

HARK!

*Newsletter of Guildford
Town Centre Chaplaincy*

volunteerchaplains

streetAngels

gtcc
Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

communityangels



Celebrating the Mayor of Guildford's Award for Service to the Community 2025

We are pleased to announce that our Volunteer Chaplains have been awarded the Mayor's Award for Community Service for 2025 at the ceremony hosted by The County Club on 26th April.

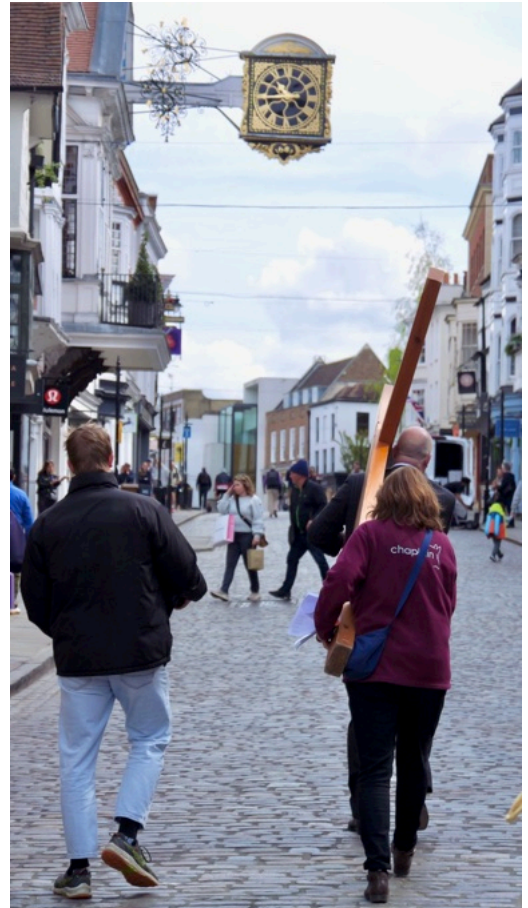
The Mayor of Guildford's Award for Service to the Community recognises individuals and organisations within the Guildford Borough who have made a significant positive impact on the lives of residents by going above and beyond in their service to the community. The award aims to celebrate and acknowledge the often unseen hard work and dedication of community volunteers and organisations.

Susanna Hoar, the project coordinator and Suzette Jones, a GP Chaplain, were there to collect the award.

Susanna shared *"It is a real honour to receive this award. Our volunteers do a fantastic job in providing a non-judgemental and safe listening presence in the various placements across the town, including GP surgeries, the police, G Live theatre, George Abbot School, the homeless, and the elderly. This award is a great endorsement for the project and recognition of the time, support and commitment our volunteers give to the people, visiting, living and working in our town."*

Angel Volunteers Lend Helping Hands During Packed Easter Weekend

Our amazing team was out in full force over Easter. On Good Friday, we participated in the Walk of Witness along the High Street, joining around 250 others in a moving act of faith and community (see page 6 for full story). Meanwhile, some of our Angels were up bright and early on Easter Sunday for the beautiful sunrise service at St Martha-on-the-Hill. Despite the busy schedule, we also managed to send out two evening patrols on both Friday and Saturday, ensuring our community stayed safe and supported. On Bank Holiday Monday more voluntary hours were clocked up as we ran a Tea and Cake stall fundraiser, back at St Martha's (see page 4 for full story). Huge thanks to everyone who gave their time and energy over this busy weekend!



**BBC
SURREY**

BBC Radio Surrey's James Cannon Breakfast Show 3 April 2024 featured GTCC Chaplain Rev Noelle Coe, talking about our work and giving examples of how Angels helped vulnerable individuals and helped prevent antisocial behaviour on a Friday and Saturday night in Guildford. You can listen to her interview on our media page <https://gtcc.org.uk/media/>



From the Chaplain

As you'll see from this action-packed newsletter, there's been a lot happening since Christmas! A big shout-out to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and Guildford Shakespeare Company for inviting some of us to their wonderful productions of Robin Hood and Pride and Prejudice—both were fantastic experiences.

It probably sounds like we have a lot of fun at GTCC—and the answer is yes, we do! But more than that, it's a huge privilege to work with so many different people and

organisations across Guildford. It's always a joy to make new friends and to walk alongside those who may be struggling for any number of reasons—or who simply need someone to listen. That might be on a night out in town, through one of our chaplaincies, or via our amazing Community Angels.

