

Chairman's Report

Andrew Henderson

Once again I'm pleased to be able to report on the work of Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy and I would like to start by gratefully acknowledging the commitment of our staff, trustees, volunteers, partners and supporters across the town (and beyond). This is a team effort and what we have been able to achieve happens because of that shared goal to make Aylesbury a safer, happier, friendlier and more vibrant place. Thank you everyone!

We started the year in a good position financially, work that had been curtailed during 'lockdown', picked up speed again as volunteers resumed their duties, routines and rotas were re-established. Friendships were rekindled.

This happened against a background of change again as our new Operations Manager, Ellie, built on the amazing work of her predecessor, Catherine. Ellie has brought fresh ideas and energy whilst continuing much of what was already working well. One key priority was to recruit new trustees and volunteers. Rev'd Colin Hartley retired as a trustee but we also welcomed Denise Mander to the board. Our Street Angels, Chaplains and HOTS teams have all recruited new members, looking to increase this further in the coming year.

This is also a timely opportunity to pay tribute to our other paid employee, Lead Chaplain, Mark Knight who has faithfully and diligently continued to work despite dealing with serious personal illness. So much of our work hinges on his ability to build team relationships. We are delighted that he is making good progress.

It is always encouraging to see new faces, especially as we seek to represent the broad spectrum of Aylesbury churches. I always remind myself that the Chaplaincy started as a shared expression of the combined church leaders, 12 years ago, to jointly serve the town through this ministry. That's why it is always good to have the opportunity to share our story as widely as possible, to be accountable, to keep partners informed and engage them in furthering our work.

We went into 2022 with a renewed sense of optimism and we leave it confident that our work is needed more than ever. Thank you once again to our friends and supporters for your continued encouragement.

Andrew Henderson

Partnerships & Communication

We send out regular newsletters to our volunteers (fortnightly), our Friends (quarterly), church groups and other partner organisations (monthly). In addition we share fortnightly updates with prayer supporters. All these have moved over to Mailchimp which enables us to keep track of which emails are opened, plus gives us a new and more modern look.

We completed a major website upgrade in early 2023 and now use this, plus Twitter, to keep people up to date with our activities.

Our speaking engagements this year included Holy Trinity, Aylesbury Vineyard Church & men's breakfast, St Mary's Princes Risborough, Aylesbury Deanery Synod, the Mothers' Union, Berryfield's Church life group, and the Oaks.

We hosted over 40 students from AGS who heard about our work. They had many insightful questions for us!

We attended Aylesbury College's Open Day and Freshers Fair and chatted to students about our work. Mark and Sue Fox went to the Mayor's Inauguration and met people from many organisations that strive to make Aylesbury a safer, more prosperous place.

In July, the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber joined a Street Angel shift. He recorded a short video which is available to watch on our Twitter Feed.

Debbie Brock DL, The High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire shadowed a Street Angel team in December and wrote to say how impressed she was with our work.

Mark resigned as chair of the IAG but continues to attend, as well as attending Pubwatch, the ACN and TVP Chaplaincy meetings.

In November, Andrew, Mark and Ellie attended the ROC Annual Conference which was a huge encouragement and an opportunity to meet and share our stories with one another.

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

Our Chaplains were quick to get up to speed again after covid restrictions ended. At Bucks New University Marlene continued to support students and staff, and Kane continued his shifts at Aylesbury College.

In the town centre Melissa & Jean encouraged and supported shoppers and shopworkers in Friars' Square, Ken covered the Kingsbury & Market Square areas, and Mark also visits the town centre regularly.

David continues to support people in Vale Park, along the canal/canal basin area and The Exchange part of the town centre and has been joined by Pete, a new volunteer Chaplain. David has also become Chaplain to the British Legion and Royal Naval Association.

Melody continued with building relationships and supporting those at Aylesbury Crown Court, and Melissa with those in Morrisons supermarket. Sadly Melissa had a fall in the latter part of the year and had to recuperate for the rest of the year. We wish her well in her ongoing recovery.

Mark continued supporting Thames Valley officers and staff at the Police Station, plus attending when the Welfare van visited the Station. He also was able to continue networking with the wider Police Chaplaincy and attended training with them.

In total the Chaplains were out on 247 occasions - 494 volunteer hours.





The Street Angels shifts resumed fully during 2022. They have found the town somewhat quieter than before but have noticed a return of the rough sleepers who had been housed during the pandemic. They have continued to be able to help people, providing first aid, water, flip-flops and lollies to revellers and hot meals and drinks, warm clothing and sleeping bags to the rough sleepers. They also provided encouragement to doorstaff and others working in the night-time economy.

We welcomed 3 new Street Angel volunteers to the team during the year.

In 2022 the Street Angels were out on 38 occasions - a total of 456 volunteer hours.

HEALING ON THE STREETS

Sue's Healing On The Streets team had a full year. They were able to listen to and pray with between 5 and 10 people each session. They regularly see people return for prayer because they feel listened to and cared for.

Supporting our Volunteers

We continued our regular newsletters & annual volunteer reviews during the year. We sent out fortnightly emails, updating them on events and news. We started a WhatsApp group that helps to build community and in 2022 we ran some in person training (First Aid & Safety on the Streets) as well as offering online training by other organisations, eg Bucks Mind. We offer all volunteers an Annual Review, where we reflect together on their year.

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 Office of Police & Crime Commissioner Proceeds of Crime Act Fund, Mid-Bucks Association, The National Lottery). We also received a few ad hoc donations for which we are very grateful. Two churches (Holy Trinity and Aylesbury Vineyard) have kindly allowed us to use space for our office, meetings and HOTS team. Thank you to all our supporters. This year we opened a savings account as recommended by our Auditor to maximise our funds.

(Summary Accounts; full accounts are available separately)

	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	2022		
Carried forward	29,048.71	4,331.70	24,717.01
Income			
Churches Total	10141.06	0.00	10,141.06
Individual donations (inc Friends)	4377.70	0.00	4,377.70
Bank interest	40.28	0.00	40.28
Gift Aid	942.97	0.00	942.97
Grants Total	11000.00	10,000.00	1,000.00
Local authorities total	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thames Valley Police	5735.00	0.00	5,735.00
Total	32237.01	10,000.00	22,237.01
Expenditure			
Communications total	178.00	0.00	178.00
Equipment total	167.90	167.90	0.00
Hospitality (inc Annual Celebration)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	359.51	359.51	0.00
Office total	1,380.69	132.23	1,248.46
Staff costs total	20,281.64	4,439.71	15,841.93
Street Angels consumables	89.60	24.85	64.75
Volunteer costs total	89.90	24.50	65.40
Healing On The Streets	90.00	0.00	90.00
Total	22,637.24	5,148.70	17,488.54
surplus	38,648.48	9,183.00	29,465.48

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. It employs 2 part-time members of staff.

During 2022 there were 6 trustee meetings. One trustee, Revd Colin Hartley stood down in May and Denise Mander joined the board in July.

Trustees, as at 31st December 2022:

Andrew Henderson (Chair), David Finn, Revd Doug Zimmerman, Denise Mander

We are members of the SA-CNI Network. In April 2022 it was announced that this network would merge with ROC, and be known as ROC Angels, still headed up by Paul Blakey, MBE.

Our Vision: We love our town and, by coming alongside those who work, shop, socialise 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: Ellie Carman

