

A message to all Bedford Street Angels, All Bedford Churches Together and other interested parties:

Dear friends,

Welcome to my second monthly update as Project Coordinator of Bedford Street Angels.

It has been another busy month for Bedford Street Angels, with many new and exciting initiatives happening to commit to God for his approval and discernment. In this next edition of Bedford Street Angels news, there are details of the Bedford Festival of Light and Fire which we have been asked to assist with, information on contacting the Bedford Community Alcohol Partnership and dates for the diary.

With the run up to Christmas now beginning (too early for me!), there is a growing need for Bedford Street Angels to have as many people out on the streets supporting the vulnerable as possible. Please do pray about your commitment to this important work, especially as we are growing in recognition by the civic, statutory and voluntary partners.

The Bedford Street Angels Website – www.bedfordstreetangels.org.uk

With a large amount of time and effort the Bedford Street Angels website has been updated with a lot of new features including links to our partnership organizations, pictures from our recent Vision conference and other useful resources. There are also endorsements for our friends at Halifax Street Angels and the new Bishop of St Albans, the Right Reverend Alan Smith.

I want to thank John Sackett, who acts as our webmaster, for all that he has done to improve our web presence.

Please do put links to the Bedford Street Angels website in your church publications!

Bedford Street Angels Vision Conference Day – Saturday 31st October 2009

Firstly, a huge thanks to all those who attended, either for the whole or part of the day last Saturday for the first Bedford Street Angels Vision Conference. Again, our thanks to Major Ian Loxley and his team of helpers for hosting and feeding us. It was a huge encouragement to hear about the work that Bedford Street Angels and Bed:safe are doing together.

Resources from the day can be found in the volunteers section of our website. There was a number of significant discussions which took place during our time together in regards to inter-faith and mission. If anyone has feedback on either of subjects to feed into the next Management Committee meeting, please do make these available to Ian or I, preferably by email.

Bedford Street Angels on tour!

Between now and Christmas, I am making my way around the various local churches speaking to congregations and groups about the work of Bedford Street Angels. I have already had the opportunity to speak at St Paul's and St John's churches in the town centre.

Please check the Google diary which can be accessed through our website to find out where I am speaking for the coming week. I would be hugely grateful for your thoughts and prayers as I seek to undertake this ministry; that hearts might be challenged to consider their commitment to our work.

There are a number of people who have already responded following my two addresses. Please pray also for these people as they continue to discern what God might be saying.

Bedford Street Angels at the Festival of Light and Fire – reminder

Following a request from Bedford Police and the Borough Council, Bedford Street Angels has been invited to provide an extra volunteer patrol on the same evening of the Bedford Festival of Light and Fire which takes place on Wednesday 18th November around the Embankment area. It is believed from event organizers that between 10,000 and 20,000 (similar numbers to a Saturday night) will be heading into the town for this event.

The event will begin at 7.00pm with a re-telling of a Christmas Carol and then follow with a firework display. As in previous years, it is hoped that the whole event will over by 8.00pm, although it would be good to have us around.

The aim is that we meet between 5.30pm and 6.00pm at the Salvation Army before heading out. It would be good to have about 5 people plus with 1 or 2 for prayer support.

Please sign up as per usual on our website if you're able to help. As this is an extra volunteer patrol, it would be good to notify the event organizers that we will be out and also the numbers. Therefore, if you could sign up over the next couple of days then I would be grateful.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to be seen in a wider sphere but those who might not yet know we exist, so sign up today!

The Bedford Community Alcohol Partnership

At the Vision Conference last weekend, Frank Fender spoke about the work of the Bedford Community Alcohol Partnership which is seeking to tackle the concerns surrounding under-age drinking. As Bedford Street Angels we are choosing to support this initiative in whatever way is possible. We have been particularly encouraged to feed information into the partnership. Information must be in relation to under-age drinking – but does not need to be limited to simply the town centre but anywhere across the Bedford Borough Council area. You can call as a volunteer of Bedford Street Angels or simply a member of the public. No matter how small, your information matters!

The contact details are –

By post - Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street
Bedford
MK42 9AP

By telephone - 01234 221603

By email - bedfordcap@bedford.gov.uk

Feedback to Bedford Police

At the Vision Conference, Ali McGaw spoke briefly about the need for all feedback to Bedford Police to come in via me. The police are grateful to hear any suggestions which we might have, but these do need to go through the Project Coordinator. I am now meeting and speaking regularly with Ali McGaw, who is the Licensing and Night Time Economy Officer, so please be assured your feedback is being passed on.

Meeting with Street Angels on one to one basis

As part of the training procedures set out in the Street Angels policy documentation, it is strongly recommended that Project Coordinator meets with each registered volunteer, whatever their function on a one to one basis to have an informal coffee together. These sessions are designed to help me get to know each of you, discuss your hopes and dreams for the project and your opportunity to ask me anything you might want to know.

I am now starting to contact each of you personally to find a suitable time for us to meet. These meetings are nothing for concern, but to help with the smooth running of the project. Please do bear with me during this process as I seek to meet with all of you.

Dates for the Diary

Bedford Street Angels at the Festival of Light and Fire
Wednesday 18th November 2009
Meet at the Salvation Army from 5.30pm (finish shortly after 8.00pm)

Further details earlier in this email.

Bedford Street Angels Bible Study
Friday 15th January 2010
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Bedford Salvation Army

Our theme will be Rich or poor in Spirit? – understanding the Rich Young Ruler found in Luke 18 v 18 – 25. Our session will be led by Major Ian Loxley, Chair of Bedford Street Angels Management Committee.

Bedford Street Angels Bible Study
Wednesday 10th February 2010
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Bedford Salvation Army

Our theme will be Rich Being transformed – understanding the Bedford night time economy looking at verses from Roman 12. I shall be leading this session.

First Year Birthday Celebration
Saturday 6th March 2010
4.00pm – 6.00pm
Bedford Salvation Army

This will be a special presentation and service to celebrate the first birthday of the launch of Bedford Street Angels attended by the Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hodgson and the High Sheriff of Bedford. The Bishop of Bedford, the Right Reverend Richard Inwood shall also be present and commissioning the work of the volunteers.

Please do put this important date in your diaries – further details in the New Year.

That's all for now, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss anything (no matter how big or small) about the project or its work. There is always time for a coffee!

Look forward to seeing you soon,

Every blessing
Adam