



# NEWSLETTER

www.streetangels.org.uk

Registered Charity 1136416 / Company Limited by Guarantee 07173090



**Love Your Streets** launched over Valentines weekend and saw Halifax Street Angels out and about giving out Love Heart sweets and spikey bottle tops to people in the town! This, as you can probably imagine, went down very well with word getting round and many requesting Love Hearts from us!

Love Your Streets is a continuing idea not just for Valentines! Do something nice for someone else - smile, say hello, volunteer, check on an elderly neighbour, plan a Royal Wedding Street Party... The more people who commit to doing nice things for their neighbourhood the better the neighbourhood will become!

More ideas are on [www.loveyourstreets.org.uk](http://www.loveyourstreets.org.uk) or join the Facebook group and follow on Twitter!



St George's Day event - Sat 23rd April - 10am - 4pm Piece Hall

Neighbours Day - Sat 21st May, 10am - 4pm in Piece Hall

Halifax Gala - Sat 11th June

Great Yorkshire Duck Race - Sat 9th July at Bolton Abbey



**The Big Response** was a fantastic day of challenges, inspiration, laughter, coming together and setting goals for the future. Based around The Big Society, founder of Faithworks and Oasis, UN Ambassador and Guinness World Record holder Steve Chalke led over 300 people in a day of talks and discussion.

The next six months are a critical time for voluntary, community and faith groups as local and national Government make radical changes to the way many services are done. Now is the time for the church in particular to see the Big Kingdom as we partner our local stories within our local community with the big picture God is doing - without a meta-narrative (a Big Story) we perish...

The main talks from Steve are available as PodCasts on [streetangels.org.uk](http://streetangels.org.uk) and a Twitter feed of the day is available by searching #thebigresponse in Twitter.

Part of the day was hearing about Steve attempting to break his World Record (donate on-line at Virgin Money Giving / [www.oasisuk.org](http://www.oasisuk.org)) - Steve writes:

*"Thank you to all who have given so generously towards my £2,000,000 marathon Guinness World Record attempt. I am very pleased to announce that we raised an impressive £506 at The Big Response event on Wednesday and your giving will help greatly towards Oasis work with the poorest and most vulnerable in the UK and across the world. It was a joy to be able to share with you God's vision for our communities and am very eager to hear about the subsequent developments all over Yorkshire and beyond over the next few months. Thanks again"* Steve Chalke.

A great day indeed and a privilege to host people from across the UK. Thanks to: Graham, Paul and Trish at The King's Centre; Paula and team at King's Coffee House; Street Angel volunteers Baroun, Damian, Jeff Julie and Steve; the musicians Albie, Chris, Elaine, Helen, Mick and Trevor; Richard on PA and Twitter; the question and answer panel Beth, Kate, Paul and Paul; Jean, Helen, Lynda and Marcia who helped make tea and coffee; Beth and Paul who helped register people and to Fliss, Paul and Steve from Faithworks who invested so much into the day...

As part of the Love Your Streets weekend launch, Steve, Damian, Jean and Paul from Halifax Street Angels travelled to **Beeston, Nottingham** to help launch both Love Your Streets and Beeston Street Angels. As well as an information stand and various family activities a celebration evening saw 300 gather to hear Roy Crowne of HOPE Together, Adam May of CNI Network and Paul Blakey from Street Angels talk launch and pray for the work.

Baroun, Damian, Jean and Paul travelled to **Stockton** for pie and peas with the Town Pastors. It was great to hear of the work happening in Stockton, Middlesborough and the planned expansion into Hartlepool.

It was great to welcome Derek, Robert, Sarah Steve and Prisca from **Watford Street Angels** on a visit to Halifax in February. The team saw Halifax Street Angels in action on a slightly damp and quiet night (except the dancing and much laughter) and enjoyed breakfast and a visit to Halifax Minster and Piece Hall (especially the sweet shop!). An exchange visit will be taking place soon....

Many thanks to **Grand Central Trains** who have given Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives a community card offering half price travel for one person between Halifax and London. If your community organisation would benefit from a card Google Grand Central Community Card for a form...

**Hebden Bridge Street Angels** have temporarily stopped working as Marcus is set to leave the area in a few months - our thanks to Marcus and the team for running SA in Hebden Bridge. We are looking at working with **Teen Challenge Calderdale** who are hoping to place a trailer in Hebden Bridge on Friday nights over the summer - more details soon...

