

Newsletter 5 May 2011

As we have the joy of two long weekends in a row, I thought it might be useful to send this out early!

I thought it would be fun to hear about what, if anything, your faith community will be doing for the upcoming royal wedding! Please do send me a note to include in the next edition about any activities ..with pictures if possible!

Haallah Shams (Surrey Faith Links Adviser)

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Our Youth Is Our Future

We want to hear what your faith organisation is doing to help prevent youth crime

The Department for Social Responsibility (DSR) has been working with a number of key Surrey County Council people regarding their links to faith based organisations. One of the main areas in relation to this is young people and/or helping to prevent them from becoming caught up in criminal activity, by supporting positive lifestyles. Those who do come to the attention of the police, courts or who receive sentences are often supported by faith-based organisations through various processes in order to assist their integration or rehabilitation into a crime-free lifestyle.

This is a real opportunity for faith based organisations to show our significance and to build for the future.

Much of the work undertaken by faith based organisations uses volunteers. We know that around 70% of volunteers in the social care sector do so as a result of their faith, so it is not surprising that we are such a significant contributor to work with this focus. Working with Surrey Youth Justice Service and the developing Surrey Youth Support Service DSR has asked Jean Grainger to meet with key agencies and projects which are faith-based, or linked, in order to get their insights and to ensure that the scope of work undertaken with this focus is fully understood and recognised. This is a real opportunity for faith based organisations to show our significance and to build for the future.

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If your faith group has any projects to help reduce or prevent youth crime, Jean Grainger would like about 45 minutes of your time to assist in this process. If you can think of other people that Jean should speak to please do let Emma Beswick know: Emma.Beswick@cofeguildford.org.uk Tel: **01483 790 324** in the DSR office know and we shall try to accommodate this.

Who are the Guildford Street Angels & what do they do?

In 2010, Guildford Street Angels became Empowerment Champions 2010, having been awarded 1st prize at the South East Regional Empowerment Partnership Awards. Street Angels have sometimes gone in to much less than favourable conditions and even in heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures to make sure anyone who found themselves vulnerable had someone offering them help if they wanted it.



Since its inception in October 2008, the Guildford Street Angels project, working under the umbrella of the Guildford town centre Chaplaincy, has gone from strength to strength. In total 134 volunteers have been trained and at present there are 94 active Street Angels who go out every Friday and Saturday night between 10pm and 4am to bring love and care to the streets of Guildford.

In 2010, Street Angels were out on the streets in teams of between four and twelve people on over a hundred separate occasions, offering support and kindness to anyone they could. It adds up to roughly six hundred and twelve hours that people on the streets of Guildford have had access to pastoral care that would have previously been unavailable.

Over the course of the year Guildford Street Angels made contact with numerous people from a range of backgrounds and ages. They were able to offer help in many situations where people who were vulnerable for one reason or another would have otherwise been left alone and could potentially have come to harm. They have called ambulances, helped people to taxis, waited with people for lifts, listened to those who wanted to talk, occasionally prayed with people who wanted to pray, and have often been a calming presence in situations that could have escalated into violence had those involved not become distracted by the Street Angels.

They have given pops as an ice-secret calming hard to argue in your mouth), ladies with ach-socks to home-plasters to those and foil blankets were too cold.



away lollibreaker (a weapon – it's with a lollipop flip-flops to ing feet, dry less people, with blisters, to those who

They also do very practical tasks such as clear away empty bottles and broken glass that is lying around – hopefully preventing injuries to young ladies who walk barefoot by the end of an exhausting evening on high heels!

A more recent development is that as time goes on more and more regularly they are being called to assist in situations by the Police, the CCTV operators, or the door security staff. It is evident that the other agencies working in the town have come to really understand their role, and trust them in it.

The project has been welcomed by the public at large and the statutory authorities, and it would now be hard to imagine the weekends without a Street Angel presence in Guildford bringing a calming and caring presence. If you would like to know more, or would like to get involved, please get in touch with Rod Boreham:

rod.boreham@ntlworld.com

www.surreyfaithlinks.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Making Britain Exhibition The 'Making Britain' team in partnership with the British Library presents the touring panel exhibition 'South Asians Making Britain, 1858-1950'. The exhibition is free and is in the foyer of the **Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking. GU21 6ND** and is available during normal opening hours (please visit their website for details of opening times: www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre/ / or call: **01483 518 737**)

