

GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAINCY



ANNUAL REPORT

2011

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy Annual Report 2011

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Dear Friends

Welcome to the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy Report for 2011! This past year has been a year in which we have learned again how God loves to bless us and to build his Kingdom among us, most especially as we work together. It always amazes me and delights me when Christians with different backgrounds, traditions and personal experience discover they truly are brothers and sisters as they venture for Christ together.



Highlights this year for me have been:

- The Commissioning Service at St Saviour's in October when the newly commissioned Street Angels brought our number to around 120, and gave us courage to begin also working on the streets on Monday nights – student night in Guildford.
- During the year we also started a “Safe Space” in the YMCA Plantation Café as a refuge for vulnerable people during the nights we are out as Street Angels.
- In that service we also commissioned the first 7 volunteer chaplains to work alongside Rod, our Town Centre Chaplain, in bringing a listening ear, compassion and the presence of Christ to different communities across our town – from the Community Centre, to the Friary, the large stores and the boutiques. We expect this gentle ministry of care to grow in the next year.
- Just straying into 2012, many of us will remember the uplifting “Vision & Vow” service at the new G-Live Centre, where a thousand people from across 40 plus churches in Guildford came together to affirm their common faith and commitment to work together for Christ in the town.

Looking ahead, the big new enterprise of 2012 will be the establishment of a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Counselling Centre, to be hosted by Westborough URC and headed up by Jane seals. This will be an independently funded and run initiative but will be closely associated with the Chaplaincy.

I am sure that we will all wish to thank and to encourage Rod Boreham our Chaplain, and Lin Haynes, our Street Angel Co-ordinator for representing us in so many contexts, for pioneering new ventures of witness and presence and for raising our eyes beyond our immediate contexts. Thank you Rod and Lin!

Many of you, individually or as churches, support the crucial work of the Chaplaincy. You will appreciate that keeping Rod and Lin at work, and maintaining these ministries across the town has its costs. The broad details of that are within these pages too. We need your help – and I would ask you seriously to consider, both as an individual or as a church becoming members of GTCC and supporting the work financially. We are looking to build a group of 200 supporters who will contribute £5 - £10 a month, or more, to really put the Chaplaincy on a sound footing. Details through our e-mail address!

Thank you so much for your support. We work together for God's Kingdom, and long to see it spring to life in our town.

Sincerely in Christ

ANDY WHEELER

CHAIR - GTCC

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THE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



Another year has flown by and so much has happened to encourage us in the work of the Chaplaincy. I am especially glad to have been able to train seven volunteer chaplains who are now working into various parts of the town including: the new Friary Centre; CAB; Guildford Action/Community Centre; Upper High Street; White Lion Walk, Phoenix Court and Friary Street and the YMCA. These seven volunteers have brought real commitment to the work of the Chaplaincy and are proving very adept at building relationships with people in their workplace, offering support, care and a listening ear.

I am hoping to increase numbers on the Chaplaincy team in 2012, and will be recruiting from Spring onwards. Anyone with a heart for pastoral type work in the community is welcome to apply.

As Town Centre Chaplain, I continue to work into Guildford Borough Council at their Millmead and Woking Road Depot sites, as well as being Chaplain to Guildford Police Station, and at the YMCA one day per week. I have also been able to help the CAP Debt Centre project move forward towards its opening in May 2012, and am chairing the group of churches planning for the Olympics, especially the Torch Run coming through Guildford. I also convene a monthly lunchtime meeting for church leaders to encourage support for one another and an increasing sense of working together as the Church in Guildford.

But none of this could have been achieved alone and I would like to thank so many people who have supported us throughout the year:

- Guildford churches for their continued support and encouragement
- Surrey Police for their partnership and warm acceptance of the role we play

- Guildford Borough Council for its ongoing support and the opportunity to share in various meetings about the overall work of the Chaplaincy
- Pubwatch for its generous gift of resources for Safe Space
- The YMCA for the use of its premises in Bridge Street for our teams and Plantation Cafe for our Safe Space
- The Town Centre Management Group for its support and welcome to its meetings
- Guildford Tourist Office and various pubs, clubs and other venues for being willing to advertise our wristbands and collect donations for our work
- All those who have contributed ink cartridges and toners to enable us to claim some money on recycling them

There are just so many people who have continued to encourage us in the work we are doing, and every gesture of support is very much appreciated. Thank you!