**Several talks** on Street Angels have taken place at St Andrew's Ladies Group, Stones Methodist Church, Halifax Probud Club and Halifax Tagent Club...



facebook
twitter
YouTube  
Broadcast Yourself

Search and like on Facebook  
Halifax Street Angels  
Love Your Streets  
CNI  
HOPE Calderdale  
The Mega Giant Yellow Duck  
Christians in Calderdale

Follow on Twitter  
hxstreetangels  
cniinet  
loveyourstreets  
mgyduck  
#Streetangels

YouTube channel  
streetangelshalifax

Friday 11th March - Community Transport for Calderdale new building opening, 2pm, The Bungalow, Tenterfields.

**NO Street Angels in Halifax on Friday 11th March** - we are visiting Beeston, Nottingham Street Angels launch.

Sun 13th March - thanks to Brighthouse Central Methodist Church who are offering half of the offering take at the Stuart Townend event to Street Angels.

Thu 17th March - Paul and Adam in London for various meetings

Sat 19th March - Matthew's Gathering - a celebration of the amazing things God is doing in Halifax, 11.30am - 2am at Ebenezer Methodist Church, bottom Pellon Lane - Street Angels slot is at 4pm.

Thu 24th March - Paul and Adam back in London for various meetings!

Sat 2nd April - a group of Christians from Aachen, Halifax's twin town, meeting at Ebenezer Methodist to see Food and Support drop-in in action and to hear from various organisations including Street Angels - 10am

**Easter Plans:**

*Maundy Thursday, 21st April, 6.30pm "Hope and Chocolate" at Costa Coffee, Woolshops followed by **Street Angels 9pm***

Good Friday - Flash:Mob Easter across the town centre 12noon - 2.30pm (what can Street Angels do?) - **NO Street Angels Good Friday night.**

*Easter Saturday - 23rd April - help needed to steward at and run a SA stall at a St George's Day event organised by the Scouts in Piece Hall - 10am - 4pm. **Street Angels 9pm - midnight.***

Easter Sunday - **Street Angels 9pm - 3am** including and followed by stewarding at the Long March (13 or 26 mile walk raising money for Christian Aid - see longmarch.org.uk)

**No Street Angels on Friday 29th April (Royal Wedding day). 9pm - midnight on Saturday 30th April.**

**Extra night of Street Angels on Sunday 1st May (as Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May!)**



*lights will guide you home...*

During February Adam has met with a number of leading Mp's from across the political parties. We have met with and received endorsements from: Hazel Blears (Labour MP for Salford), Eric Pickles (Conservative, the Secretary of State), Gary Streeter (Chair of Christians in Parliament and Conservative MP), Richard Fuller (Conservative MP for Bedford), Linda Riordan (Labour MP for Halifax), Steve Webb (Liberal Democrat MP for Thornbury and Yate) and Stephen Timms (Labour MP for East Ham and Vice-Chair for Faith Groups).

All are extremely supportive of the work of CNI and the difference this is making across the country.

Eric Pickles MP commented, *"I am a great admirer of your work and wish you every success for the future. The Department for Communities and Local Government recognises the importance of your work, given the problems of crime and anti-social behaviour that blight our town centres at night. It is clear that projects such as these, led by faith communities, are playing a crucial part in bringing about the safer, more integrated communities that we want to see."*

Stephen Timms MP also comments, *"I warmly welcome the work of Christian Nightlife Initiatives. Our town- and city-centres face big night time challenges. In a grass roots movement which is helping to build a new community spirit, a growing number of church-based groups are grappling with these challenges. Encouraging stories are emerging from their work out and about in the small hours, and I wish Christian Nightlife Initiatives every success in its important work."*

Meeting with the political leaders of our nation helps to demonstrate how CNI projects are putting the Big Society into action and we will continue to promote the work of initiatives across the UK and how local stories fit in with the meta-narrative of difference making and Kingdom bringing (please email us your stories - [hello@cnietwork.org.uk](mailto:hello@cnietwork.org.uk))

'Love Your Streets' launched Valentine's weekend. The initiative, supported by HOPE, focuses on encouraging people to take responsibility and contribute some good old fashioned community spirit to their neighbourhood.



The launch was part of the United NG9 event in Beeston, Nottingham on Sunday 13 February, which saw 300 people gather at the Pearson Centre. Roy Crowne, Executive Director of HOPE, urged Christians to get involved in their area and join together in acts of kindness and word and action mission. The United event also saw the beginnings of the new Street Angels team in Beeston, which will be led by HOPE Nottingham. Unexpectedly, the local Tesco Express presented a cheque for £300 to contribute towards the equipment needed for Beeston Street Angels.



Roy Crowne, Paul Blakey and a team from Halifax will be going out with the new Street Angels team on their launch night, Friday 11 March where there will be a service of commissioning.

