

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, as for the whole world, not been as we expected at the start of the year. For the first 2 and a half months it was very much business as usual, but in line with government 'Lockdown 1' we ceased all our face-to-face activity, starting up again tentatively (and only with those volunteers who were comfortable) with Chaplains and Street Angels out between late August and 'Lockdown 2' in November. As ever, when the service was out and about it was much appreciated and well received by those in our town.

Over the year we introduced several changes to enable us to keep going: offering 'phone chaplaincy and regularly meeting up via zoom. From mid-March onwards our staff team worked from home, and from May reduced their hours to 50% of their usual part-time work.

Our volunteers stepped up to help their local communities individually, through churches or through other organisations. Some of those who work experienced furlough, and some found their working lives busier and more challenging than ever.

Our speaking engagements pretty much dried up, but we learned new skills and sent video updates to partners, as well as joining online meetings remotely to talk about our work.

Our income fell during the year, but due to reduced activity our outgoings reduced by more so 2021 begins with a healthy balance. We will continue to

monitor our finances and cash flow looks positive for 2021; but, we are aware that some donors will reduce or stop due to knock on effects of the pandemic. Volunteer and trustee recruitment remains a priority, especially as a few of our volunteers have stepped down this year.

Looking forward, with the recent news of measures to end lockdown we are all greatly looking forward to meeting the people of the town face to face again. On behalf of the Trustees may I thank all our friends and supporters for their continued encouragement over the past year and the staff team and volunteers for their continued enthusiasm and desire to serve the people of Aylesbury by being a part of the Town Chaplaincy.

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, and this year have sent video updates to our church partners too.

Although for a lot of the year it wasn't possible we were able to speak at some places in person, or via video, giving us the opportunity to explain what we do, and how we support those who live, work or visit our town. This year we spoke at Granville Street Church, Chearsley WI, Church of the Holy Spirit Friendship Club, Holy Trinity Church and Broughton Church

We were also asked to provide input to Aylesbury Homeless Action's social media feed, Premier Christianity Radio's Prayers of Hope & Catherine featured as CNI Network/Inspire Magazine's Community Hero for July.

Our Lead Chaplain Mark chaired the local IAG (Independent Advisory Group for Thames Valley Police) in person and online, and attended Pubwatch meetings when they met. Catherine (our Operations Manager) attended Volunteer Managers' Network and joined the Aylesbury Community Board (both online). In the latter part of the year the Crown Court in Aylesbury asked for our help in

sourcing New Testaments for their proceedings. Covid safety restrictions meant that they needed more than normal. We were able to give them 20 copies of New Testament/Psalms which had been donated to us by Gideons International.

During this year we heard that the Alliance of Town & City Chaplaincies organization was closing. We are still able to network with many similar organisations via the CNI Network, and we wish all involved with the ATCC well. 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

Between mid-March and August, and from November onwards no Chaplains were out and about in the town centre or at their placements, but in the 5 months or so they were active they were able to connect & support people in the town, and kept in touch with people over the 'phone in the meantime. At University Campus of Bucks New University Marlene continued to support students and staff, particularly once the lockdowns began – her regular 'phonecalls to the security staff who were there on their own we appreciated. In the town centre Melissa & Jean encouraged and supported shoppers and shopworkers' in Friars' Square, Ken covered the Kingsbury & Market Square areas, and Margaret returned to Hale Leys & the High Street for the first part of the year.

Melody continued with building relationships and supporting those at Aylesbury Crown Court, and Melissa with those in Morrisons supermarket, and, in the first part of the year, Judith continued as Chaplain at the AVDC offices. A new Chaplain, David, was appointed just as Lockdown 1 began. Once he was able to begin in August he covered the areas of Vale Park, the canal towpath & the canal basin, chatting and encouraging those out for some exercise during that time.

Mark continued supporting Thames Valley officers and staff at the Police Station, attending events in person and online such as 'Police Chaplains'

Cluster', the briefing with march organisers at the police station on the day of the Black Lives Matter march in Aylesbury in the summer and a short service of remembrance marking the one year anniversary of the death of PC Andrew Harper in August.

In total in the year Chaplains were out on 120 occasions (196 volunteer hours), again mostly in the first part of the year, but we did have a good coverage of town chaplaincy during the period August to October as well.