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STREET ANGELS REPORT

2011 proved to be an exciting year for Street Angels with a new Co-ordinator, another successful recruitment, an extension into Monday nights and the opening of a Safe Space, not to mention being invited to the Cathedral when royal visitors celebrated its 50th anniversary. We covered additional “special” nights such as A Level results night and this year, for the first time, we were invited to have a presence at Guilfest.



Becky Edmonds brought Street Angels through the snow into 2011 but then, in February, her husband took up a new job which meant they had to move away from Guildford. Her ability to connect so well with everyone out on the streets and her cheerful smile have helped Street Angels to go from strength to strength and we thank her for all she has done to build the Street Angels project into what it is today.

Lin Haynes had helped with Street Angels administration right from the start and twice covered Becky’s maternity leave, making her the ideal person to seamlessly take over as Co-ordinator.

Street Angels have continued to be on the streets of the town centre every Friday and Saturday between 10.00 pm and 4.00 am throughout the year. However, following another successful recruitment with 22 new Street Angels commissioned in October, we have, in addition, been able to field teams on 2 Monday nights each month. Monday is student night which makes for a night with a different feel about it. Of course not everyone out and about is a student but the majority are, making their way into town quite late in the evening. Initially the students didn’t understand the concept of Street Angels, wondering who we were, but it didn’t take long for them to recognise us and stop for a chat and a lolly.

Recruitment started again immediately after the October Commissioning Service when volunteers came forward asking to be included in this pastoral

work. 7 people completed their training and have since become fully fledged Street Angels.

At the beginning of December, we opened a Safe Space at the YMCA's Plantation Café, operating on Friday and Saturday nights. This is somewhere warm and safe where Street Angels can take particularly vulnerable people. The Safe Space is manned by 2 trained volunteers who are prepared to stay on after 4.00 am until the first trains leave the station if necessary.

It was very secretive at first. We received an invitation to meet with the Bishop's PA to discuss the visit of "2 significant VIPs" to the Cathedral in November. Eventually the cat was out of the bag and we learned it was to be the Queen and Prince Philip. Along with another dozen or so local charities, we were asked to provide a manned display stand by which the Prince would stop and briefly chat. We decided to have a human "display" along with the usual display boards and so it was that one of the Angels, Carol, dressed up as the sort of girl that we might meet on the streets in the small hours. The Prince was delighted to stop, being especially appreciative of our "live" display and he even accepted one of the "I support Street Angels" wristbands as a gift.

We currently have close on 100 Street Angels who choose to spend one night a month in all weathers showing God's love to those who are in town for a night out, the door staff, the emergency workers, the homeless and the lonely. We continue to hand out flip flops to those who are barefoot (around 1,000 to date), space blankets to those who are under-dressed, tissues and wipes to those who need mopping up as well as more than 25,000 lollies to boost low blood sugar levels and as a main "tool" in diffusing potentially aggressive situations. We continue to befriend the homeless, stand by the youngsters abandoned by their friends and to spend as long as it takes to chat with, and help shoulder the burdens of, all who seek a listening ear and an understanding word.

Of course we lose a few of our Street Angels as they move away or have changed circumstances but any Street Angel will say why they continue to volunteer – they want to help keep people safe in our town and to be there for whoever might need them.

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GTCC Finances

How our money was raised

In 2011 Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy received £47,463 in income from a variety of sources. Around 60% of this came in contributions from church congregations in and around Guildford. The remaining 40% was donated by individuals including through sponsored events such as the Cathedral Abseil by Rod Boreham, and individuals climbing Kilimanjaro, and in grants from a range of organisations and trusts. Our lack of a volunteer Fundraiser impacted our ability to raise money as we had done in the previous year, and this is reflected in the overspend figure of £19,833.

