



NEWSLETTER

www.streetangels.org.uk

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Happy 60th Birthday to **Harveys of Halifax**! The store celebrated in March with a evening which included a fashion show, competitions, free gifts and a VIP reception. Harveys are a big supporter of Street Angels and it was great to be part of the event.

It was sad to see the end of **VInvolved** - a young people's volunteering initiative. Several Street Angel volunteers have been part of **VInvolved** over the years and have come to Street Angels through this project. Well done and thanks to Sahra, Sarah and Karen who ran this scheme.

Street Angels was part of **Matthew's Gathering** - an event organised by Food and Support Drop-In and HOPE Calderdale and celebrated and highlighted a lot of what God is doing in Calderdale.

We welcomed John and Marilyn from **Belfast NightLight** who were on a tour of projects in Scotland and the North of England. NightLight is run by the Presbyterian Church and works on The Golden Mile and The Odyssey areas of Belfast and have recently looked at expanding to the Cathedral Quarter. The scheme, launched 16 years ago, also runs in 30 locations across Northern Ireland. To find out more visit www.pcinightlight.org

We also welcomed Billy and Ray from **Doncaster** which is currently looking at launching Street Angels. Please pray as they seek the volunteers and way of working in Doncaster centre.

Thanks to Baroun, Damian and Geoff who helped steward the **Mayor's Civic Parade**.

Thanks to **Central Methodist Brighthouse** who raised £300 for Street Angels at the Stuart Townend night.



Sat 2nd April - 10am Street Angels hosting visitors from **Aachen** at Food and Support Drop-In.

Mon 4th and Tue 5th April - **CNI gathering in Luton** for the 5 Regional Development workers, Trustees and Workers.

Mon 11th April - 6pm Street Angels - **CNI Trustees** in Fairtrade Café.

Wed 13th April - Street Angels - **CNI hosting Debating Democracy** - a hustings event around the AV Referendum, 7.30pm at The King's Centre - volunteers needed!

Tue 19th April - **ROC Café** find out more, 12.30pm - 1.30pm Holy Nativity, Mixenden (bring lunch!)

Thur 21st April - **HOPE and Chocolate**, 6.30pm at Costa Coffee, Woolshops - an informal celebration of Easter! **9pm Street Angels**

Good Friday - **Flash:Mob Easter**, 12noon - 3pm across the town centre - what can SA do? **No Street Angels Good Friday evening.**

Sat 23rd April - **St George's Day event** in Piece Hall - 11am - 4pm - Street Angels needed to steward and help run a stall... **Street Angels 9pm - midnight.**

Easter Sunday - **Street Angels 9pm - 3am** followed by helping steward the Long March until 6am...

Wed 27th April - Trevor doing a talk at **Elland Probus Club**, 10am

Fri 29th April - **Happy Wedding Day to William and Catherine!** **No Street Angels tonight!**

Sat 30th April **SA 9pm - midnight** and Sun 1st May - **SA 9pm - 3am**

Sat 21st May - **Calderdale Neighbours Day** - Street Angels needed to steward and run a stall, 11am - 4pm in Piece Hall.

Report on The Big Response from Wakefield Diocese Awake magazine:

THE BIG RESPONSE UK tour kicked off in September, arriving in Halifax on 23rd February. The message, loud and clear, was that churches can transform their local communities – and now is the time to get involved.

The day was hosted by Halifax Street Angels and took place in the King's Centre, where around 300 people gathered – church leaders and Christian social activists from all denominations, representing both local and national groups. Street Angels founder Paul Blakey MBE welcomed everybody to the opening session, before inviting Steve Chalke onto the stage.

Steve is the main mover and shaker (and self-confessed fidget) behind the Big Response. He's also a Baptist minister, UN Special Advisor on Human Trafficking, and founder of Oasis UK and the Faithworks movement. Above all, he believes passionately that the church must find a role in the new shape of society. Whether or not the Government's vision of Big Society lasts, he says, "the idea of participative communities is here to stay."

The opening session was an urgent call to action, because a "brand new world" will dawn in April 2012, when a huge devolution of public services takes place. Steve's message is that there's one window of opportunity, and that's now: "Society is going to change almost completely in the next five years. Most of the foundations will be put in place in the next year. And if you're not in the game, you're out of it – it's that urgent for the church. At this moment everything is in our favour, and by autumn you need to be in the conversation."

