

BEDFORD STREET ANGELS

c/o The Salvation Army
Commercial Road
Bedford MK40 1QS
01234 357174



Chair of the Management Group

Mr Stephen Elphick

chair@bedfordstreetangels.co.uk (e)

www.bedfordstreetangels.co.uk (w)

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Dear church leaders, committee members and Bedford Street Angel volunteers,

Last night, an extraordinary meeting took place to discuss some vital issues facing the project as we move into a new era of work. I spoke about how the church in all its diverse traditions must be able to work together in unity and we spent some time praying for that. God's Heart is for the Unity of His Body, that the world might believe!

During our meeting, we were able to agree the aims and objectives of Bedford Street Angels to enable us to continue towards charity status. I print these below for your reference;

Bedford Street Angels aims to:

- 1 Enable Christians to serve the public working in, frequenting or visiting the town of Bedford and by the provision of pastoral care, including, but not limited to, the formation of Street Angels Programmes in the town;
- 2 Promote the mental and spiritual wellbeing of the inhabitants of the town of Bedford by the provision of advice, support and signposting.
- 3 Support, care and treat persons in need who are homeless and suffering from the effects of poverty, sickness, disability, old age, alcoholism, drug addiction, offending behaviour, or any other mental or physical infirmity, as an expression of Christian faith; and

4 Provide support to other Street Angels and similar projects across the UK including, but not limited to, facilitating networking, sharing of learning and promoting such projects in society at large.

Faithworks Charter

We also began a discussion on whether we seek to adopt the Faithworks charter as a base for our work, and it was agreed that more time needed to be given to this issue.

BSA Membership

A discussion began on the questions with regards to membership, and particularly the role of volunteers, churches and associate groups. It was agreed that associate groups would need a letter of intention to have voting rights.

Volunteers

Brenda Sackett, the Volunteer Coordinator gave us an update on volunteers stating that for the last two months we have been able to send two teams out each week on a Saturday.

There followed an interesting discussion on a number of important points concerning volunteers and the following motions were all passed.

1 It was agreed that from July, Bedford Street Angels will be providing one team of volunteers on a Friday evening as well Saturdays. It is hoped that in due course, this could be increased to two evening. It was also agreed that we would continue to ensure two teams on a Saturday evening.

Material for church newsletters will be circulated by Adam over the weekend, so we can encourage more people to get involved in our work.

2 It was agreed that **all** Bedford Street Angels would need to be a Christian.

3 It was agreed, that a process would begin to explore the possibility of 'nominal Christians' being included, if anyone came forward. However this would only be through a rigorous interview and observation to assess the spiritual potential of each candidate. This would be carried out by at least 2 members of the Leadership team (both male and female). However at this stage only those who are checked in the current process could go out on the streets.

These were all agreed and voted on by the vast majority of people at the meeting.

Finally

I recognise that not everyone will support our vote last night, but it is crucial that we remain united as God's people to enable this much needed work to continue.

Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Adam to discuss anything in this statement.

May God bless you
Stephen