

Chairman's Report

Andrew Henderson

We have an ongoing commitment to our town and our community and are here to support, encourage and serve all those who work, live in or visit our town.

This year has been one of continuing to build relationships, strengthen our Chaplain placements and equipping our volunteers through a varied programme of training opportunities.

We successfully applied for several grants and have received items such as handwarmers, hats, gloves and sweets from local organisations for our Street Angels to give away.

Mark, our Lead Chaplain, has been more involved with the Thames Valley Police Chaplaincy team, attending regular get-togethers of Chaplains from across the Force's area, as well as being invited to join the Panel reviewing awards for officers and civilians who have gone 'above and beyond'. He also received the Chief Constable's award recognizing his 5 years service as Chaplain at Aylesbury Police Station.

In terms of volunteer numbers we saw a net decrease this year as 4 Street Angels and 2 Chaplains stopped volunteering with us for various reasons (including health and moving location), but we did welcome 2 new Street Angels.

Mark receiving his 5 year award from Thames Valley Police Chief Constable John Campbell



At board level Adebola Ajayi stepped down as a Trustee, and Colin Hartley joined. At the end of 2019 we had a total of 4 Trustees, 20 Street Angels, 10 Chaplains, and Sue, our Healing On The Streets Team Leader. Recruitment of volunteer Chaplains, Street Angels and Trustees remains a priority for the coming year. We regularly monitor our finances and cash flow looks positive for 2020; but, at time of writing, we don't know how future income might change due to the pandemic.

On behalf of the Trustees may I thank all our friends and supporters for their continued encouragement over the past year and I pray that you stay well.

Partnerships & Communication

We send out newsletters to our volunteers (fortnightly), our Friends (quarterly), church groups and other partner organisations (monthly). Weekly we share prayer updates with prayer supporters. We use Twitter and our website to keep people up to date with our activities.

We've been welcomed by many groups this year, giving us the opportunity to explain what we do, and how we support those who live, work or visit our town. This year these have included the local Catholic Women's League and Holy Trinity Women's breakfast, as well as the U3A (Psychology Group), Walton & Bedgrove Mother's Union, Aylesbury Town Council & the 4th Aylesbury Scouts (a joint appearance with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group).

Our Lead Chaplain Mark was appointed Chair of the local IAG (Independent Advisory Group for Thames Valley Police). Staff and volunteers helped out at community events including the WhizzFizz Festival and Christmas Lights Switch-on.

In online and print media we featured on the Charity News Today, SACRE newsletter and CNI Network's 30 Days of prayer & action guide.

All of these ongoing partnerships and supporters are so appreciated by all of us at the Chaplaincy. Thank you for all you do for our town.



Chaplains

This year two of our Chaplains moved on as changed circumstances meant that they were unable to continue with us.

However, our continuing and new placements have seen a real growth in relationships and willingness to engage with Chaplains.

We have had Chaplains in the town centre (based in Friars Square, Kingsbury Square and generally round and about), the Crown Court, Aylesbury College, the Police Station, the Aylesbury Campus building of BNU, Morrisons, and, for parts of the year, at the Waterside Theatre and AVDC's offices The Gateway. There have been some gaps in service as one or two of our Chaplains have needed to take a break, but over all there have been over 450 hours of volunteer Chaplaincy available with in excess of 540 meaningful conversations.

While all of these have been really important encounters a couple of particular areas of growth have been:

The Crown Court – after many years wishing to provide Chaplaincy to the Court, the move from the old building in the town centre, has led to a wide, open door for our Chaplain, Melody. The Court Manager there has been so welcoming, and all visitors, defendants, witnesses, families, legal staff and security staff have appreciated the Chaplain's presence.



Ray Pentland speaking at our training day

At the **Police Station**, Mark attended their Wellbeing Day, as well as joining the wider Thames Valley Chaplaincy team for training days and regular get-togethers. He also assisted at the Act of Remembrance in November, and attended the Annual Road Death Memorial Service.

Street Angels

Teams were out in town 47 times this year; over 640 volunteer hours. They were able to ensure 30 people had a safe way to get home, gave out 53 pairs of flip flops to protect sore feet, and supplied hot food or a drink to street homeless and others over 200 times. In addition they tidied up over 500 bottles and gave out more than 1000 lollies. They also helped with initial First Aid, calmed difficult situations and listened to many people's stories and problems. Their presence in the town centre is continued to be appreciated by all our partners as well as those who receive help. Thank you to all of you who have said 'Thank You' to the team over the years.

In terms of volunteers we said goodbye to 4 of our Angels who stopped volunteering with us, and said hello to two new Street Angels who joined us this year.



