

LEEDS STREET ANGELS 2019 NEWSLETTER



Leeds Street Angels is a Christian project with an ethos of care, compassion and practical help for whoever may need it in the night – time economy. As we seek to show the love of Christ we help to make the city centre a safer place to be on a night out through our patrols on Friday nights and some Saturday nights. We welcome volunteers of any or no faith, for more information about volunteering with us please see the contact info on page three.

In 2019 our teams patrolled on Bank Holiday Sunday nights as well as Friday and Saturday nights, contributing over 700 volunteer hours during patrols and we've significantly helped more than 140 people. We've also helped more than 100 people with directions, flip flops, bottled water, by being a listening ear and safe people on the street. We've removed around 720 bottles or glass items from the streets, preventing these items being used as a weapon.

We took part in Operation Night Safe and #NightSafe2 alongside other organisations for a combined effort to reduce crime over two weekends, being available at the train station and throughout the night in the city centre. In 2019 our teams have received training in Vulnerability Awareness, Mental Health First Aid, First Aid and Domestic Violence Awareness.



“We were called via the radio to help a man who had been seen on CCTV to have fallen. When we arrived at the location we found the male with his friends. We spoke with him, he had a cut above his eye and felt dizzy. Our first aider cleaned the wound and we suggested we walk with him and a friend to A&E as he had sustained a head injury, which he was happy to do. We ensured he was checked in at reception before leaving. During the night we attended another male who was feeling unwell; waited with a female who was on her own for her taxi; helped a group visiting Leeds to find their minibus and checked on a number of different people falling asleep in doorways or on shop fronts, speaking with them and helping them to stay awake or plan how to get home.”

Message received: “I met two angels tonight just outside of the Mcdonald’s and they were absolutely lovely. They helped me find a woman’s brother whilst she was drunk. Please pass on my thanks to these two lovely women and they helped me remember that not everyone is a bad person... best wishes, you guys are doing a brilliant job”

Leeds Festival



Festival Angels had around 170 volunteers across the three teams of Prayer Cafe, Lost Property and Detached, (Detached teams walk around the festival site helping people, for example with putting up tents, directions, carrying luggage and helping them to stay safe and feel safe). On an incredibly hot bank holiday weekend Detached day-time teams spent time getting drinking water to festival goers who were queueing for hours to buy water. With night-time teams able to assist people to the welfare and medical tents and if this was too far for the individual to walk we utilized the Safe Hubs on campsites, staffed by the British Red Cross. On the last night of the festival one team helped reunite a daughter with her very anxious father as she had mistakenly gone to the day car park and was wandering alone in the dark with intermittent phone signal.

From a volunteer Leeds Street Angel

“Being with the Street Angels is something I thoroughly enjoy. There are a lot of memorable occasions that I have encountered over the seven years, but a more recent one was a girl I met sat by herself. She had become separated from her friends after a few drinks and said her boyfriend was at another pub at the other end of town and that he was on his way to collect her. It was near Christmas and I said “are you looking forward to Christmas?” The girl started to cry and said she wanted her mum. I thought that she meant she had passed away, but she had moved cities and told the girl she was moving on and was leaving her behind as she had no room for her. Sadly she had no further contact with her mum and she hoped one day she would return. The girl wanted nothing more for Christmas other than her mum. It brought to mind how we rush around and throw our heart, soul and money to make Christmas special, here was something money couldn't buy. I promised the girl I would pray for her and I would think of her on Christmas Day and hoped that her mum would one day have a change of heart. The girl thanked me and gave me a hug, there are some people who really touch your heart and that's where they stay.”



Patrol nights:

Our teams took part in the NightSafe multi-agency operation covering two weekends to increase public safety and raise awareness. During the night patrols our team assisted a number of people, including reuniting a distressed woman with her group; walking a couple to their hotel; responding to radio calls from the police to assist individuals to their transport and assisting a woman who was distressed and on her own to find her way back to the bar where her friends were.



Volunteer!

We're always looking for new volunteers to enable us to develop and expand the project. If you know someone who might be interested let them know about the Leeds Street Angels!

Website: www.leedsstreetangels.org.uk

Facebook: [Street Angels Leeds](https://www.facebook.com/StreetAngelsLeeds)

Twitter: [@LdsStreetAngels](https://twitter.com/LdsStreetAngels)

Message received: "I just want to thank you so much for Friday... I somehow ended up separated from my friend who I was meant to be staying with.... Lucky for me three of your street Angel's found me and I'm so so grateful. Because of them I managed to finally get back to the flat. Who knows where I would've ended up if they didn't find me. I've never been in a situation like that before and I can guarantee that I won't get into a situation like that again. Thank you, again. Such a good thing what you guys are doing. You have my full respect for volunteering..."



Safer Communities Fund Awards Evening



Funding, Support and Thanks

We **thank God** for all our supporters who have helped the project to continue over the past 12 months and into the next! Going into the new year our usual meeting space at Holy Trinity Church is out of action while refurbishment work takes place. We take this opportunity to say **thank you** to Holy Trinity Church for the support and space provided and we look forward to returning once the refurbishment is complete. **Thank you** to the British Transport Police and Trinity Leeds, LandSec for providing a space for us to run patrols from during this period. And **thank you** to Leeds Church Institute for the provision of storage space for our supplies. This has been a huge help in enabling our patrols to continue to run smoothly. **Thank you** to the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, Safer Communities Fund and the West Yorkshire Police for funding grants for the project.

Thank you to Business Against Crime in Leeds, (BACIL) for ongoing funding support.

Thank you to the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary team and everyone who has prayed for the project.

And **thank you** to West Yorkshire Police; the Evening Ambassadors; door security staff, and partner organisations who have supported the Leeds Street Angels in 2019 and our Leeds Street Angels volunteers during late night patrols.

Thank you to all our volunteers who give up their time to stay up late and make our patrols happen.