

A word in your ear from the Project Coordinator

Dear friends,

I have just returned home from the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at St Paul's Church. Each year, All Bedford Churches Together host a week where we are encouraged to meet as often as possible to share in prayer and fellowship together. This usually takes the form of visit a different church each day to meet for a time of prayer, in the tradition of the church we are visiting. All of what I have described is sweet and lovely. Yet, when we look in more depth of our day to day working as Christians, the picture can be somewhat different.

In his sermon this evening, Geoff Colmer, the Regional Superintendent of the Baptist Union reminded us that ecumenism and the challenge of working together is dying. Reflecting in the Emmaus road passage in Luke Gospel, Geoff spoke about the disciples and their lose quoting 'We had hoped'. Often, as followers today we can slip into that position where we too come to that default position.

Yet, Bedford Street Angels is something I believe firmly breaks that mould of disappointment and despair. The project here is an example where Christians from many varied traditions and theological outlooks can unite in one common aim, that of seeking to serve the vulnerable of our town. Here, I believe the church has a prophetic message that through faith based project; we can be truly an ecumenical people.

In these days, as we commit ourselves to be an ecumenical people of God, let us as churches and individuals see how we can unite together under the banner of the Bedford Street Angels.

In my monthly reflection this month, I share some exciting news. Today, it has been announced that Bedford Street Angels is to host the second National Christian Nightlife Conference this summer. The conference will be held at the Bedford Congress Hall on Wednesday 7th July 2010 between 10.00am and 3.30pm. The National Christian Nightlife Initiative, founded by Paul Blakey MBE is made up of over fifty different groups throughout the country, mainly Street Angels based. The aim of the yearly conference is to encourage and support the growing number of people committed to working in the night time economy.

The conference this year will feature a devotional address by the Bishop of Bedford, the Right Reverend Richard Inwood. In addition, there will be two keynote addresses, one from Andy Turner, Director of the XChange Project within Church Urban Fund. Andy is a leading urban practitioner having spent some working on a community engagement project in Hackney.

I commend this conference to you and hope you will watch this space for further details.

A huge thank you once again to all those of you who continue faithfully to pray and support the work of Bedford Street Angels.

Every Blessing,
Adam