Oasis (www.oasisuk.org) runs projects around the UK and worldwide. In each location they form a 'hub', in order to meet the full breadth of the community's needs – educational, economical, physical, spiritual, social or environmental. For example in Waterloo there are

projects as diverse as academies, housing, youth work, breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, football, table tennis and, of course, church. It is, as Steve says, joined-up delivery of 'Shalom', or wellbeing, an integrated way for delivering the good news for the transformation of the local community. Everything is guided by a 'key incarnational principle' – doing things with people, rather than to or even for them.

In the second session, Paul Rose, Director of the Oasis Projects Unit, came on stage to stress that, if churches are to play a viable role in shaping society, they need to unite. "It won't be one church – it will be 'the church in the area' and it will look and feel different." For example, several of the churches in Havering, where Paul lives, are sharing a Hub Coordinator. As Steve pointed out, the Trinity means that God is a team, a community.

At the event were Kate Fawcett and Denise Keenan MBE, of the St Augustine's Centre in Halifax, which exists to help vulnerable people in the local community, including asylum seekers, refugees and EU migrants. Denise made the point that people working at grass roots level know people's real needs better than authorities.

Kate said: "God is really moving in Halifax, things are starting to happen. Many Christian individuals and organisations are uniting to help serve the community and bring about lasting change, which is really exciting."

In the third and session a panel was convened on stage, comprising of Kate Fawcett, Paul Blakey and Paul Rose, alongside Beth Ward – founder of local initiative Totally Locally, and Salvation Army Major Paul McNally. By the end of the day there was an audible buzz of excitement in the room. People were galvanized into action, to the extent that someone had taken Steve's advice seriously – to pick up the phone and start making calls – and had persuaded Calderdale Council Leader Janet Battye to agree to meet a group of church leaders and discuss a way forward.

The following day Paul Blakey summed it up: "I see week in week out the church putting Big Society into action. Locally initiatives such as Noah's Ark Café, Food and Support Drop In, Todmorden Youth Caravan and Street Angels are delivering and delivering exceptionally well! The Big Response day encouraged us to look not to Big Society but to Big Kingdom. What we do within our local communities should be part of the big picture of what God is already doing – where there is hurt, pain, desperation and need God is already there and invites us to join Him. This is a moment of great change in our nation in terms of local and national government agendas – the challenge for the church now is how do we respond to this opportunity?"

Report by Caroline Hodgson

Debating Democracy

An evening to hear about and debate the Alternative Voting Referendum. Panel members from both Yes and No sides will set the scene that is sure to spark debate!

Chaired by Dave Gilpin

leader of Hope City Church (Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham and Newcastle) author and broadcaster

Panel members include:

Linda Riordan MP,
Craig Whittaker MP,
Rt. Rev. Colin Buchanan
(former Bishop of Woolwich) &
Revd. Canon Dr Jonathan
Draper (York Minster)

Wednesday 13th April,
7.30pm - 9pm at The King's
Centre, Park Road, Halifax,
HX1 2TS - **wine reception
from 7pm** - please book via
Paul on 07725 501465 or
<http://ddnorth.eventbrite.com>

Kings Coffee House open from
5.30pm for drinks and cake

organised by Street Angels - CNI



lights will guide you home...

Hartlepool Town Pastors are hoping to start patrols on 27th May and are currently going through the training and administration process. Twenty volunteers from six churches have signed up so far and the scheme will operate from the Elim Church in Whitby Street.

The chair of the steering group, Colin Sawtell, said "There is real support across Hartlepool for this initiative from churches, police, council and Safer Hartlepool Partnership. We are looking forward to being able to have trained volunteers out on Friday and Saturday evenings in Church Street to offer help and support to those in need."

During March, Adam was delighted to speak with **Pastor Agu**, the General Overseer of the **Redeemed Church of God** on the telephone. He shared the work of CNI which Pastor Agu was very excited about. Pastor Agu has asked that he sends his prayers to all those engaged in Street Angels - CNI.

