

# Halifax Street Angels 4th Annual Report

*Quote from Graham - a young man we helped:* "Thank you for helping me get home last night, felt absolutely horrible. I just had way too many shots at one time... then they all hit me at once, something i won't soon be repeating. SORRY.. and thanks again." *Graham*

*Quote from Debra Green, Director City Links / Redeeming Our Communities:* "I included a story about Street Angels in my book "Redeeming Our Communities - 21st Century miracles of social transformation" because it is a great initiative and one which provides a way for churches and the police to work together for the good of the community. Crime rates are falling as people of goodwill lend their support to the police in the important work they do across this nation."

*Quote from Matt - a young man we helped:* "I would like to thank the very nice people who helped me in Halifax on Saturday 10th Jan. I was in such a state and was very vulnerable. Im not sure exactly what happened BUT I have learnt a valuable lesson and will not let it happen again. Anyways, keep up the good work, you are an example for us all."

*Quote from High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 08/09 - Roger Bowers:* "... I have been very impressed with the work they (Street Angels) do both in "connecting" between the public and the police in Halifax town centre, at times, that is Friday and Saturday nights, when the centre is at its busiest and most difficult after hours. The volunteers go about their work in a friendly way and relate well to the public, the majority of which are heavily under the influence of alcohol and in high spirits... They are setting a great example and I do hope Street Angels succeed in other similar town and city centres."

*Quote from Matthew Lunn, coordinator Hull Street Angels:* "Last year I visited Halifax to get ideas on having a Street Angels in Hull. I was hugely impressed with the project and how professional it was run. We have now started in Hull and this wouldn't be possible if we didn't receive the support from Halifax. I would like to thank Paul and his team for the support they have given to me to start in Hull. Keep up the excellent work and may God bless everyone of you"



**Welcome to the fourth Street Angels Annual Report!** We have had another ground breaking year of making a massive difference on the streets of, not only, Halifax but towns and cities across the UK.

and cities across the UK; contribute to year on year reduction in crime in many of the towns where Street Angels run; have helped and assisted many thousands of people; and seen thousands of volunteer hours given by so many wonderful people.

Who could have believed four years ago when God dropped the idea of a safe place and safe people working in Halifax town centre on Friday and Saturday nights that four years later this project would: be highlighted nationally as best practice; have received awards and accolade from so many; be copied in over 40 towns

Thanks to all who make Street Angels happen wherever it happens and for being part of an initiative that shows God's Kingdom as a reality for our towns and cities at a time when it is most needed.

*Paul Blakey - founder Street Angels*



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The concept of Street Angels has continued to spread across the country, often with church, police and council working in partnership to support such a venture. This is a list of places Halifax Street Angels has help start or given assistance to:

- Bedford Street Angels
- Bognor Regis Street Angels
- Bolton Street Angels
- Bradford Street Angels
- Bristol Nights
- Burnt Oak / Edgware
- Dorchester (near Weymouth)
- Durham Street Lights
- Edinburgh
- Grimsby
- Guildford Street Angels
- Halifax Street Angels
- Harrogate Town Pastors
- Hebden Bridge Street Angels
- High Wycombe Street Angels
- Huddersfield Street Angels
- Hull Prince's Street Angels
- Lerwick, Shetland Isles, Town Pastors
- Middlesborough Angels
- Milton Keynes Street Ministers
- Nottingham Malt Cross Café
- Oban, West Coast Scotland
- Redcar
- Ripon Town Pastors
- Rotherham
- Rugby Refresh
- Scarborough Street Angels
- Sheffield Street Angels
- Skipton Street Angels
- Stockton Town Pastors
- Sunderland
- Todmorden Street Angels
- Wakefield Street Angels
- Wetherby Street Angels
- Woking
- York Street Angels



*Hebden Bridge Street Angels* has been in operation since June 2009, with between 20 and 30 volunteers working Friday nights on a rota basis. We have developed a good relationship with the local police, generated lots of good will from members of the local community, and dealt with a small number of incidents involving the youngsters of the town. All in all, a good start.

*Marcus Bull, co-ordinator Hebden Bridge Street Angels*

*Halifax Central Church Youth Group* meet at the YMCA every Friday night between 8pm and 11pm. We play table tennis, computer games, listen to music, chat and drink hot chocolate. Every week we have a God slot which is led by one of the youth. We discuss the Bible and issues relating to young people. We pray for the people of Halifax, for Street Angels, the Police, and the youth.

