekend for our volunteers

Our Angels were kept busy over the Easter weekend. The Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' which processes from the rotunda by the Friary centre up to Holy Trinity in the High Street, stopping at the Clock tower for prayers, readings and reflections along with Easter music, was led by Noelle Coe our Chaplain. The event is jointly run by churches in Guildford and surrounding villages. Amongst the readers were Will, a Street Angel and Anne our Community Angel coordinator. Around 300 people shared in this significant act of worship and many found it to be a moving event. The music was led by the local Salvation Army band.

Our usual Street Angel teams kept watch over the town on Easter Friday and Easter Saturday nights. Some of Angels even made it up to St Martha's where an Easter morning sunrise service was held. This was a particular challenge for some, as the clocks changed that day and the service began at 6am! Those who did make it were treated to tea, coffee and hot cross buns after the service which were greatly appreciated by the congregation.



Amazing Angel Ascent

A host of angelic volunteers from Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy, spent their Saturday morning ascending & descending the bell tower multiple times at Guildford Cathedral on 11 May to raise funds for their Street Angel, Community Angel and Volunteer Chaplains projects. The 42 Angels in the team celebrated Surrey Day by literally "reaching for the skies" by organising an imaginative fundraising event – the team ascended and descended the Cathedral tower to clock up a staggering collective total of 80,946 steps in just 3 hours, raising a superb £10,500 to help fund their work. This beat their target of 75,000 steps, a figure that represented the number of people that the Chaplaincy has helped over its lifetime since it was established in 2008.

Noelle Coe, Town Chaplain, said "I really want to sincerely thank the widespread support from far and wide, we are overwhelmed with the generosity of the whole community."

Noelle continued "We were so delighted to be joined by community leaders, including the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Sallie Barker (taking part as one of her first public duties since her election), Angela Richardson MP, Peter Rudkin from Guildford Philanthropy, Liam White VP Support from the University of Surrey Students Union, and many others, including staff, Trustees, and volunteers from the Charity. We had great fun, but multiple climbs of the 249 steps to the top of the tower (equivalent to 16 storeys) was quite a challenge to quite a few of us who are not as young as we used to be! The Ascenders, between the age of 11 and 74 years, were rewarded with the best view in Surrey from their vantage point, an experience normally reserved for the Cathedral's iconic golden angel and paying visitors to the tower. We are especially grateful to the Cathedral team for their warm hospitality"

Here are more photos from the day



'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'.

With those striking words from Romans 15:13, Chair of Trustees Chris Britton began the GTCC board meeting I attended in February, underlining that all three GTCC projects are about sharing hope with those who are lacking in hope.

And in my recent placement, as a second year ordinand for Church of England ministry in the Guildford Diocese, I've found that to be absolutely true.

Over a couple of months I heard from Noelle, Angela, Anne and Susanna of the gentle but hugely significant effect GTCC's Angels have on individuals and Guildford itself. I experienced that in action on a night out with the Street Angels, in apparently very ordinary but actually life-affirming, hope-filled encounters with all sorts of people, astonished that anyone would choose, unpaid, to be out in the middle of the night to watch over them: 'you really are Angels!'

And on GTCC's excellent Chaplaincy Day in March, with about 60 others I was inspired by Paul Morris's summing up that it all, 'communicates that we care, that there is a spiritual realm, and there is hope'.

I'm very grateful to have had a real insight into this amazing organisation that punches way above its weight, is hugely valued by the police and other agencies, and makes a significant and positive difference in the civic life of the town, in the nighttime economy, and in the individual lives of those fortunate to be a recipient of any of the three projects.

All are truly relational, being Jesus' hands, feet, ears and eyes, drawing alongside people at vulnerable points in their life as Jesus himself did. But in all cases there are no strings attached, no hidden agenda - it's simply about loving your neighbour, giving without expecting anything in return, bearing witness to people's stories, and trusting that God can use any of us as Angels of hope in the lives of those who need it.