Paul and Adam met with Mark from **Beyond The Streets**. This organisation exists to help people exit trafficking and prostitution and to ensure that those working in prostitution have the option to pursue genuine and sustainable alternatives and the opportunity to tell their story and have their voice heard. We plan to work closer with Beyond The Streets in the future - www.beyondthestreets.org.uk

Paul represented Street Angels - CNI at **The Cinnamon Network** - a gathering of Christian Social Impact Charities. The event included a talk from Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Ian McPherson who spoke of how police and the faith community can work together more clearly. The event also looked at plans for a community franchising web site, expos and advice service. More details on this will be in the future newsletters.

We are delighted to announce that CNI are now official partners of both **Biblefresh** and **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland** this month. Please do promote both these groups among your contacts.

Fancy being a games pastor for the **2012 Olympics**?
Please contact adam@cnietwork.org.uk ...



Stockton Town Pastors has become a formally constituted body and is applying for charity status. The group is also working closer with **A WAY OUT**, an award winning charity reaching out to vulnerable people in the Stockton area.

Baroness Helen Newlove is the champion for active, safer communities who has met with Street Angels and has endorsed the work of CNI and linked projects. Baroness Newlove has spent six months touring the country and has produced an excellent report "Our Vision for Safe and Active Communities" which is available on the Home Office web site. The main recommendations (some of which can easily be part of and support what CNI linked projects already do) are:

- * Communities providing information leading to a conviction to be given a reward to spend on crime prevention work
- * Money made from selling local drug dealers' assets to be handed back to the neighbourhood they blighted
- * Communities to set their own speed limits
- * Allow people to use crime maps to report crime and anti-social behaviour.
- * Roll out of the 101 number for reports of anti-social behaviour.
- * Council tax rebates, or vouchers for local businesses and services, for people who take part in activism.
- * Police and Crime Commissioners to commit at least 1% of their budget to grass roots community groups.
- * Public servants to go out into communities, volunteering their time and expertise to support local groups.
- * Agencies' budgets to be pooled, giving communities a choice in how it is spent.
- * '9 to 5' culture of local agencies to be changed so they are there to respond when people need them most.

Roy Crowne is an Angel - for an evening

The Executive Director of HOPE joined the new Street Angels team in Beeston, Nottingham, on launch night. Lucy Cooper asked him about the experience....



LC: What went on Friday night then?

RC: I travelled up to Beeston in Notts and met with HOPE Nottingham. We had a brief commissioning service for the brand new Street Angels team and set out to be a presence on the streets in our fabulous blue and fluorescent jackets. We were joined on patrol by Paul Blakey, the founder of Street Angels and the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Broxtowe.

We felt it was important to stand with this new Beeston team as they embark on the venture and volunteer regularly at the weekends. The purpose of the Street Angels patrol is to be part of helping build community and be there to look after people and make people feel safe as they are out at night.



LC: What are Street Angels?

RC: Street Angels are volunteers, initially people from local churches, who get involved in reducing problems on the streets of their town or city. The project involves teams walking through town centres on Fridays and Saturday evenings from 9.00pm to the early hours of the morning. These projects are part of a larger network, of 70 different groups

known as Christian Nightlife initiatives which reach out to clubbers and the vulnerable. Angels promote a friendly atmosphere and are on hand to assist people and keep safe those who have had one too many drinks, and to engage creatively with young people.

LC: What was your impression of Beeston?

RC: My first initial thought was that it was quieter than expected - I'm from East London after all. However, it seems that there is a misperception of Beeston that it is just like central Nottingham. When I went on BBC Radio Nottingham the next morning, I positively encouraged people to give Beeston a chance as it is a nice place and it is even safer with the new Street Angels Team on the streets each weekend.



LC: What was the response of the people you encountered?

RC: We got a really warm response from the people we met. We had lots of chats with them and they were pleased to see us out. Various young people were intrigued at what we do and why, asking questions. They were impressed that the main reason we were there was to make things safer but they did have the cheek to ask us if we would buy them a drink. Recently there had been a sad incident where a local youth died and we met a group who were holding a vigil for their friend. This meant they were open to be more reflective than usual.

LC: How would you sum up the experience?