Once a month we have an event called "Tea and Toast" We take groups of young people onto the streets of Halifax between 9pm and midnight and conduct a survey, asking for peoples' religious views. We also provide take-away tea and toast for anyone who would like it and also offer tea and toast back at the YMCA for anyone interested. This is a great opportunity to find out what people think about God, church, Jesus and Christianity....

*Heather Smith, pastor Halifax Central Church*

### Halifax Street Angels - adding value to our town:

<p>Directly assisted in over <b>710 incidents</b> (Nov 08 - Oct 09) with hundreds more re-assured by our on-street presence.</p> <p>Helped steward at <b>15 community events</b> (including Overgate Hospice Midnight Walk, Long March, Food and Drink Festival, The July Project and Piece Hall</p>	<p>events such as Leprosy Mission, Food &amp; Drink and Ghost Walk)</p> <p>Helped volunteers invest around <b>7300 hours</b> into our town (Nov 08 - Oct 09, Halifax activity only)</p> <p>Contributed to month on month <b>reduction in violent crime</b> in Halifax Town Centre.</p>
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Thank you for your support...

- Action Halifax
- Ben Aaron's
- Beth Bendrien (CD sales)
- Calderdale PCT (Alcohol Surveys)
- Christ Church, Barkisland
- Calderdale Council
- Comic Relief Sports Relief Fund
- Community Foundation for Calderdale
- Collect@ Piece Hall
- Elland Townswomen's Guild
- Greetland Lively Ladies Circle
- Halifax Charity Gala
- Halifax Group United Reformed Churches
- Halifax Elim Church
- Halifax Salvation Army
- Harvey's of Halifax
- HBOS Foundation employee support & grant
- Halifax and District YMCA
- Halifax Women's Lunch Club
- High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 08/09
- Individuals
- Julio's Italian Restaurant
- Luddenden Music Festival
- Mytholmroyd Methodist Church Ladies
- Phoenix Cards (Jean Blakey)
- Riley and Co. Accountants
- St Anne in the Grove Church, Southowram
- St Augustine's Church
- St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe
- St Michael's Mytholmroyd Wives Group
- St Thomas's Church, Claremount
- Southowram Methodist Sunday School
- Stainland and Holywell Green UR Church
- The King's Church
- The Raggalds, Queensbury
- Voluntary Action Calderdale (CRB checks)
- West Yorkshire Police Community Trust Fund
- www.goodtoys.co.uk

The many volunteers who invest so much to make Street Angels happen week after week.

Halifax Street Angels is a project of Christians Together Halifax (Registered Charity 1119477 and Company Limited by Guarantee 5925032) and Halifax YMCA.



# Highlights of our Fourth Year

**November 08** - a great Birthday celebration at The Raggalds attended by the Deputy Mayor of Calderdale. Street Angels helped with stewarding at both Halifax and Brighouse Christmas Lights switch-on and assisted with nearly 70 incidents on the streets of Halifax. A group from Halifax spoke to people in Skipton about the project.

**December 08** - was a busy month helping with 66 incidents on the streets on Friday and Saturday alongside the Police, PCSO's and Nightlife Marshals, Angels helped steward at events such as the Ice Sculpture trail and the Community Carol Sing organised by the Salvation Army. Pastor Daniel Scalf from Georgia, USA joined us on the streets one night. Christmas parties were also enjoyed!

**January 09** - A second trial in a very quiet Brighouse and a meeting for those interested in Street Angels in Hebden Bridge was held. Channel 4's Teletext "Man of the Year" poll received a nomination for Halifax Street Angels. A First Aid course equipped several volunteers. Street Angels assisted over 70 people in the month including reuniting friends and driving licenses, counselling a young man whose Grandad had died and helping several people to get home safe.

**February 09** - Visitors from Naples, Italy and Brazil along with Linda Riordan, MP for Halifax helped Street Angels deal with over 50 incidents on one of our coldest months since launching. A Business Lunch at King's Church as part of Firesowers highlighted the work of Street Angels and included the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire (Roger Bowers) who spoke very highly of the project.