So here's a big **thank you** to everyone who gives their time, talents, prayers, and resources to ensure we can keep going for years to come. You really do make a difference.

Ambassador Angels Take Flight Across Guildford

You may have spotted our wonderful **Ambassador Angels** out and about recently, sharing the heart behind **GTCC's three projects**. Most recently, they were seen in the foyer of **The Royal Surrey Hospital**, chatting with anyone curious enough to stop by.

Many people paused to share how much they've appreciated our support—some just wanted to say thank you. Others confessed they'd never heard of us before but left genuinely interested in what we do. Several hospital staff even asked about how we could work more closely together, especially with our **Community Angels** initiative.

If you're part of a group in the **Guildford Borough**, we'd love to come and visit. Would your club, church, or community circle enjoy hearing about our work from one of our enthusiastic Angels? Just let us know—we're always happy to drop in and share our story.

And speaking of stories over a cuppa...

Very soon, we'll be inviting you to join us for a range of **coffee mornings and afternoon teas** across Guildford. These relaxed get-togethers are a chance to learn more about the work we do, meet others, and maybe even help raise a little money while we're at it.

Interested in hosting or helping out? Get in touch with the **Chaplain**—we'd love to have you involved.



Volunteer Chaplains

Annual Conference March 2025

We were delighted to welcome over 100 attendees from the wider chaplaincy community including GTCC's own Volunteer Chaplains to GTCC's annual conference held at St Saviour's Church, Guildford. The invitation was extended to all those exploring, supporting or involved in chaplaincy to come and be encouraged, inspired and connected.



Attendees joined from chaplaincies working in Winchester, Bracknell and Basingstoke, along with army and police chaplains from across Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex as well as those more local to Guildford.

We were privileged to have Helen Watts lead the morning and she shared her extensive experience gained during her current work as a Chaplain for Wellbeing in Primary Care, Birmingham, as a former church pastor and her travels around the world training others for pastoral and spiritual care ministry.

She gave everyone attending so much to think about: an encouragement to practise respectful curiosity; a reminder of the power of listening; and how chaplains are different in offering that safe space and that this difference is such a blessing to share with others.

Feedback was unanimously positive. Here are some of the comments:

'This was a truly inspiring event'

'Fantastic!'

'I really enjoyed the event and am fizzing with ideas'

'Thank you for organising such an encouraging and thought-provoking event'

If you would like to know more about Volunteer Chaplains, where they are currently working and where we need volunteers, please do get in touch with GTCC at susanna.hoar@gtcc.org.uk




volunteerchaplains 

Tasty Tea Tent triumph!

The forecast for Easter Bank holiday Monday in Guildford was for thunderstorms and gusty rain showers. Not really what the Chaplaincy wanted when they planned a fundraising Tea Tent event in the grounds of St Martha-on-the-Hill Church, with its spectacular views of the surrounding Surrey Hills. But with prayers and some very dedicated volunteers, we set up our gazebo and laid out a magnificent display of homemade cakes and sweet treats, along with teas, coffees and a selection of cold drinks. We wondered whether anybody would come given the poor forecast but we needn't have worried because even though we didn't plan to open until 10am, people were starting to queue by 9.40am. Indeed by 11am most of our popular carrot cake and flapjack had already disappeared.

As well as serving refreshments we took the opportunity to share with visitors what the Chaplaincy is about, with volunteers showing guests what Street Angels carry with them and might encounter on a weekend night. Volunteer Chaplains and Community Angels were also had information leaflets available. Visitors were encouraged to make a donation for their snacks and drinks and we were amazed at the generosity of some of the people we met, including the person who gave us £5 for a single lollipop! Encouragingly the weather, as we prayed, stayed dry and sometimes sunny for most of the day, with a few spots of rain at the very end of our day.



We were visited by several church groups out on Bank Holiday walks, using the church as their planned destination, to help support the work of the Chaplaincy and the parish of Chilworth and St Martha's. By the end of the day all the many cakes had gone and over 250 drinks had been served. We are so grateful to the many people who stopped and supported us, the volunteers who served through the day and the many others who baked cakes, provided support and assistance or helped in pulling this successful fund raiser together. We're pleased to say over £1,100 was raised. So now we know for sure that 'a cup of tea makes everything better'.

Mike Smith, event organiser.