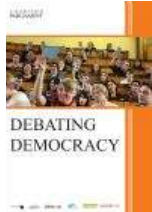
RC: It was such a brilliant experience and hopefully we encouraged the team as they started out. Being a Street Angel is all about bringing hope to communities and encouraging safer streets. It's an amazing thing to be part of and all power to those who volunteer on a regular basis. The simple act of being present and being salt and light where people are makes a huge difference. It demonstrates that the Church is active in the community but also that God loves each person. This new project and partnership is exactly the kind we need all around the UK to bring HOPE to our nation.

Lucy Cooper, 17/03/2011

Please pray for: *Beeston Street Angels as they continue to make a massive difference in Beeston; Baroness Newlove and the recommendations of her research; the regional co-ordinators of CNI and Love Your Streets meeting in Luton on 4th and 5th April; the expansion of CNI across the UK and the 100 projects represented - all investing massive amounts into local areas; each volunteer who gives up time for the sake of others; our links nationally with Police, Government, Community and Church networks; the work of NightLight in Northern Ireland; the work of HOPE nationally and in regions across the UK; More Than Gold as they make plans for the 2012 Olympics and for those who will volunteer through this; Paul and Adam in the work they do.*



CNI to host Debating Democracy:



MP's and Theologians to debate democracy, as churches lead the way on discussing the Alternative Vote referendum!

In the run up to the Alternative Vote referendum on Thursday 5th May, Oasis & Faithworks, with the support of Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, are creating a Debating Democracy Challenge Fund. The fund will provide resources to local churches, faith groups, and community organisations to run their own hustings and debates in their locality. These events will provide a platform for local communities to debate the advantages and disadvantages of both our current First Past the Post system and the Alternative Vote system.

The campaign has been launched off the back of Debating Democracy-The Alternative Vote Referendum event with BBC broadcaster Jeremy Vine hosted by Oasis Charities Parliament on February 16th 2011 at church.co.uk. Charities Parliament acts as a catalyst for innovation and this is just one of the many initiatives it has inspired.

As part of the campaign the Oasis Charities Parliament will be holding three high profile events across the country with one of them in Halifax on **Wednesday 13th April 2011 between 7.30pm and 9.00pm at the Kings Centre, Halifax, HX1 2TS.**

The event will also include a drinks reception. The Charities Parliament has teamed up with Christian Nightlife Initiatives, Halifax Street Angels and HOPE Calderdale to engage the church and wider civil society with this significant debate.

The evening will see a panel including The Rt Revd Colin Buchanan, Former Bishop of Woolwich, The Revd Canon Dr Jonathan Draper, Canon Theologian

of York Minster and Linda Riordan MP for Halifax, who has written against changing the current First Past the Post system. The Chair for the evening will be Christian Pastor broadcaster and writer Dave Gilpin.

To book your free ticket for the wine reception event visit <http://ddnorth.eventbrite.com/>

The Charities Parliament Director, Pete Brierley said: *"These events and this campaign are a vital stimulus for churches and civil society to engage in a once in a generation opportunity to debate and vote on electoral reform. The referendum also gives us an opportunity to pause and think about what kind of democracy and what kind of politics we want."*

The National Director of Development for Christian Nightlife Initiatives, Adam May went on to say: *"I am both delighted and excited by these events happening across the country, and particularly the one in Halifax that we have been asked to partner on. The panel guests in Halifax next month will, I'm sure offer some challenging perspectives on an event which will make British history if the voting process is to change. The subject of the AV vote referendum should not just be for the corridors of Westminster, but something people up and down the land alike should be engaging with. My challenge is to urge you to join the debate today!"*

There is a Debating Democracy resource available that gives churches and organisations guidance on how to run a debate - visit www.faithworks.info/debatingdemocracy to download the resource.

"The work of faith based groups such as the Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network can be so important in the strengthening of our communities. Your mobilisation of local volunteers ensures people remain alert to crime and vigilant against it. That is so valuable to people up and down this country. I wish you every success as you continue your important efforts in the future." *The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Labour Party*

"I warmly commend Christian Nightlife Initiatives and the valuable work with those at risk on our streets at night as well as a friendly presence which is reassuring to all. Along with Street Pastors the Street Angels provide a safety net for those who are vulnerable and in need on our streets, especially in urban areas, bringing together Christians from different denominations and backgrounds in common service. I look forward to further developments of their work, especially as they start to prepare for the Olympics in 2012 and their involvement as Games Pastors." *The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop for Urban Life and Faith and Bishop of Southwark*



Jackie Pullinger who works with drug addicts and Triad Gang Members in Hong Kong is touring the UK in June - 4th Woodley, Berkshire; 6th Bournemouth; 8th Coventry; 11th Stockton; 13th Halifax; 15th Swansea. More information and booking on the Blog at www.cninetwork.org.uk

Exciting things afoot in Bristol!

