

What a year it has been in the life of Street Angels! Thanks to the commitment and dedication of a fantastic team of volunteers, who give so much week in week out, Street Angels has continued to make a massive and positive difference on the streets of Halifax.

Not only that, we have also: volunteered our services at numerous events; *helped launch Street Angels in Todmorden*; hosted a national conference; *met with and helped several towns and cities across the UK launch similar projects*; spoken and exhibited at several events locally, nationally and internationally; *hosted a wide range of influential visitors who wanted to see Street Angels in action*; achieved and won several awards!

Three years ago God gave us the vision to provide a safe place for people to drop-in and also a team of people offering help to those out on the town on Friday and Saturday nights. This is still our focus! We have seen crime reduction, working partnerships, huge volunteer commitment over many hours, and the national impact is fantastic. But Friday and Saturday 9pm to 3am is the heart of what we are about and what our energies are most committed to.

Thank you for your support, and may God continue to bless this amazing project!

Paul Blakey, Project Manager

Young People's Prayer Group

A group of young people between the ages of fourteen and twenty have been meeting every Friday night upstairs in Fairtrade Cafe to play music, play computer games, pray, listen to talks from the Bible and generally chill. We pray for the police, the Street Angels and various issues affecting our town. We also pray for people in other countries, especially for young people and children who live in poverty.



The young people in our group come from various churches in Halifax and some do not have church backgrounds. We have been meeting for almost two years and have seen the numbers increase, and now regularly have over thirty young people turn up!

Heather Smith - Pastor of Halifax Central Church

Christian Nightlife Conference

Part of the vision for 2008 was to develop a UK / World Network. This was launched in July at the first Christian Nightlife Initiatives Conference. The informal network shows we are all part of a big picture of something amazing that God is doing through his church across our nation. The towns below are running Christian based Nightlife projects (those * are part of the Network):



- * Bolton Night Café
- * Bradford Street Angels
- * Bristol Nights
- Cardiff - Church in a nightclub
- * Coventry, Nuneaton and Warwick Street Pastors
- Exmouth - Open Door Nightshift
- Fleet Town Centre Project
- * Great Yarmouth - Refresh
- * Guilford Street Angels
- * Halifax Street Angels
- Harrogate Town Pastors
- * Hereford Night Shift
- * Huddersfield Street Angels
- * Hull - NIMH / Princess Street Street Angels
- Ipswich Town Pastors
- Keighley Night Life
- Leamington Spa Nightlight
- Leeds Street Chaplains
- Lerwick, Shetland Isles Town Pastors
- Manchester Street Angels
- * Milton Keynes Street Ministers
- Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland
- * Nottingham Late Night drop-in café in city church
- Pontefract Street Angels
- * Rugby Refresh
- Sunshine Coast, Australia, Street Angels
- * Todmorden Street Angels
- Wakefield Street Angels
- Watford Street Angels
- Wetherby Street Angels
- York Refresh



(web links at www.streetangels.org.uk)

Enquiry and / or visits to Halifax have come from:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Blackpool | Skipton |
| Durham | Solihull (Birmingham) |
| Edinburgh | Sunderland |
| Grimsby | Australia - Perth Region |
| High Wycombe | Brazil |
| Mirfield | Canada - Abbotsford |
| Newbury | China |
| Penrith | Hungary |
| Pocklington | India - Nagpur |
| Pontypridd, South Wales | Italy - Naples |
| Rochdale | Nigeria - Agrifold |
| Scarborough | Uganda |
| Sheffield | USA - Florida / Missouri |



Highlights of our Third Year...

December 07 - we celebrated our second birthday with a fun evening at The Raggalds, with live music, silly games, a carvery dinner, Powerpoint and speeches. Our new look very stylish jackets were launched! Volunteers also helped with the Halifax Ice Sculptures, Community Foundation for Calderdale AGM and Churches Together Carol Sing in Piece Hall. Street Angels trialed two evenings in Todmorden and Hebden Bridge and covered the Mad Friday and New Year's Eve in Halifax Centre. Bradford launched Street Angels and Pontefract had a months trial. Halifax Street Angels received a cheque from Sir Norman Bettison on behalf of the West Yorkshire Police Community Trust Fund.

January 08 - Investing in Volunteers interviews were held with those who make Street Angels happen week in week out. Alex, James and Josh spent a weekend filming for their Media Studies course. Volunteers and the young people's prayer group had a fun night of conflict training. Street Angels and Fairtrade Café featured in a book "Fresh Expressions in the Urban Context" by Eleanor Williams.

