

Wednesday 25th November 2009

A message to all Bedford Street Angels, the member church leaders and other interested parties

A word from the Project Coordinator

Dear friends,

Welcome to my third monthly update as Project Coordinator of Bedford Street Angels. A special welcome to those who are receiving this email for the first time.

I want to start this update by expressing a huge thank you to everyone who continues to assist with the project in anyway. At the heart of the work of Bedford Street Angels is the need for us work together, using our time, talent and treasure for God. We are reminded in the scripture that St Paul in his pastoral letter gives thanks for the early Christians partnership in the spread of the Gospel. This call has never been taken back.

As I said last month, the run up to Christmas and party season has begun, so there is a growing need for Bedford Street Angels to have as many people out on the streets supporting the vulnerable as possible. This is a request which has come from the police directly. We particularly need people from Saturday 12th December right up until Christmas.

Please be assured of my continued thoughts and prayers for each of you. Please also do remember the work of the project, and particularly that God might discern his purpose for us.

Adam May,
Project Coordinator

Bedford Street Angels at the next SNAP DANCE

A request has been submitted to provide assistance from Bedford Street Angels at the next SNAPDANCE event at New York-New York on Tuesday 29th December 2009 between 7.30pm and 11.00pm. The event is aimed at younger people aged 13 to 18 who will have a Christmas party in the venue. Our duty will be to act in a supervision role at the beginning and end of the event to ensure that the young people get safely into and home from the venue. The event organisers have stressed the need to particularly keep an eye on the younger age, 13's and 14's.

I am, therefore writing to ask whether there are people available to offer their support in this venture. Exact details of gathering time etc will be sent out in mid-December, but we would like at least one team plus prayer support. If you are interested in helping, please use the sign up sheet on our website or contact me to register.

This is another exciting opportunity for Bedford Street Angels to support those involved in the Christmas party season.

Bedford Street Angels Vision Conference Day and training for 2010

At the moment, I am working on a training programme with a session once a month starting in the New Year for us to get together. Training is an important part of the work we

do to ensure Street Angels are kept safe and aware.

I would be grateful if you anyone has any suggestions for what we might wish to include to contact me in the coming days and weeks.

In January and February, there will be two bible studies; one led by Ian and another that I shall be leading. Details of these can be found at the end of this email.

Child Protection Update

As an organisation, we are seeking to improve our safeguarding procedures for our volunteers. There is a small working party looking at matters around child protection. However, we need all volunteers who assist with street patrol to ensure they have a completed enhanced CRB disclosure.

Brenda Sackett or Becky Coster act as our children protection representatives so please do contact either of them to ensure we have your disclosure.

Bedford Street Angels on tour!

I am still making my way round the various local churches speaking to congregations and groups about the work of Bedford Street Angels. 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 access their commitment to our work.

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

There are still a number of churches which I am keen that they hear afresh the work that Bedford Street Angels is doing. I am unlikely to be able to attend a Sunday morning service or meeting until the New Year, although there might be a possibility of one evening or weekday meeting.

Please do contact me if you want to take advantage of this. All talks are catered for your purpose - length of time and whether it is a sermon/address, presentation etc.

Bed:safer space

At the Vision Conference in October, I spoke about the proposal to work in partnership with Bed:safe and the police authorities to have a Safer space in the town similar to the work being done in Brighton. There is quite a lot of enthusiasm from the police, night club owners and the Bed:safe Steering committee. The proposal is that Bedford Street Angels take the lead in providing a space, (looking at St Peter's Church, near New York, New York) to assist those who work with the vulnerable.

I am aware that people have differing views on this concept and it is hoped that we will have a full discussion on this in the Management Committee re-arranged for January.

It would be helpful if you could if any Street Angels have any input on this, to email any suggestions to me.

The Bedford Community Alcohol Partnership – reminder

At the Vision Conference last month, Frank Fender spoke about the work of the Bedford Community Alcohol Partnership which is seeking to tackle the concerns surrounding underage 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 - reminder

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 be through the Project Coordinator. I am now meeting and speaking with Ali McGaw, who is the Licensing and Night Time Economy Officer on a couple of occasions so please be assured your feedback is passed on.

Ian Loxley – out of action

Ian shall be going into hospital on Friday 4th December for a knee operation so will be out of circulation for a little while. Ian has requested that you kindly direct all emails relating to Bedford Street Angels to Adam during this time.

Vee Travers – Prayer Coordinator

Vee, who is our Prayer Coordinator will be away from us for a while as she has heart surgery in Papworth. Vee has now travelled over to Cambridge for surgery, which takes place tomorrow. I commend Vee to your thoughts and prayers, and we want to wish her a speedy recovery.

During her absence, Stephen Elphick has very kindly agreed to be acting Prayer Coordinator. Our thanks to Stephen to taking on this role.

Dates for the Diary

Bedford Street Angels on the radio!

Christmas Day, Friday 25th December 2009
Three Countries Radio

On Christmas morning, I shall be speaking live with Ian Pearce on his breakfast show.
Further details in our Christmas news.

Bedford Street Angels at SNAPDANCE
Tuesday 29th December 2009
Meet at the Salvation Army from 6.00pm (finish shortly after 12midnight)

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

There 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, folks 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.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very holy Advent as you prepare for welcoming the Christ child afresh this year.

Look forward to seeing you soon,

Every blessing
Adam