Hannah Mayo, May 2024

volunteerchaplains



Volunteer Chaplains at 'Listening Well' gathering

Volunteer Chaplains were invited to Willow Grange by Bishop Andrew for one of his gatherings that take place once every two years in the grounds of Willow Grange. We enjoyed afternoon tea, a talk on 'Listening Well' and reflected together on the ways in which we can feel most refreshed. It was such an encouragement to be reminded of the following quote: "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable."

David Augsberger

Dates for the Diary



GTCC Monthly Prayer and coffee meeting. First Tuesday of the month 12noon – 12.45pm (not August). All volunteers, supporters and friends of the Chaplaincy are warmly welcome to join us on the first Tuesday of the month in prayer for the work of GTCC through its three projects. We meet at mid day in St Mary's Church, Quarry Street Guildford for around 45 minutes including coffee at the end. We'd love to have you join us if you can.

Save the date! Friday 4 October, Fundraising

Quiz 7 - 10.30pm. GTCC are once again are holding a quiz this autumn. It will be held at Christ Church, Waterden Road, Guildford, with the catering being done by our wonderful friends at Open Grounds cafe. Our quiz master will once again be the marvellous Michael Tame. The event will include a fundraising auction and raffle with all profits going to the work of the Chaplaincy. So book the date and think of who you might want to team up with! [Book here](https://ccg.churchsuite.com/events/ucburwfw) <https://ccg.churchsuite.com/events/ucburwfw>

Sunday 3 November, Commissioning service, Guildford Cathedral, 6 - 8pm We are grateful to Guildford Cathedral who are kindly hosting this year's Commissioning service. New Street and Community Angels will be commissioned alongside new Volunteer Chaplains. The event is open to all Volunteers, their families, our wonderful friends, supporters and anybody else who would like to find out more about what we do. We hope to see you there.

Angel Ambassadors - What do they do?

We asked Street Angel and Ambassador, Kathy Corking, what Ambassadors do and how the work we are doing is spreading.

"Noelle and I met with a few others and we talked about ways to raise the profile of SA (Street Angels) and recruit some more along with Community Angels and Chaplains. We thought about going to big stores like Tesco and Sainsbury. I then had a brain wave and said I would ask my boss at RSCH (Royal Surrey County Hospital). The Head of Nursing is very supportive of Street Angels, and knows I have done this for many years. She allowed us to have a stand in the hospital front entrance, 10.00 to 16.00.

Noelle and I set up a bit like the chuckle brothers! At one point Noelle nearly took out a ceiling tile! Several Street Angels joined us during the day which was fabulous. We had leaflets, photos, and our banners. We set up opposite Costa where staff come for a drink and visitors walk past on their way to appointments or for visiting.

A member of the public talked to us and has since contacted Angela/Noelle to apply for Street Angels. A member of my team showed interest in Community Angels and an HCA (Health care assistant) said she would be in touch regarding Street Angels. The Professional Director of Nursing and Cancer came to meet us and was really impressed with all three projects especially the Community Angels. She took some leaflets and said this service would be fabulous for some of her patients and relatives. We have thankfully been allowed to repeat the stand in November which is fabulous, so hopefully we will recruit some more volunteers.



Kathy Corking, volunteer

Angel Awards

We were also delighted in March to learn that our Angels received national recognition for our 'contribution to the town' at the 2024 National Best Bar None Guildford Best Bar None awards. This will be a wonderful addition to our ever expanding award portfolio!

Congratulations also to Street Angel Will, who achieved a level 3 award in emergency first aid training following completing a course run by Nucor training and First aid Awards Ltd.



Ways to donate to GTCC

It will cost over £120,000 in 2024 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/2021/06/GTCC-Trifold-Leaflet-2021-v.4-3.pdf>

Easy Fundraising

Easy Fundraising 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. The 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-autosugges>

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

GTCC Registered Company Number:
06639603

Annual Review available now



GTCC have published the latest Annual Review. You can read all about our finances and more by clicking here for a copy of our Annual Review 2023 <https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/GTCC-Annual-Review-2023-16.pdf>

if you would like a printed version we have a limited number available, please contact the office"