HEALING ON THE STREETS

Sue and the team were out most months during the year, giving a total of almost 300 volunteer hours. Each month they chatted and prayed with between 5 & 9 people ; giving words of encouragement and prayer for healing in mind, body and spirit. Thank you to Sue for leading this team so faithfully, and thank you to all of the volunteers and to those who welcome them into our town centre each month.

Supporting our Volunteers

Throughout the year we are in regular touch with all our volunteers – through newsletters, ‘phone calls, meetings and volunteer reviews. In the summer we held an evening event with a buffet to say Thank You to our volunteers and their partners.

We also run training activities and suggest training run by others, with our main event being a day of training in the Autumn.

This year we held a training evening to work through the Zero Suicide Alliance’s suicide prevention training. We are grateful to Aylesbury Vale District Council’s Community Safety Partnership who invited our volunteers to attend training and information evenings relating to Gang Awareness and County Lines issues – a few of them were able to attend these valuable sessions.

At our training day in November we welcomed Sarah from Aylesbury Homeless Action Group who updated us on the situation in Aylesbury, and explained about the support offered and available as well as highlighting the difficult situations people find themselves in which are not always simple to resolve. We also had two sessions from Ray Pentland (formerly Chaplain-in-Chief for the Royal Airforce) about the Theology of Chaplaincy and Listening Skills. Both speakers were extremely well received and provided brilliant training for our volunteers.

Sarah speaking at our training day



Finances & Other Support A huge thank you to all our funders during the year; 19 church groups, 1 Friends who give regularly & grant funders (Mid-Bucks Association, Thames Valley Police Proceeds of Crime Act Fund, Aylesbury Town Council, Thomas Hickman Charity and Waitrose green token scheme. Three churches (Holy Trinity, Granville St, Aylesbury Vineyard & Southcourt Baptist) have kindly allowed us to use space for our office, HOTS, Street Angel base and for meetings. We have also received help in kind this year from Tesco Broadfields (sweets), Berton Craft & Cuppa group (hats, gloves, scarves) & AVDC Community Safety team (handwarmers & access to training on gang awareness & County Lines). Thank you to all our supporters.

(Full accounts are available separately)

	2019		
Carried forward	14,570.30		
Income	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
Churches Total	13,334.45	0.00	13,334.45
Individual donations (inc Friends)	4,699.30	0.00	4,699.30
Gift Aid	1,097.75	0.00	1,097.75
Grants Total	3,560.00	250.00	3,310.00
Local authorities total	1,020.00	1,020.00	0.00
Thames Valley Police	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Total	26,211.50	3,770.00	22,441.50
Expenditure			
Communications total	98.00	0.00	98.00
Equipment total	184.72	78.19	106.53
Hospitality (inc Annual Celebration)	10.00	0.00	10.00
Insurance	359.51	80.00	279.51
Office total	1,023.10	0.00	1,023.10
Staff costs total	22,153.74	2,185.02	19,968.72
Street Angels consumables	292.38	292.38	0.00
Volunteer costs total	491.60	356.18	135.42
Healing On The Streets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	24,613.05	2,991.77	21,621.28
surplus	16,168.75		

About Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy

Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy was formed as a charitable trust in 2011, governed by a trust deed (dated 15/09/2011) and registered with the Charity Commission in July 2012.

Its main **objects** are:

a/ to bring the Christian ministry to people living, visiting and/or working in the centre of Aylesbury in the county of Buckinghamshire, by the provision of pastoral care, including, but not limited by, the formation of a chaplaincy service.

b/ the relief of the need and provision of good health in Aylesbury by the provision of advice and support.

It must have at least 3 trustees, who are usually appointed to serve for a period of 3 years at a time, by a resolution passed by the existing trustees at a special meeting. It employs 2 part-time members of staff.

During 2019 there were 6 trustee meetings.

Trustees, as at 31st December 2019:

Andrew Henderson (Chair), Paul Hulcoop, Revd Doug Zimmerman, Revd Colin Hartley

We are members of the SA-CNI Network and the Association of Town & City Chaplaincies.

Our Vision: We love our town and, by coming alongside those who work, shop, play and live here, we wish to demonstrate God's unconditional love. We aim to provide comfort, support and encouragement (practical, emotional and spiritual) to all, through our regular, visible and caring presence. We aim to work in co-operation with like-minded partners for the wellbeing of all in our community.



How to contact Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy:

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Twitter: @AylesburySA

Staff:

Lead Chaplain/Street Angel Co-ordinator: Mark Knight

Operations Manager: Catherine Turnbull-Ross