February 08 - Paul Blakey, Julie Harwood and Alan Waddington attended the Faithworks Awards at the London Olympia - Street Angels received a runner-up award in the Community Excellence category. Josue and Dario from Brazil, visiting as part of the Firesowers event, walked the streets with us. Interest in the project was strong at the 'Faithful Capital Spiritual Resources for Social Action Conference' in Leeds.

March 08 - a fun night of roller blading in Halifax YMCA was had by many! Alasdair Carter from Durham visited us to film for a Podcast. Several Street Angels helped steward the Long March event after an extra night of Street Angels on Easter Sunday. A meeting between police, Churches Together, Todmorden Together, local community and Halifax Street Angels made the decision to launch Todmorden Street Angels in May. We also featured in a second book, "Redeeming Our Communities: 21st Century Stories of

Social Transformation" by Debra Green.

April 08 - an article on Street Angels was featured in Calderdale Council's Calderdale Call magazine, delivered to every home in the Borough. An informal afternoon at the Fire Station saw Street Angels and Ambassadors learning about fire safety and getting cut out of a wrecked car! Paul spoke at a Christian conference in Naples, Italy on Street Angels.

May 08 - Todmorden Street Angels launched and has continued to run each Friday between 9pm and midnight. Street Angels had stands at various events including Calderdale Neighbours Day in Piece Hall. We enjoyed a Raclette Evening in Fairtrade Café! Street Angels became the fourth group in Calderdale to be awarded the Investing in Volunteers Award.

June 08 - Street Angels had a stand at a National Prayer Evening at Manchester's Velodrome which was attended by Police, Community and Church Leaders from across the country. First Aid training was popular and so was our procession entry and stand at Halifax Gala, which helped raise almost £700 for Street Angels. Several volunteers received an Oscar at the Volunteers Week Celebration Night. The Leaders of the Salvation Army in UK and Ireland, Commissioners John and Elizabeth Matear visited the project and the Bishop of Pontefract, Rt Rev Tony Robinson, made a return visit to the Angels.

July 08 - the month started with the first Christian Nightlife Initiatives Conference. This day, held in Halifax, brought together Christian Nightlife projects from across the UK. Speakers included representatives from Police, Local Authority, Town Centre Management, Bishop of Pontefract, with Keynote Speakers Malcolm Duncan of Faithworks and Debra Green of Redeeming Our Communities. Similar projects from across the UK spoke on what is happening within their local areas (see page 2) and the Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network was launched. Later in July it was announced a joint application between Halifax Street Angels and

Halifax Town Centre Ambassadors had won the Home Office sponsored Yorkshire and Humber Regional Tilley Award. The "Effective Christian Presence" (with Street Angels as one of the highlighted projects) report was launched. We had visitors from Cornwall, Sunderland and Switzerland. With regret, St John Ambulance felt unable to continue covering Nightlife. First Aid cover in the town centre is now offered by Street Angel First Aid qualified volunteers.

August 08 - the month started with a Mystery Trip enjoyed by thirty Angels and friends. The Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale, Councillor Conrad and Mrs Hilary Winterburn, enjoyed a night on the town and two visitors from Yorkshire and Humber Government Office and one from Home Office in London saw Street Angels, Ambassadors, Marshals and Police in action in the town. Street Angels had a stand at the (slightly damp) Halifax Show.

September 08 - Halifax Street Angels and Halifax Town Centre Ambassadors gave a joint presentation at a conference "Problem Orientated Partnership" run by the Home Office in Leicestershire. This was linked to the winning of the Regional Tilley Award. Both the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, Roger Bowers, and Ugandan Pastor John Bunjo joined Street Angels for one night. Halifax Street Angels had a stand at the North West Leaders Conference in Manchester Cathedral Visitors from Sheffield came to see Street Angels in action. A Street Angel group also enjoyed the Ambassadors Fashion Show!

October 08 - Paul attended the Launch Service of Guildford Street Angels. People from Hull, Skipton and Bolton visited to see how Street Angels works and a Men's Group in Rastrick showed interest in launching Street Angels in Brighouse. A fun meal out to celebrate October and November Birthday's was held for several volunteers.

November 08 - Paul was one of the speakers at a Calderdale Compact event, and our Third Birthday Celebrations look set to be another good and memorable evening!

