

### Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy Newsletter

#### **Latest news**

Since I last wrote our Chaplains have been able to be out in the town centre on different days; we have Chaplains out usually on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays. Mark has been invited to the Police Station as Chaplain, and Melissa has been in Morrisons.

Street Angels have been out on a few Saturdays, and following the changes to opening times are now having a much shorter and much earlier shift (8pm to around 10.30pm).

In both cases social distancing and spending time mostly out of doors is the order of the day. Particularly for Street Angels (who are not able to give out items and be close to people) this is very different, but we see that our Presence, Prayer, Listening & Encouragement are vital and valued by those in the town centre.

In addition, we are still able to offer a 'phone conversation with a Chaplain if someone wishes – please contact [office@aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk](mailto:office@aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk) with name and contact number if interested.

From 1<sup>st</sup> May our part-time staff have taken a reduced salary to reflect the reduction in some aspects of their work during this time.

#### **Are you interested in volunteering?**

Would you like to find out more about being a Chaplain or Street Angel with us?. Please contact us for an informal chat and / or an information pack and we'll talk you through what's involved.

#### **Other Updates**

Catherine attended (virtually) the Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board for Aylesbury. These are "a new way of bringing the council, groups, organisations and local people together to look at local issues and find ways of improving them together" You can find out more about these here [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community) It was really interesting to hear updates, particularly from the town centre manager on all the efforts to support businesses and safe shopping and leisure activities in the town centre.

Premier Christianity Radio's Prayers of Hope continue each Sunday at 7pm. On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, this included one submitted by Catherine.



## Volunteer News

We continue to arrange our fellowship events regularly via zoom.

A big Thank You to Stella, one of our Street Angels who has been with us for 7 years, but due to changing circumstances & commitments needs to put this ministry down.



Our newest Chaplain, David, was appointed just as we went into 'lockdown' in March; he has recently started out and about, and is covering the areas of The Exchange, the Canal Basin and along the canal.

### **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CHAPLAINCY & JOIN IN...**

All our work is done from and on behalf of the churches of Aylesbury. It is an expression of our wish to be church 'out there', joining in with what God is doing out in our town, and can only continue where churches and church members join in.

**In prayer:** Become a prayer partner – contact the office.

**By volunteering:** contact Mark or Catherine to find out more or see the website

**By becoming a Friend:** contact the office or see more details on our website

**Follow us on Twitter:** @AylesburySA



**Financially:** please get in touch via our office or the website or using the Golden Giving website <https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/aylesbury-town-chaplaincy>

**Listen:** Please let us know if you'd like us to speak at an event or meeting at your church.

#### How to contact us:

Catherine Turnbull-Ross

*Operations Manager*

(Usual working days: Monday & Tuesday)

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Mark Knight

*Lead Chaplain & Street Angels co-ordinator*

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w: [www.aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk](http://www.aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk)

Trustees: Colin Hartley, Andrew Henderson, Paul Hulcoop, Doug Zimmerman

## **PRAYER UPDATE (OCTOBER 2020)**

### **Monthly focus for September**

- Our focus is on our Trustee Board, particularly as they beginning planning & budgeting for 2021; it is very difficult at the moment to predict what the next few months & years will bring. Please pray for our trustees and staff team as they go through the process of listening to God and wisely setting plans for next year.
- Each month we'll focus our prayers to individuals associated with the Chaplaincy; please pray this month for: Ken & Marie (both town centre Chaplains) and Mark B (Street Angel)
- Please pray that, at this time of year, we can shine God's light and love when some in the world focus on the darkness at Hallowe'en.

### **The coming weeks:**

- For all our volunteers, especially those who are not able to return to 'outside' volunteering at the present time; pray that they understand that they are very much part of our organisation, and that they feel connected and supported by the Chaplaincy.
- For our Chaplains beginning to get out and about into the town centre; Mark, Melissa, Ken, David, Margaret and Jean.
- For Street Angels teams as they are out and about on Saturday nights.

### **Other recent prayer requests**

- For those mourning the loss of a colleague recently, and could only attend the funeral via a screen
- For A who has been sleeping rough
- For J – that he is able to find peace and a way forward in his situation and does not let anger and fear take over
- For managers and staff, especially in the night-time economy in the town. These past few months have been difficult and there doesn't seem to be any change in the next few months.