Guildford Churches Unite for Good Friday Walk of Witness



On Good Friday, the churches of Guildford once again came together in a powerful expression of faith and unity during the annual Walk of Witness, organised by Rev Noelle Coe, the town's chaplain. This collaborative event brought together members from various congregations in a true spirit of community and shared purpose.

The Salvation Army led the music with their usual passion and skill, creating a deeply reflective atmosphere throughout the walk. Other local churches played vital roles, taking responsibility for stewarding, printing service sheets, delivering Bible readings, giving

reflections, and carrying the cross—each act contributing to the collective witness of the Christian faith.

Despite a forecast of rain, the weather held off until later in the day, allowing over 200 people to participate in the walk. The procession began at the Friary Centre and made its way up the High Street to Holy Trinity Church, drawing attention from passers-by and offering a moment of reflection to the wider community.

This year's Walk of Witness was described by many as deeply moving and spiritually uplifting—a special opportunity to publicly commemorate the significance of Good Friday and to stand together in faith.



FUNDRAISING

AUTUMN QUIZ NIGHT

SAT 11 OCT 25

6:30pm – 10pm

£15 per ticket

Meal included. Raffles. Prizes.
Bring your own non-alcoholic drinks



Why not sign up as a team?
guildfordbaptist.org/gtccquiz

Reg charity No 1126056 www.gtcc.org.uk

Guildford Street Angels bags £1,000 from Tesco's Stronger Starts scheme

Guildford Street Angels has received £1,000 to contribute towards the cost of essential equipment to support our volunteers who help keep people safe late at night in the town centre. Local Tesco stores provide customers with blue counters which they are invited to place in an in store receptacle indicating which charity they want the £500, £1,000 or £1,500 to go to.

GTCC received the second highest count and so recently gratefully received a cheque for £1,000 from Kellie Morgan, the main Guildford store Community champion.



The Chaplaincy, along with Guildford Street Angels, was founded in 2008 as a response to the high level of antisocial behaviour in the town late at night. Almost overnight, tensions were calmed, crime dropped, and antisocial behaviour was reduced by around a third.

The project is run by Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy, who continue to equip, train and nurture a team of some 50 brilliant volunteers provide compassionate care to anyone who finds themselves in difficulty. The teams provide a friendly patrol, every Friday and Saturday night, 10.30pm to 4am.

Angela Gammage, Street Angels Coordinator said:

"We are so grateful for this generous support from Tesco to help cover the costs of essential equipment. Grants like this enable us to come alongside young people in difficulty, helping them reconnect with friends, charge their phones, provide basic first aid, or a host of other simple solutions to help them get home safely and have a good night out."

Tesco's Stronger Starts – previously Tesco Bags of Help and Tesco Community Grants - has already provided over £115 million to more than 65,000 projects across Britain.

We are grateful for their partnership along with the recognition and support of Tesco customers this year.

Meet the New Faces in the GTCC Office! Welcome to Jules, Ann, and Pennie



We're delighted to introduce three incredible women who are now part of the GTCC office team! You may have seen some new faces around — and if you're wondering who they are, here's the inside scoop.

Each of these amazing ladies is generously volunteering **half a day each week** to support the vital work of GTCC. Their roles will help strengthen and expand our impact in meaningful ways:

Jules (top left) will take the lead on **grant applications**, ensuring we continue to grow and fund our mission effectively.



Ann (bottom picture) will provide essential **support to GP chaplains** and serve as a key **liaison with our partner surgeries**.

Pennie (picture to left) will bring her passion and insight to **Community Angels** as she comes with lots of ideas and skills.

We are so grateful for their time, talents, and dedication. Be sure to say hello when you see them around the office! Find out more about Ann below - and look out for Jules and Pennie next time.

Introducing Ann Hennell: new member of the office team

It is a privilege to be part of the development and growth of the GTCC GP Chaplains service. I spend half a day each week assisting Susanna, Volunteer Chaplains Coordinator. This service provides a valuable space in busy GP surgeries for people to talk to someone independently and confidentially. We would love to be able to provide a trained volunteer chaplain for every practice in the borough but we need more Christian volunteers. Experience in health or social care, counselling or coaching, provides the skills for volunteers to become chaplains. It is the comments below that reassure me this is such a valuable service for a hard pressed health service.



'I found it very helpful to be able to discuss sensitive issues with an independent person and being able to talk frankly and openly regarding family matters.'