We are, however, very grateful to everyone who donated to support our work in 2011. Thank you!

How our money was spent

Our total expenditure in 2011 was £67,296 broken down as follows:

EXPENDITURE

Cost of organising street angels and expenses	25,373
Town Centre Chaplaincy	29,539
Office Costs	5,714
General costs including publicity and fundraising	6,670
Total	67,296
OVERSPEND IN YEAR	19,833

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How You Can Support GTCC

If you would like to support the work of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy, you can do so in a variety of ways. You can sign up for our newsletter and/or commit to pray for our work. You can make a cash donation either by post to the address at the end of this report - please let us know if you want us to claim Gift Aid. Or you can donate online at www.virginmoneygiving.com

It's Easy on eBay

You can now donate some or all of the proceeds of your eBay sales to Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. Selling things you no longer need is easy, simple and fun on eBay, and also a great way to ensure they go to good use with someone who wants them. And now when you sell on eBay, you can donate between 10% and 100% of the proceeds to Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. All you have to do is find us when you list items through eBay's sell for charity function. So why not give it a try? You can help GTCC and the environment at the same time.

Help Save Our Environment and Raise Money by Recycling!

We are currently raising funds for **Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy** by recycling old mobile phones, inkjet cartridges and laser/toner cartridges and your help would be greatly appreciated.

The Chaplaincy will receive **50%** of the recycling value for any mobile phones, **£1** for each original empty inkjet cartridge or up to **£5** per empty laser/toner cartridge donated kindly by your business/organisation, friends, family or colleagues. If you would like to donate these kind of items to us, please contact **Lin Haynes, Street Angels Coordinator – 07717 876853** or at lin.haynes@gtcc.org.uk

If you want to help promote our recycling campaign further why not forward this information to anyone you know. Thanks for taking the time to help us and the environment, your support is always appreciated.

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy in association with



Wristbands

Street Angel wristbands are now available in blue and yellow with the wording 'I Support Street Angels'. They are on sale for only £1 each. They are available at the Chaplaincy Offices in Tunsgate Square, or from the Tourist Information Office in the High Street. Alternatively you can contact **Lin Haynes, Street Angels Coordinator** – **07717 876853** or at lin.haynes@gtcc.org.uk and see how you might obtain one.

Please support your local Street Angels by purchasing one for yourself, or maybe more for your friends and family. Wear our wristband with pride!

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GTCC's People

We want to thank the very many people who have supported the work of Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy in prayer, time, skills and money. Without their passion, dedication and hard work we could not do what we do.

Staff



Linda Haynes is our **Street Angels Coordinator**, working 3 days per week to ensure the smooth operation of the Street Angel programme.



Rod Boreham is **Town Centre Chaplain**, including being Chaplain to Guildford YMCA one day per week.

Volunteers

Since the start of our Street Angel's programme in October 2008, one hundred and fifty volunteers have been trained and worked on the street as Street Angels. They are a diverse group of people from over 20 churches in and around Guildford ranging in age from 21 to 82. Without their love for people in our town centre on Friday, Saturday and Monday nights Street Angels could not have been the success it is.

Street Angels are not the only volunteers who enable GTCC to function effectively. Many, many others support our work with specialist skills including legal and finance skills, IT skills, photography, design and, importantly, participating in fundraising events.

Trustees

Our board of Trustees includes representatives from a range of churches in Guildford who give generously of their time and skills to oversee the work of the Charity. They are:

Revd Andrew Wheeler	St Saviour's, Chair of Trustees
Nigel Champion-Smith	Guildford Methodist Church
Geoff David	Holy Trinity and St Mary's
Brian France	Guildford URC, Secretary since November 2009 and Treasurer
Revd Colin Matthews	Burpham Parish Church
Fr Andrew Norman	St Nicolas'
Maria O'Shaughnessy	St Mary's Rydes Hill
Tim Wears	Guildford Baptist Church
Joy Ahearn	Guildford Community Church
Tim Lockwood	Eternity Church
Mike Gercke	St Saviour's Church