Internet Awareness Sessions for the residents of Woking Aimed at increasing the knowledge of using the internet and the risks involved for children and parents. **6th / 16th / 17th May 2011** (time & venue to be confirmed) - for further details, please contact **Sian Sangarde-Brown**: sian.b@ntlworld.com

National ChurchWatch – Free seminar about safety and security for faith venues. **18th May 2011, 1.45pm - 4pm** at **Christchurch, Town Square, Woking. GU21 6JD**. Refreshments will be provided. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact **Lee Sawkins** on **07967986388** or email 12631@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Surrey County Show – This annual show brings the best of the country side to the heart of town. **Monday 30th May 2011** on **Stoke Park, Guildford**. Book your tickets early to enjoy a substantial discount. For more info or to book tickets please go to: <http://www.surreycountyshow.co.uk/>

Diocese of Guildford & The Samaritans Seminar entitled: Suicide; The Aftermath
The aftermath of suicide stretches far and wide. This interactive presentation gives voice to some survivors, examines the reporting of suicide in the media and strategies for prevention. **Monday 27th June 2011. St Mary's Church, The Ridgeway, Fetcham, KT22 9AZ. 10.30am – 2.30 pm.**
Please email your interest to: suzette.jones@cofeguildford.org.uk / **01483 790 335**

Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice – Lifetrain are offering Youth Workers the opportunity to gain this nationally accredited qualification which is endorsed by the National Youth Agency. For further details please contact **Sue Wilson** on: **01372 360 875 / www.lifetrain.org.uk**

The Dead Sea Scrolls (A talk and slide presentation by Robert Feather)
Tuesday 12th July 2011, 7.00pm. EMF Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton. Please contact **Rushna Master** for further details or to book a place: **01932 248751 / rushna@master11.wanadoo.co.uk**

A few ideas for things to do with the kids in the holidays...

Castles and Palaces Free drop-in Summer half term holiday family activities! Come along to the Surrey History Centre and explore the Castles and Palaces of Surrey. Have fun building your own palace and castle and try our quiz! For further information please contact the Surrey History Centre on: **01483 518 737**

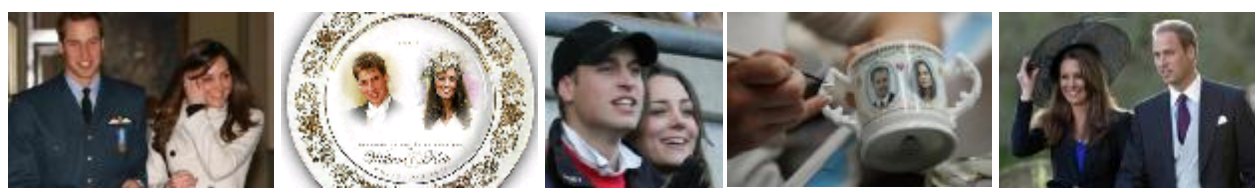
Jurassic Encounter Adventure Golf a UK & London First! Adventure Golf appeals to all ages as everyone can play and enjoy it! The holes on the adventure golf course are designed to encompass a balance of fun and skill. Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey. **KT3 4PH (020 8949 9200)** For further details please visit: <http://www.worldofgolf.co.uk/web/guest/jurassic-encounter-new-malden>

What Is Your Faith Community Doing For The Royal Wedding?

The much talked about Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton is around the corner!

With souvenirs stocked up in so many shops, and talks going on about where people will be for the royal wedding, we thought it would be fun to add details of some of the events that faith communities may be hosting, or helping with, for the Royal Wedding.

It may be that the various faith communities or interfaith groups around Surrey are putting on something special! Whatever your faith community is doing to get involved, we want to hear from you all, please send details through to (if possible with pictures): haallah.shams@cofeguildford.org.uk



Helping People Find Their Way Back To Well-Being



First Steps
Tel: 0808 801 0325
Email: first.steps@nhs.net



Self help for a healthy mind



First Steps is an NHS-led service offering friendly advice and information on mental health and emotional issues to the public and employers. Our aim is to help people to find their way back to well-being.

Covering the Surrey-wide area, we run a free and confidential helpline and email service staffed by trained mental health advisors. We also offer a range of self-help resources and educational sessions and signpost people to other relevant local services.

Our goal is to help people make the best choices in addressing their mental health needs. We also welcome calls and enquiries from relatives, friends, carers and employers.

Call First Steps on: **0808 801 0325** or Email them: first.steps@nhs.net

For more information about First Steps, please visit their website:
<http://www.firststeps-surrey.nhs.uk/>

If you would like anything featured in this newsletter, please contact:

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