Earlier this month, Adam spent two days visiting Bristol at the invitation of the Revd Canon Tim Higgins, the City Canon at the Cathedral, exploring possible opportunities for Christian ministry in that city. As part of his visit Adam was able to: share in a business breakfast of six professionals called co-creation looking at how we engage in meaningful relationships in the workplace; attend a meeting to explore the possibility of appointing a Chaplain to the night time economy from September, linking with Bristol Nights and the Industrial and Social Responsibility Chaplaincy; attend a service in Bristol Cathedral; attend the inaugural meeting of Reconciliation Foundation, based at St Stephen's Church, looking at providing a safe space for discussion on issues which are traditionally a source of conflict. Much of this work builds on the appointment 6 months ago by the Bristol City Chaplaincy Trust to the role of retail chaplain to serve those working in this trade.

It is hoped that an advert for the post of Chaplain will be out in the next couple of weeks. Please do pray for Canon Tim and all those responsible for this exciting new appointment.



Love Your Streets continues to grow - people loving others and the local community! This month Easter and Royal Wedding could mean you giving away hot cross buns, organising a street party, doing a neighbourhood clean up over the long holiday - go for it - love your street! loveyourstreets.org.uk

As part of Love Your Streets we are running a Your Pictures section to help you show off where you live, work or visit to others! You may even encourage people to visit... Send you photos to hello@loveyourstreets.org.uk with a caption and we will add to our web site and Facebook page - facebook.com/loveyourstreets

CNI Diary and Prayer:

Mon 4th and Tue 5th April - Paul and Adam meeting with CNI regional Coordinators (Andy, Derek, Jackie, Julian, Steve) and trustees (Trevor and Paul) gathering at St Paul's Church, Luton. Please pray for them as they pray, discern and explore the future of CNI. Please email any thoughts you have to be raised at this gathering - hello@cni-network.org.uk

Wed 6th April - Adam to attend the Church Urban Conference Practical Impact in London

Thu 7th April - Adam to attend the More than Gold Chaplaincy meeting in London this afternoon. Please pray for those meeting to see how Christians can be involved during the London 2012 games.

Wed 13th April - CNI helping organise the AV Referendum event in Halifax with Faithworks, Oasis and Charities Parliament.

Sat 16th April - Gordon from Isle of Man meeting with Skipton Street Angels and Paul to look at possibility of street work in Isle of Man.

Mon 18th April - please pray for Adam meeting various people in London today...

Easter - pray for various outreach events including Costa Coffee, Flash:Mob Easter, street work, stewarding the Christian Aid Long March event, talks in church services...

Wed 27th and Thu 28th April - please pray for Adam involved in the AV Referendum evenings in Bedford and Luton.

On the CNI Blog - www.cni-network.org.uk

CNI Lent Alcohol Challenge, links to Stockton and Guildford newsletters, Big Response podcasts, radio features downloads, Department for Education report, hate crime and Safety Net, CRB update, Local Authority support for Voluntary groups - go check it out!

As you can see the work of Christian Nightlife Initiatives continues to grow and develop across the UK. We have spent much of the last year catching up with where God has taken this organisation! We now believe it is right to see Paul and Adam released full time into CNI as our links and work grow and strengthen. Would you consider becoming a Supporter Member in this - either as a project, church or individual? If so please complete the form:

Name:

E-Mail/Phone:

I would like to support CNI monthly £ _____*

I would like to make a one off donation £ _____

Please send me details on Gift Aid _____*

* We will email / post you an additional form

Please email hello@cni-network.org.uk or post to CNI, Fairtrade Café, 15 Crossley Street, Halifax, HX1 1UG (cheques payable Christian Nightlife Initiatives) or visit www.cni-network.org.uk to donate via CAF On-Line giving. Many thanks.