...'she listens with courtesy and compassion allowing my own insights to come to light.'

'Our chaplain provides a listening ear and gives people time and space that our GPs can't always provide.'



Police Commissioner joins the team

Surrey's Police Commissioner, Lisa Townsend, has joined a team of Angels for the second time since being voted into her important position. We are grateful for her financial support and her willingness to experience first hand the way we help reduce town centre crime and support vulnerable people on weekend nights. The BBC News website reported the visit:

Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner has spent a night with a group of volunteers who help revellers get home safely.

Lisa Townsend joined the Guildford Street Angels on one of their regular 10:30-04:30 Saturday shifts. The group helps people find their way home and offers support to those who are vulnerable or homeless.

The group receives £5,000 from the commissioner's office each year. Ms Townsend said: "We've visited the train station, where we know trouble can happen during the evenings.

"We've spoken with door staff at a range of venues around the town and stopped to chat to young people enjoying their night out.

"Most people will know [the Angels] for the lollipops, as well as the flip-flops they give to those who have given up on uncomfortable shoes, but all who encounter the team will remember their kindness and care." 2

March 2025 [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrnvk0kjjzo?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrnvk0kjjzo?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ43s5leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETBLYkFLOW9GSzBIUWxlazBuAR6mnKm5BIU2OMyulITzC)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawJ43s5leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETBLYkFLOW9GSzBIUWxlazBuAR6mnKm5BIU2OMyulITzC](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrnvk0kjjzo?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ43s5leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETBLYkFLOW9GSzBIUWxlazBuAR6mnKm5BIU2OMyulITzC)





Street Angels Flip into Action at Guildford Pancake Race!

This March, our Street Angels traded in their usual night-time patrol gear for frying pans and pancakes as they joined the annual Guildford Town Pancake Race – and we're thrilled to share that we came 2nd in our race!

Held in the heart of the town centre, the event brought together local groups, businesses and charities in a fun-filled competition full of laughter, friendly rivalry, and, of course, plenty of flying pancakes. Street Angels were proud to support the event, not just by racing but by showing up as part of the wider Guildford community we love serving.

While we're more used to helping people stay safe on a night out than flipping pancakes at speed, our team put in a spirited performance – balancing pancakes, dodging competitors, and making it across the finish line with only a few minor pancake casualties!

A huge thank you to the organisers, The Spike, Charlotteville Jubilee Trust and everyone who cheered us on. Events like this are a wonderful reminder of the strength, humour, and heart of our community. And don't worry – we plan to be back next year, aiming for the top spot and fewer dropped pancakes!



communityangels

COMMUNITY ANGELS CELEBRATE AFTER RECEIVING £20,000 OF NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING

GTCC is celebrating after being awarded £20k in National Lottery funding to support the work of its well-respected Community Angels befriending project. Zoe Franklin MP was delighted to present a cheque to the GTCC team and chat to us about the project, making a great start to 2025.

Chris Britton, GTCC Chair, says, 'We're delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund has endorsed the value of our work with such a generous donation. We will be able to press on with greater confidence over the next two years to continue to walk alongside those facing a mix of very challenging issues, to help them make a positive step change to reconnect with others, and help rebuild broken lives.'

We are so proud that our Community Angels are making a much-needed impact and that this has been recognized by recently receiving both the Lieutenantcy Award for Excellence during the Pandemic and the Mayor of Guildford's Award for Service to the Community.'



The new funding is from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK. The funds will contribute to the on-going operating costs of delivering the project over the next two years, at time when demand is constantly rising.

Anne Thornton, Community Angels Coordinator, says, 'We are absolutely over the moon that we have been gifted this funding at a time of growing need for our services. We receive more referrals than we have the capacity to befriend and welcome enquiries from potential new volunteers to join our fabulous team of compassionate volunteers.'

Would you like to brighten someone's week?

A friendly chat; listening ear. A home visit, cafe outing or a walk in the park. Support, encouragement and something to look forward to. When life feels lonely, a couple of hours a week can make a difference.

Community Angels volunteers are helping to address loneliness in Guildford through weekly one-to-one befriending. We provide training to get you started, match you carefully with someone to befriend, and offer ongoing volunteer support. If you can spare a couple of hours a week for 6 months, we'd love to hear from you.



Summer Snapshots: The Chaplaincy in Action

What a summer it's been for the Chaplaincy team and our brilliant volunteers! From coffee mornings to community events, we've been busy making connections and spreading a little sunshine wherever we go.