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

We are especially grateful to Community Foundation for Calderdale and to HBOS, both in its major grant and by supporting its employees, which enabled a manager to be employed. And we thank the following groups who have donated to Halifax Street Angels over 2008...

Action Halifax
Calderdale Primary Care Trust (alcohol surveys)
Carlton United Reformed Church
Christ Church Barkisland Mother's Union
Community Foundation for Calderdale
Effective Christian Presence & Enterprise Grant
Elland Rotary Club
Elland & Ryburn Methodist Circuit
Faithworks
Halifax Conservative Ladies
Halifax Parish Church
Halifax Methodist Circuit
HBOS Foundation (and employees support)
Heath United Reformed Church
Heptonstall Pace Egg collection
Jephson Housing Association
Luddenden Music Festival / Rotary (sandwiches)
Risk-it-for-a-biscuit (weekly biscuits)
St Anne's Church, Southowram
St Augustine's Church
St George's Church, Ovenden
St John's Church, Warley
St Mark's Church, Siddal
St Thomas's Church, Claremount
Stationery Stall, Broad Street Car Boot (biscuits)
West Vale Baptist Church
West Yorkshire Police Community Trust

Also a massive thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers (and thanks to the partners and family who back them!) and partner organisations who make Street Angels happen week in and week out.

Why do people volunteer to be Street Angels? Here are some of the responses: "To make a difference to others"; "Looks good on my CV!"; "People in Halifax need us"; "Meet new friends"; "Like helping people and the social aspect"; "Its flexible and my amount of friends has doubled!"; "Through Churches Together - saw the unity and bringing God's love to the town"; "Like doing it - its practical!"; "A feeling of team achievement, a sense of gratitude from the public and a really enjoyable experience"; "To help people who either need to get home, need first aid, or just need someone to talk to when feeling low or, in some cases, suicidal"; "To help people and make the streets a safer place"; "I enjoy being part of a team".

And finally! Some of the strange things said to Street Angels over the last year: "Street Angels - is that like sat nav?"; CCTV operator to one of the volunteers - "Are you a Street Angel?"; "Yes" he replied, "Thought I recognised your shiny head!"; Some young people walking past the café, "Street Angels - they're the Mafia of Halifax"; some things we get called include: "Yellow Pages"; "Street Fairies"; "Angels of the North" !!!

Quote from Jacqui Lewis, Government Office Yorkshire and Humber Regional Director: "On Friday evening I had the privilege to see for myself the fantastic work done by the Street Angels to help to make Halifax a safer place. It is clear that all the Street Angel volunteers have played a significant part in helping to reduce crime in the town and they are very worthy regional winners of the Home Office sponsored Tilley Awards. Well done and thank you for all that you do."

Quote from Helen Kynaston, Performance Support Manager, Police and Partnerships Standard Unit: "It was a very informative visit on Friday evening and it was encouraging to see that you have a team of very committed volunteers working in Halifax. Having seen first hand the work that you all do, it is clear that you have been a key partner with the Police in reducing the recent levels of violent crime in your proactive patrols on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights. Please pass on my thanks to your team and I wish you every success in your future work in Halifax."

Quote from Commissioners John and Elizabeth Matear, leaders of the Salvation Army in UK and Ireland: "We were very glad to identify with the work of Street Angels in Halifax on Saturday night. Your presence on the streets is highly visible and in the immediate few minutes of beginning our time with you it was obvious that people knew they could call for help."

Todmorden Street Angels & Caravan

Following a presentation on Street Angels, a truly God inspired idea, to Churches Together in Todmorden it was decided a similar project was needed in our town. We launched in May 2008 with Halifax volunteers helping us get started. We were very appreciative of this and now we are up and running with our own volunteers and providing valuable help in a very practical way to those in the town at nighttime.



We also have a Youth caravan, which is a safe unthreatening place for young people of our town to chat and enjoy free tea, coffee, soft drinks and sweets. The Caravan runs from 7pm until 9pm when Street Angels take over until midnight. We work in partnership with the police and Todmorden Together who provide our base where people can receive help such as first aid. The two projects are now very well received in Todmorden. All volunteers feel that we get far more back than we give in our work as Street Angels, a very enjoyable project which gives a wonderful feeling that we are helping the people and visitors to our town as well as making it a safer place.

Jeff Hunter, Todmorden Street Angels