



**A PRACTICAL EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE TO ALL PEOPLE**

# Newsletter October 2021



## An Update

Welcome to our first newsletter. We plan to use this to help churches and individuals understand and pray for our work.

From February 2009, Street Angels were out on the streets of Bedford town centre virtually every Saturday night. Then came the lockdown in March 2020, and the night-time economy closed down.

Like other organisations, we have had to rethink our work since Covid. We produced our own risk assessment prior to going out once on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The streets were quiet and we did not feel patrols were needed.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May this year we restarted our work, practising social distancing and with PPE to hand. With nightclubs still closed the town was quiet, but since Empire, (Bedford's biggest nightclub) reopened on 28<sup>th</sup> August, it has got busier.

Phone calls to our volunteers showed that quite a few were unable to return. At present, we are running teams of three on the last two Saturdays of each month when our services are always in demand. We would like to do more but need new volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested.

**Martin Denny,  
Chair of Management Committee**



**Please Pray For**

- **Safety on the streets of Bedford on Saturday nights, especially when we are not patrolling**
- **More volunteers to come forward**
- **Invitations to present our work at churches, which can lead to new volunteers**

## The Bedford Street Angels Story

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2007 we lost our dear son Robert. Like many young people, he had gone out for the night clubbing. He got separated from his friend and fell into the hands of a small group of lads looking for someone to rob. These lads had all been drinking and they threw our son into the river. This may have just been to scare him but sadly, Robert drowned.

A few months later, while the murder investigation was underway, we were invited to attend the Bed:Safe group. We also learned that other local Christians, led by Major Ian Loxley at the Salvation Army, were looking for ways to address the awful situation in our town centre on Saturday nights.

Out of this, in February 2009 Bedford Street Angels was born. We consider ourselves privileged to be part of a team showing the love of Christ in this way, late at night on the streets of Bedford.

**Fred & Fran Gill**



[Interview with Fred & Fran](#)

## What We Do on Saturday Nights

- **Walk the streets between 11 pm and 4 am, praying into situations we see and looking out for vulnerable people**
- **Listen to people's stories**
- **Give out flip flops to avoid cuts & falls**
- **Perform basic first aid & give out foil blankets**
- **Hand out bottled water to people who are dehydrated and help them to sober up**
- **Help people to get home safely, either by taxi or with friends or family**
- **Respond to Nite-Net radio calls for assistance and work with the police to keep people safe**

**Find out more or get in touch:**

**Website:** [bedfordstreetangels.org.uk](http://bedfordstreetangels.org.uk)

**Email:** [volunteers@bedfordstreetangels.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@bedfordstreetangels.org.uk)

**find us on** 