Our very first coffee mornings at St Mary's and in a volunteer's home were a big hit—great chats, new friends, and plenty of cake (of course!).

Our Street Angels had a fantastic evening with Surrey Police officers—part social, part training—learning how to spot and respond to 'spiking' incidents while keeping everyone safe on nights out.



Meanwhile, our Angel Ambassadors were out and about at the G-Live jobs fair, cheering people on and offering a listening ear to those planning their next steps. And behind the scenes, our teams were hard at work supporting people across the summer. We're also thrilled to welcome **Rev James Hanson** (top left) as our newest Trustee! A former Angel himself, James knows the heart of the Chaplaincy and is ready to help guide us into the future.

✨ Keep your eyes peeled—next issue we'll be sharing even more stories from this action-packed season!



Fundraising Update

The three projects run by GTCC cost around £120k pa to operate safely. We are very grateful for regular gifts that we receive from local churches and individuals, although increasingly we are dependent upon financial support from grants and running fundraising events. Currently GTCC operates with a planned deficit. Readers will be delighted to know that GTCC projects have been recognised by a wide range of funders over recent months. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Our **Ambassador Angels** have been supported by Surrey County Council who have generously funded a new laptop, projector, PA system and branded gazebo for outreach and fundraising events.

Our **Community Angels** have been supported by Guildford Poyle Charities, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioners, and most recently by a tremendous grant from the National Lottery Fund to support this work in 2025-27.

Our **Street Angels** have also been supported by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Guildford Philanthropy, Charles Russell Speechlys and St Catherine's School. Meanwhile both the ASDA Foundation and Surrey County Council have funded much needed volunteer equipment, including uniforms to keep our volunteers warm and dry as they provide their friendly patrols.

Our **Volunteer Chaplains** were honoured to have been chosen to be one of the Mayor of Guildford's Charities of the Year and to be a beneficiary of the sparkling fundraising 'Mistletoe Ball' held in December 2024.

GTCC ran or participated in a number of successful **fundraising events** in 2024 including the Pancake Race, the sponsored Angel Ascent at Guildford Cathedral, our autumn Quiz night, and we had a plant stand at the Summer Picnic at the Castle grounds. These events collectively raised £14,600 thanks to the support and energy of so many people. GTCC is always grateful for extra help with running events: please get in touch if you think you can help in this important area.

Ways to donate to GTCC

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

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

Gift Aided Regular Giving

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>

Annual Review

GTCC publish an Annual Review. You can read all about our finances and more by clicking here for a copy of our 2024 Annual Review here: <https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/GTCC-Annual-Review-2024-5-1.pdf>

Life changing stories



Back in February, one of our team leaders, Mike Smith (left) was on duty when a young man came up to him and told the team, 'You (Street Angels) saved my life.' Slightly taken aback Mike asked him to tell us more and so he told us of how he had taken a cocktail of strong drugs, when he was aged 14, leaving him comatose outside the Friary. An Angel team had thankfully found him and somehow alerted his family and medical help which he believes saved his life. He expressed deep gratitude for being alive to thank those who had helped him that night.

Such stories are not unusual for our Angels. We heard from another young man recently that we had helped him when he was in a particularly anxious state and that we had stayed with him and helped him when he most needed the support.

Mental health issues quite often surface whilst we're out patrolling. We've seen several attempts at self harm, where our interventions have meant that less harm has been done because we have been in the right place at the right time.

Events coming up in 2025/26:



Tuesday 7th October **GTCC prayer meeting** 12 noon St Mary's Church, Quarry Street

Saturday 11th October **GTCC Fundraising Quiz** 6:30-10pm Guildford Baptist Church

Tuesday 14th October **Street Angels informal gathering.** Venue tbc

Monday 3rd November **Volunteer Chaplains team training** 6:30-9pm, URC Church, Portsmouth Road

Tuesday 4th November **GTCC prayer meeting** 12 noon St Mary's Church, Quarry Street

Wednesday 5th November **Community Angels drop-in** 1:30-3:30pm Open Grounds Cafe, Millmead

Sunday 16th November **GTCC Annual Commissioning Service** 3pm St Joseph's Church GU1 4AZ. All volunteers are urged to attend; family, friends and supporters warmly welcome.

Wednesday 14th January 2026 **Street Angels informal gathering with speaker.** Venue tbc