The logo for Street Angels, featuring the words "Street Angels" in a stylized, handwritten font. The word "Street" is in black and "Angels" is in black with a yellow outline around the letters.

We were out 'as normal' in the first part of the year (up to 13th March). We then had a break & returned in late August going out late, as usual initially. Many venues were open, but with a different offering due to the rules. With restrictions in place, Street Angels kept their distance and we decided not to give out any items or hot drinks during this period. When rules changed in October, we moved timings as venues had to be completely closed by 10pm. The teams went out from 8pm to 10pm then. Again their presence on the streets was much appreciated by all. When the 2nd national lockdown was announced for November all our activity stopped again, and did not restart for the rest of 2020.

In total in the year Street Angels were out on 17 occasions (a total of 170 volunteer hours), most of these in the period up to and including 13th March.

The logo for Healing on the Streets, featuring the word "HEALING" in large, bold, white capital letters on a dark blue background, with "ON THE STREETS" in smaller, white capital letters below it.

The team, which is led by Sue, were only able to be out in January & February., but still were able to talk to and pray with 14 individuals. Once the news of the lockdowns came about we had to suspend this work. We look forward to restarting later on in 2021. Thank you to our faithful volunteers.

Supporting our Volunteers

We continued our regular newsletters & annual volunteer reviews (latterly virtually) during the year. From March we also introduced fortnightly volunteer catch-ups via zoom which enabled us to get to know one another better and to keep connected while our activities were limited. The staff team also 'phoned volunteers now and again during the year to see how things were with them. We recruited 1 new Chaplain, and said thank you & goodbye to 2 Street Angels and 1 Chaplain.

We were unable to hold our annual training day, but did have an extremely informative evening session with One Recovery Bucks in March on Drug and Alcohol Addiction awareness. During Lockdown 1 many of our partners and networks offered online training sessions which helped our volunteers build their skills and knowledge during this time. Thank you to CNI Network, Night-time Economy Solutions, Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy and Zoe.

In the summer, when the lockdown restrictions were being eased the trustees and staff team did a lot of work to provide a framework and guidelines for safe operation of Chaplaincy & Street Angels. Both activities started again in August, but working in different ways, behind masks, at a distance, and, for Street Angels, in an earlier time slot. All volunteers attended (virtually) or read through a presentation providing information and the framework for our work at this time, which had been put together using information from other projects' approach, government rules and guidance and in consultation with our town centre partnership. We also supported any volunteer who did not wish to return to work at the current time.



Finances & Other Support A huge thank you to all our funders during the year; 12 church groups, 15 Friends who give regularly & grant funders (Thames Valley Police Proceeds of Crime Act Fund, Mid-Bucks Association). We also received an ad hoc donation from the Court after we provided the New Testaments.

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.

Thank you to all our supporters.

(Draft Accounts; full accounts are available separately)

	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	2020		
Carried forward	16,168.75	-1,136.42	17,305.17
Income			
Churches Total	11,676.75	0.00	11,676.75
Individual donations (inc Friends)	4,754.51	0.00	4,754.51
Gift Aid	1,040.25	0.00	1,040.25
Grants Total	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Local authorities total	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thames Valley Police	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Total	21,471.51	3,000.00	18,471.51
Expenditure			
Communications total	164.00	0.00	164.00
Equipment total	59.37	59.37	0.00
Hospitality (inc Annual Celebration)	47.00	0.00	47.00
Insurance	359.51	80.00	279.51
Office total	1,039.70	0.00	1,039.70
Staff costs total	15,224.20	2,909.07	12,315.13
Street Angels consumables	259.04	259.04	0.00
Volunteer costs total	112.54	112.54	0.00
Healing On The Streets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	17,265.36	3,420.02	13,845.34
surplus	20,374.90	-1,556.44	21,931.34

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 2020 there were 5 trustee meetings (4 held via zoom).

Trustees, as at 31st December 2020:

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

We are members of the SA-CNI Network and were members of the Association of Town & City Chaplaincies, until it closed during 2020.

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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Staff:

Lead Chaplain/Street Angel Co-ordinator: Mark Knight

Operations Manager: Catherine Turnbull-Ross