Speaking after the launch, Adam May, the National Director of Development for Christian Nightlife Initiatives said: "I was delighted to share in the events of the weekend which was a major encouragement for the work of HOPE Nottingham. Street Angels and Love your Streets are demonstrations of the Gospel of love in action. As lovers up and down the land show their love for one another, there is a challenge for us not to lose sight of the need to love our wider community.

Mayor of Boxtowne, Pat Lalley, has shown his own personal support for the project: "Beeston Street Angels will be a welcome addition to our area and our attempt to improve community safety. The plans of Hope Nottingham to develop patrols of volunteers to be on our streets each weekend will hopefully bring community and sense. I wholeheartedly endorse their work and look forward to seeing what can be achieved in Beeston and them becoming a familiar presence in our area."

This is exactly the kind of revolutionary social cause that should be in every city. I commend the work of Street Angels to transform their community. The problems of the world do not go away when the sun goes down, and neither do these amazing volunteers. [Pastor Matthew Barnett, founder of the Los Angeles Dream Center](#)

I would like to say how impressed I am with the support and help initiatives like: Street Angels, Town Pastors, NightLight and Street Pastors, provide to young people and those who are out at night in our towns and cities. Having three young daughters myself I appreciate how valuable it is having people out on the streets that are looking out for others because they care about their safety and wellbeing. Your services are exactly the sort of thing that I would like to see encouraged across other areas and situations, and I would like to thank you and your team for all the work they are doing. Many thanks for your valuable support for young people. I do believe that all faith groups have a significant role to play in developing safer neighbourhoods. [Baroness Helen Newlove, Big Society Community Safer Champion](#)

## Big Society - more than a the latest buzzword - a letter sent to national media in February...

'The Big Society' has to be more than just the latest buzzword on the political agenda. It has to affirm what is already happening but more than that, it also needs to encourage and support new initiatives to happen and take place. Although, this itself is more than filling that gap!

Through 70 projects across the UK, Christian Nightlife Initiatives equips, resources and supports hundreds (if not thousands) of volunteers to each week deliver the Big Society

concept. This is happening in towns and cities where through fantastic teams of volunteers, violent crime and sexual assaults are heavily reduced on weekend evenings. This is all done because people care about their local community and act on it.

Street Angels, Town Pastors, Nightlight and Street Chaplains proves that the Big Society is there; that it does happen and importantly works. Its work is not about replacing paid workers with volunteers, but encouraging young and old to re-engage with this old fashion sense of community spirit. We need to live in communities that

we are proud of!

Our latest initiative 'Love Your Streets' working with HOPE and many other agencies is about showing that a simple act is making a real difference in the lives of others.

We believe Big Society starts to happen when each one of us - and don't let pious words like the Big Society put you off - get on with making a real difference!

Paul Blakey MBE  
Founder of Street Angels  
Adam May  
Development Officer CNI



Are you taking the **CNI Lent Alcohol Challenge**? Each week CNI projects come across and help people who are affected by drinking too much alcohol (though we do much more than that!)

To help us help more people would you consider giving up alcohol (or at least some alcohol) over Lent (9th March - 23rd April)? Then with the money you save donate to CNI to help us help more towns and cities continue and start work within the nighttime economy.

As part of the CNI Lent Alcohol Challenge there will be a daily Blog, Twitter and Facebook of challenging and inspiring sound-bites from Proverbs...

To join this Lent Challenge email [hello@cni-network.org.uk](mailto:hello@cni-network.org.uk) (we will add your first name and town to the web site) and then send your gifts payable Christian Nightlife Initiatives to "CNI, Fairtrade Café, 15 Crossley Street, Halifax, HX1 1UG"

## 'SHARING HOPE IN CRISIS' SEMINAR

Saturday 2nd April 2011 - 9:00 am - 5:00pm  
City Temple, Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff CF11 9AD

The aims of the 'Sharing Hope in Crisis' seminar are to:

- \* Train and develop church members and those who have a ministry calling to support others i.e. Street Pastors, Street Angels. Chaplains
- \* Develop the skills and abilities of those attending in identifying and communicating with people in need in times of crisis and excessive stress
- \* Inform those interested in starting a 'Community Crisis Ministry Team' in their Church in support of local communities
- \* Demonstrate how to share God's hope and comfort with compassion in times of crisis and introduce delegates to the RRT ministry as RRT volunteer 'Response Chaplain/Pastors'

The Seminar will be led by Jack Munday (International Director) supported by members of the Rapid Response Team UK including Mike Freeman MBE (Rapid Response Team Manager UK)

Registration required at [www.billygraham.org.uk/SHIC](http://www.billygraham.org.uk/SHIC) - handbook and refreshments provided

We are delighted that, as our current contract on [cni-network.org.uk](http://cni-network.org.uk) comes to an end, our website host - [websoftnet.co.uk](http://websoftnet.co.uk) - has agreed to give us 12 month free hosting to continue the message of the work we do! Many thanks to all at WebSoftNet!