**March 09** - Paul spoke at an evening in Sedgefield open to people from towns across the North East of England - as a result many towns in this area are now looking or launching Street Angels. Paul also spoke in Edinburgh and at a SVP18-33 weekend (for young Catholics at universities across the UK) in Wales. The police reported 130 fewer victims of crime in the town centre between April 08 and January 09 compared with the same period in the previous year. Street Angels assisted with 47 incidents including walking people home after a night at the theatre with Cannon and Ball.

**April 09** - Angels enjoyed a night out at Harry Ramsden's, mixed with celebrities (including Abi Titmuss who

said we do a great job) at the Victoria Theatre and had a busy Easter weekend including a visit from Ernie Meadows of America, Alan from Selby, John and Iwona from Nottingham and the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Colin Winterburn. We assisted over 60 people and helped steward the Long March on Easter Sunday from 3am onwards.

**May 09** - a busy month with two Bank Holiday weekends saw Angels helping with almost 70 incidents including one young man from Ireland who needed Euros exchanging to Pounds to pay for a taxi to his friends house! Street Angels had a stand at Calderdale Neighbours Day, which included both the Mayor of Aachen and Jimmi Harkishin (Dev from Cornation Street) supporting the work of Street Angels. We also helped at The Leprosy Mission day in Piece Hall.

**June 09** - Volunteers Week started the month with the Annual VAC Oscars night at Victoria Theatre and a car rally which showed some of the volunteers competitive side! We had a great day at Halifax Gala with a entry in the procession (Jeff Meadows and Mark Andrews taking fancy dress to the limits and Julie Harwood on stilts as an Angel) and various activities at Manor Heath. Angels helped steward the Food and Drink Festival in Piece Hall and Luddenden Music Festival. Hebden Bridge Street Angels launched on 12th June. In Halifax we dealt with 45 incidents including reuniting two stray mobile phones with their owners!

**July 09** - over July we helped in over 60 incidents including helping two ladies out of a skip, sorting out a taxi for an elderly lady after leaving the Ken Dodd show at midnight and helping one young lady who e-mailed us to say:

*"I just want to say a huge thank you to the 4 gentlemen that walked me from Jumpin Jaks, to a take out place, a bank (didn't have enough money lol) and then to ABC taxi rank tonight. I didn't want to walk by myself as i was alone (18th July at about 1:15am) Thank you so much for your time."*

The Archbishop of York and Debra Green (from City Links) highlighted Street Angels during the City Links Leaders Forum in Salford at which Street Angels had a promotional stand. Several Street Angels took part in a sponsored walk across the

Humber Bridge raising over £80 for The Leprosy Mission. Angels also supported The July Project and were interviewed for the 'Faith Sector in Calderdale' report.

**August 09** - Helen, Jean and Paul had a fun day at Halifax Show raising the profile of our work whilst Jeff, Damian and Paul helped at Fun in People's Park. Street Angels trialed some Thursday nights and assisted with 43 incidents over the month including a flat tyre, a young lady suffering with asthma and translating for a visiting Slovakian! Jean-Baptiste from France became a Street Angel whilst on holiday in the area, the first Prayer for our Borough in Halifax Town Hall was held and there was a Street Angel wedding - Gail and Steve Fox!!!

**September 09** - Throughout the month, working with Halifax Central Church, Todmorden Together, Smartmove and Workwise we helped re-house, with ongoing support for, a man who found himself homeless. Beyond that we helped with nearly 50 incidents, welcomed a minibus tour from Stockton area and Becky, Steve and Damian helped steward the Overgate Hospice Midnight Walk. Paul spoke in Redcar at a packed Methodist church and attended a day to look at how Police and faith / community groups work together. Hull Prince's Street and Bolton Street Angels both launched this month.

**October 09** - Prime Minister Gordon Brown met Street Angels in Wakefield and said in an interview for BBC's The Politics Show,

*"I have just met some of the Street Angels working in the region, they do a tremendous job."*

- this was then followed by a 10 minute feature on York Street Angels who launched this month. Halifax Angels were nominated for Charity of the Year at the Evening Courier's Community and Environment Awards at Berties Suites, Elland (this was won by Overgate Hospice) - Vickie, Damian, Paul and Jean enjoyed the glitzy event! On the streets we dealt with 79 incidents and helped steward the Piece Hall's Ghost Walk on a very busy Halloween night.

**November 09** - Paul attended the City Links national conference in Northampton, a feature on Street Angels will appear in a national police working with faith groups study and we go forward into our fifth year...

[www.streetangels.org.uk](http://www.streetangels.org.uk)

