



Care and Compassion in the  
Night-Time Environment

# **STOCKTON TOWN PASTORS**

*Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment*

Registered Charity No. 1143017

## **STP Management Board**

# **Annual General Meeting Report**

*Financial Year: 2014—2015*

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## The Stockton Town Pastors Project

Stockton Town Pastors (STP) is a charitable volunteer initiative involving a number of churches across a range of Christian denominations in the Stockton-on-Tees area which started in December 2009, and follows the Christian Nightlife Initiatives 'street angels' model used in more than 130 other towns and cities across the United Kingdom.

Our project provides a caring presence on the streets of Stockton-on-Tees on Friday and Saturday evenings between 10pm and 3am during the Night Time Economy period when members of the public may become vulnerable and in need of help.

Funding is secured mainly through donations from local churches and individuals, as well as a small number of grant-making trusts. The STP management board view the project very much as a gift from the local churches to the community of Stockton-on-Tees.

The project has developed close partnership working with local public services such as the Police, Local Council and the Safer Stockton Partnership board. Regular meetings take place to increase the service offered to the community.

STP has purchased a mobile unit on a Ford Iveco 4.3 tonne chassis which since Easter 2014 is used as a base from which our volunteers operate. This is securely parked at Stockton police station when not in use, and Stockton Borough Council has issued a parking indemnity notice, enabling it to be parked in public areas when operational. This has allowed us to offer a centrally located safe haven to those in need within the Night Time Economy, and provides further opportunities for the charity to engage with the wider community outside of the town centre where appropriate.

In April 2015 STP started providing a presence in Yarm High Street each Friday evening. A review of this activity will be carried out after a three-month period and as decision made as to whether the pilot will continue on a more permanent basis.,

## Our Aims

Stockton Town Pastors 'Aims' are to:

- Make a contribution to the safety and well-being of fellow citizens
- Offer care, compassion and relevant practical and spiritual help where appropriate to members of the public
- Help those who find themselves marginalised and vulnerable
- Signpost services that are available from other organisations and Stockton Borough Council and help individuals access those services
- Offer support, training and guidance to other groups in setting up or running similar projects in other locations

## Stockton Town Pastors

### 2014—2015 Annual General Report from the Chair

My meeting with the recently retired STP Chair Reverend Derek Rosmond in January this year was a life changing experience. When asked if I would accept and invitation to join the Board I was both honoured and delighted. I learned that the management team were losing other gifted members in Rosemary Williams and James Glancy, in addition to Derek; I looked carefully at the remaining board members and thanked my God for such talented individuals.

I know that many challenges lay ahead of us, but I am looking forward to new opportunities for STP. In a changing night-time economy, we will need to adapt and be ready to move into new and exciting areas of service. I am encouraged in meetings with various people and agencies that STP is held in high esteem.

We need to give the volunteers the very best training in order to equip them in every aspect of their ministry.

Prayer is essential as this work is at the very heart of Christ.

We will be prepared to share the love of Christ at every opportunity to those in need.

STP is a team effort and I respect and honour all that take part in whatever capacity.

Let us put our Saviour at the head of STP.

Keep safe. May Christ's love continue to change lives through you.

Yours Sincerely,

David Humble

## Stockton Town Pastors

### Project Manager's Annual Report 2014—2015

*“When I walk through a field of sheep all I see are sheep. When I walk through that same field with STP volunteers, I see that you know the sheep by name and you care for their individual needs. You are good shepherds.”*

These are the words of one of the Lindisfarne College students who recently spent some time on placement with Stockton Town pastors as part of his theology training; and I believe it accurately describes the very essence of what our organisation is all about! We often use words like ‘care’ and ‘compassion’ but it is our actions of love towards those we meet and help that speak so clearly into the hearts and minds of those we help.

We are now well into our fifth year of providing a caring presence in Stockton town centre’s night-time economy, and when recently reviewing all of those who volunteer with us I was overwhelmed to realise that 21 of those volunteers who joined us within our first year are still in service with STP. What a great example of the level of personal commitment that each of our volunteers make towards the community of Stockton-on-Tees.

We currently have 48 active volunteers (60% female) with an average age of 54 years. 90% are from local churches across a range of Christian denominations, underlining our strong Christian ethos whilst encouraging those outside our faith to join with us in reaching out to those in need.

Our volunteers, regardless of their age or years of service, are the very body of an organisation that strives to keep Christ at the centre of all that it does— their passion and commitment speak volumes to those others who work in and enjoy the night-time environment.

