



Staines Street Angels

NEWSLETTER

July 2010

THE MAKING OF AN ANGEL

A drug session followed by violence – street angels got to grips with both in their training and all actively encouraged by Surrey Police! Amazingly informative sessions mingled with lots of fun and the result was a group of volunteers who are professionally prepared for their first outing on the streets on Friday 6th August. Street Angels seem for the most part to be pretty regular people. You wouldn't normally find them handling cannabis or fronting up to a police office with a threat. But that is exactly what they have been doing so that they are prepared for the very worst on the late night streets of Staines.

It was all part of the high quality preparation that Staines Street Angels go through to ensure that they can bring the maximum benefit to the late night community.

Police Sergeant Andy Oldham was at pains to stress that late night Staines is not a danger-

ous place.

"Serious crime and disorder is rare; most of what we see is drunkenness and sometimes fighting." He told the trainees "Staines Town is a safe place to work, to live, and to go out, day or night. The perception of town centres as "no go" areas for anyone older than 25 is rarely supported by actual crime figures."

As well as learning how to cope with the occasional drama street angels have been finding out how to deal with people who have simply had too much to drink, or who have lost their way or their money. They were told that their work was mostly about being there and talking to people, offering reassurance and friendship.

"Street Angels are not intended



as a 'first response' para-police force" John Miller, Project Coordinator, told the trainees.

"Our job is to provide support to people who need help, not look for trouble."

It certainly looks as though the angels are ready to go with their rucksacks full of flip-flops, water and space blankets. No-one will miss them in their orange high-vis coats and they'll be chatting to members of the public and door staff in the town centre from August 6th.

GREAT NEWS

Interviews, references, training and CRB checks for our Volunteers are steaming ahead. It isn't too late though. You can still join us!

Friday 6th
August
9.00pm
Street Angels
first patrol

COMMISSIONING SERVICE JULY 21ST

The Street Angels Volunteers will be commissioned at a special service on Wednesday 21st July, an important milestone in the history of the project. The commissioning service is a way to recognise the amazing blessing of God and the commitment of the volunteers. Attendees will include the deputy mayor, Councillor Sam Budd, representatives of churches across the area and, of course, the volunteers themselves. This will be the last formal step of their journey to the first patrol on 6th August.

Churches across the borough are working together to support the project, united around the

principle that God loves Staines and calls his people to love Staines with him. So it's not surprising that they will want to thank God for his initiative and goodness.

"Street Angels is a faith-statement" says John Miller, the Project Coordinator. "The commissioning reminds us that God cares for this town and hears our prayers for it."

Staines Street Angels hope that anyone who is interested in the project will come along to celebrate with them on Wednesday 21st July at Staines Methodist Church at 7.30pm. There is room for everyone!

www.stainesstreetangels.org

STREET ANGELS VALUES

Our Street Angels programme has grown from a great Christian tradition of service. We are an enterprise representing the Christian Churches Together in our community and are supervised by those churches. Being a Street Angel or working with us does not mean that you must subscribe to the Christian faith or any faith at all. But we do expect that people who work with us will recognise the values which govern our work.

As a group of Christians in Staines we feel our faith calls us to show the generosity and mercy that Jesus Christ modelled for us. These values include treating people with respect, not being judgmental, being professional and collaborating with others.

All people are children of God and should be treated with respect and dignity regardless of faith, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, background or ability.

People in need are best served without being judged. Street Angels respect, and learn from, diversity by caring for anyone regardless of who they are and whatever their circumstances.

People in need deserve nothing but the highest standards of

service and professionalism and our Street Angels will receive regular, high quality training and ongoing support to help them perform their role safely and to a high standard.

We will work to the highest ethical and legal standards. Honesty, fairness, consistency and sincerity will underpin all Street Angels' activities.

We will work in partnership with a wide range of statutory, voluntary, community and faith organisations across our community. We believe that an integrated community based approach is the way to most effectively achieve improvements in the quality of living in our community.



A night's drinking can leave people needing help

A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Street Angels start their patrols on 6th August, initially covering late Friday night into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Starting around 9 o'clock they will operate through the town centre. You'll see them in their distinctive high-viz orange uniforms until 3 am.

Street Angels are there to help. They will be equipped with radios, phones, water, flip-flops, survival blankets and listening ears! It's an important part of being a Street Angel that they help without judging.

If you need some assistance after your night out then Street Angels are there to help. We look forward to meeting you.



STREET ANGELS

NEED YOU!

There has been a great response to our call for Street Angels. Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest or said they will volunteer.

Street Angels need support and we are putting together a team of people to work behind the scenes to make sure that our angels are selected, trained, equipped and supported to the highest standards.

To do this we still need to fill some key positions.

Fundraiser:- to make sure that the Street Angels have everything we need we'll need money. Your job is to identify sources of funding from churches and other groups ... and to persuade them to let us have it!

Publicity co-ordinator:- we value our relationships with the local community and with churches. You will make sure that everyone hears about the work we do. You'll probably publish a monthly newsletter.

Volunteer organiser:- Street patrols don't just happen. You'll take the lead in recruiting volunteers and deploying them on patrol to meet the needs of the town. You are also likely to be an important part of our safeguarding strategy

Maybe it's you, or perhaps you know someone who could help!

For More Information:

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Our **Prayer Co-ordinator** is Cathy Bull. Contact her to be part of the network
cathy_bull@btinternet.com

Our **Resource Co-ordinator** is Bev Bradbury. Contact him to find out about the practical help that Street Angels need
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