Contact details

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

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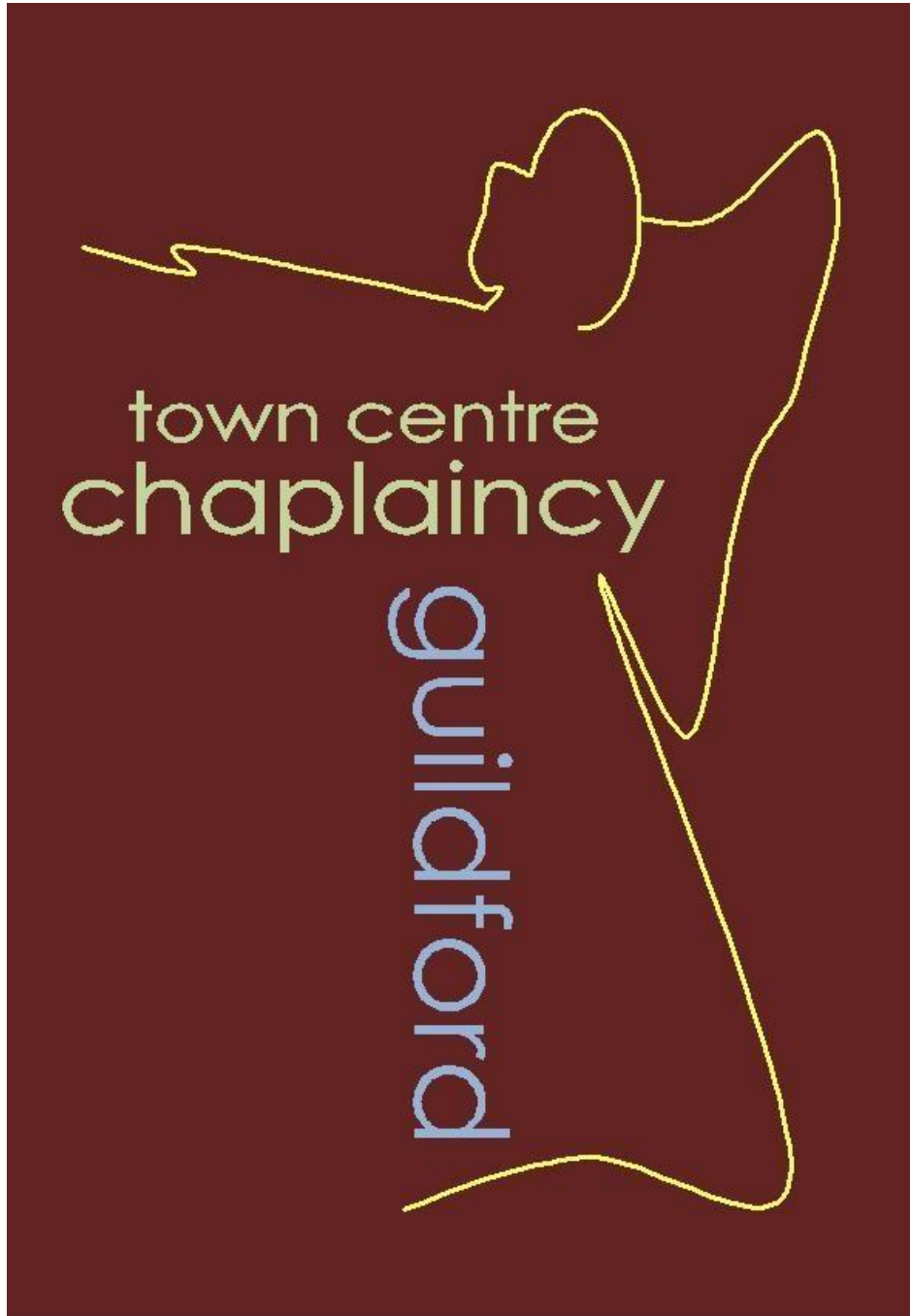
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