

**BEDFORD STREET ANGELS**

c/o The Salvation Army  
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## **News Release**

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Immediate Use

### **Bedford Street Angels prepares to celebrate one year on the Streets**

They don't wear wings or have halos, but a group of Street Angels are helping to reduce violent crime in Bedford town centre. Next month marks one year since the Street Angels project was set up by fifteen local churches from across Bedford, to offer help and support to the thousands of people who visit the town's numerous bars and clubs every Saturday.

In their distinctive red fleece, they set out in teams of three to patrol along a wide area focusing on the town centre. More often than not, the Street Angels are available to help people, especially the vulnerable; those who may have become isolated from their friends, are on their own waiting for their lift home to arrive, need direction to locate taxi ranks or cash machines. But the Street Angels are also on hand to help those who have had too much to drink, or wait with folk needing Paramedic attention. They do their best, by talking with groups, to prevent scuffles breaking out and are on hand to help in the aftermath of any.

Adam May, Project Coordinator of Bedford Street Angels said

“In just a short space of time, we have really become part of the fabric of Bedford town centre on a Sat evening. We know the door staff and taxi marshals and are very much part of the night time community. We're well received by them and work closely with the police and other partners in the Bedford Borough. We respect and support them in the work they do which they seem to appreciate.”

He went on to say:

“On the whole it's a positive environment to work in, people are out to have a good time in Bedford. But inevitably there are people getting into fights, getting drunk, getting lost, and we are there to help assist them. People are very positive to us being on the street, generally pleased we're there. We want them to feel Bedford is a safe place to come and Street Angels being there help enable the town to be that. If we can do a small bit to ensure people are safe and that there's peace and calm in the town centre on those nights, that's a good thing.”

Local Member of Parliament for Mid-Bedfordshire, Nadine Dorries praised the work of the Bedford Street Angels and the role they continue to play in reducing violence in the town centre.

“This is a fantastic initiative and one that will be welcomed wholeheartedly by parents of teenagers from across Bedfordshire.

Those of us who know the family of Robert Gill who tragically lost his life on Boxing Day 2007 will know that the danger on the streets is a reality which none of us ever want to see happen again.

The Street Angels initiative is bold, sensible, creative and necessary and I wish them every success. I also look forward to helping and giving my own time to support out on the streets.”

The first Anniversary celebration of Bedford Street Angels will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 6th March 2010 at the Salvation Army, Commercial Road, Bedford, MK40 1QS. Starting at 4.00pm there will be a presentation of our work, followed by refreshments and the opportunity to meet some of the project volunteers. This is followed by a Celebration and Commissioning Service led by members of the various local churches with a blessing from the Bishop of Bedford, the Right Reverend Richard Inwood. It is expected to conclude shortly after 6.00pm.

This is an important event in the life of the Bedford Street Angels and we hope you are free to join us, for all or part of the time.

**END**

For further media enquiries, please contact Adam May, Project Coordinator for Bedford Street Angels by telephone 07532 371 311 or email [adam@bedfordstreetangels.org.uk](mailto:adam@bedfordstreetangels.org.uk)

Adam May is available for interview by arrangement.