Thanks to the **Church Urban Fund** who have made a donation of £5000 towards the work of CNI - this will help fund the role of Adam as he works on developing CNI nationally.

Congratulations to **Woking Street Angels** who launched in February - please pray for this new group of volunteers as they make a difference on the streets of Woking...

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives and Street Pastors are working together in facilitating people who can perform the Olympic volunteering role of 'Games Pastors' with 'More Than Gold' during or for part of the period of the 2012 Olympics.



The role will be to provide a 'Pastoral caring and information service' to the public. You may be called upon to assist in controlling and directing people and also providing emotional and spiritual care if a need were identified - training will be provided. To indicate 'without obligation' an interest in this role please register by emailing [hello@cni-network.org.uk](mailto:hello@cni-network.org.uk) with your details.

The above role will NOT be involved INSIDE the stadiums, venues or villages.

Primarily 'Games Pastors' will be allocated to work with staff in transport hubs including airports, railway stations, underground stations and also as small teams in footpath 'corridor routes' to the Olympic sites and other designated areas close to the Olympic Games venues and stadiums. Volunteers will be needed both around London and at Olympic venues across the UK.

All potential 'Games Pastors' are required to register even if in the role now of RRT 'Response Pastors' or 'Street Pastors', as the Olympic Games organisers have insisted that all volunteers initially go through the 'Games Makers' process.



### *Sarah Digby from Watford Street Angels writes...*

Friday and Saturday nights in Watford always was the kind of place you'd need a little extra help in. 'Maybe some sort of helpful angel,' The big guys pondered. 'Hey how about some Street Angels!' And so, in July 2006, Watford Street Angels were born. Since then we have been serving the heart of Watford with joy and smiles on our faces, until the very early hours of the mornings that not many know exist. Whether talking with a homeless person, a new friend who may have had a few too many drinks, or just someone who needed some fresh air and a friendly face, we aim to serve Christ by being his living embodiment loving others and sharing that love with whoever needs or requests it.

As well as a lot of talking (we're all very good at that), we also play a practical part in clearing the streets of glass bottles and stepping in during fights, whether domestic or group, until the police arrive. Even more exciting is the added bonus that we get to go on trips!

Recently, five Angels from Watford made the journey north to Halifax where we spent the night out with the Halifaxians chatting, dancing, giggling and generally showing them the best that Watford has to offer. There was excitement mixed with pause for thought throughout what was a very enjoyable evening, even with all the rain and the hills. Having made the compulsory visit to the sweet shop the following morning, we left for the journey home with the promise that they would repay the visit and come and show Watford how the Halifaxians do it..

Are we tired the next morning? Yes, completely knackered.

Do we get cold and wet whilst out? Yup, especially in the snow and ice.

Do we walk around a lot and get sore legs? Yup, especially if it is a long, busy night, but, and this is the most important question, would we change any it? No. Not a single micro part. Ask any Street Angel - Watford or other - we love what we do and there's nothing we would change.



Steve from Stockton has led discussions with churches, Police and Council in **Hartlepool** and are set to launch Town Pastors by the end of May - please pray for those in Hartlepool running this.

On Saturday 19th February, **Arun Angels** were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of West Sussex on their weekly patrol.

Paul met with Debra Green from **Redeeming Our Communities** to look at ways we work better and closer together. ROC is a fantastic organisation aiming to bring about partnership between police, community, church, council, etc. Ideas such as ROC Café, a multi-agency youth work, and ROC Conversations, meetings that seek action within a community, are making a massive difference across the UK. SA-CNI are working with ROC to see initiatives across Northern Ireland. More info at [redeemingourcommunities.org.uk](http://redeemingourcommunities.org.uk). The ROC Conference is in Newport Pagnell Fri 6th and Sat 7th May - info on web site.

**Please pray for:** *the 70 projects across the UK who are on the frontline making a difference week in and week out; wisdom in light of national and local government changes and how projects will fit into this; increased funding for individual projects and the national work of CNI; new areas looking at starting a night-time project; those affected by alcohol, homelessness and other needs encountered weekly; LoveYourStreets and for more to take up the challenge; those we partner with such as police and local authorities; Beeston as they launch this month...*