The purchase of a mobile operating unit, which went live in April 2014, has been the biggest single change to STP’s activities in the last 12 months. We are now able to provide a place on Stockton High Street from which our volunteers work and which offers a visible safe haven for those in need. We have seen a large increase in the number of individuals coming to us, especially for treatment minor injuries (see overleaf for activity comparison data). We are also attracting the lonely and socially excluded who join us for a hot drink and a chat, providing the opportunity to just provide friendship and offer guidance where appropriate to those who have deeper needs in terms of addiction, poor health or loneliness.

STP awareness of the excellent local public services and charitable organisations able to offer treatment and support for a wide range of needs is essential, and in 2015 our volunteer training programme will include input from:

- Harbour (Domestic Abuse)
- Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre
- CRI (Drug Addiction)
- Lifeline Project (Alcohol Awareness)
- Bridge Hostel (Homelessness)
- Eastern Ravens (Young Carers Trust)
- Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual and Transgender Community

This is in addition to our core volunteer handbook, conflict management and first aid training.

### Data Comparison 2013 & 2014

Incident Type	Totals			
	2013	2014	Difference	Percentage
First Aid administered:	58	84	26	Up 45%
Ambulance subsequently called:	12	21	9	Up 75%
ASB / Violence:	29	20	-9	Down 31%
Police subsequently called:	24	22	-2	Down 8%
Reconciled with family / friends:	21	13	-8	Down 38%
Placed in Taxi:	49	24	-25	Down 51%
Homeless / Place of Safety:	15	18	3	Up 20%
Other Help:	21	26	5	Up 24%
Flip Flops:	243	261	18	Up 7%
Bottled Water:	41	41	0	0%
Other Significant Contact:	273	235	-38	Down 14%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b><u>786</u></b>	<b><u>765</u></b>	<b><u>-21</u></b>	<b><u>Down 3%</u></b>
Bottles / Glass Recovered:	1785	1412	-373	Down 21%
<b>Volunteer Hours - Total:</b>	3103	2920	-183	Down 6%

As the night-time economy period continues to change, with many now choosing to drink more cheaply at home before coming into the town from midnight onwards, we continue to assess the need for our presence—certainly the busy periods from 9pm to midnight have disappeared not just in Stockton but following a nation-wide trend—as the economic difficulties continue but also as society’s priorities take a different direction.

In April 2015 STP started providing a presence in Yarm High Street each Friday evening. This will be reviewed after three months to determine whether we will continue there, or return to providing a Stockton centre presence on Fridays as well as Saturdays.

Other established local Street Angels projects in Hartlepool Middlesbrough and Guisborough were joined by Redcar, whose ‘Beacons’ started patrols in November 2014. They have quickly become a valuable part of that town’s night-time environment. We continue to share core training with each of these projects and the fellowship between volunteers continues to grow.

I remain overwhelmed by the commitment and passion of our volunteers regardless of the un-social hours that the work demands. The close fellowship that has developed within our group is a blessing to all, and is testimony to the faithfulness of Christ's direction:

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13: 34—35)

Steve Brock,

STP Project Manager

## Stockton Town Pastors

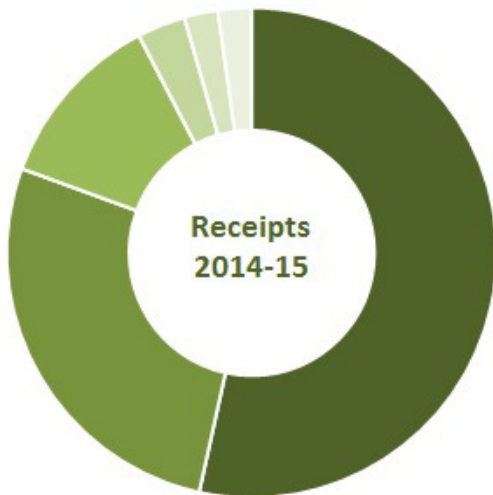
### 2014—2015 Annual General Report from the Treasurer

In the face of economic recession it is clear to see that the level of giving for charitable purposes is being impacted on a national scale. Stockton Town Pastors have, in the past 12 months, seen the impact of this having experienced its lowest level of receipts since it began delivering its services to the people of Stockton-on-Tees and the surrounding area. Total Receipts for the year have dropped to £8485 but, having started the year with a strong level of cash reserves, have been able to continue to provide a caring presence on the streets of Stockton-on-Tees on Friday and Saturday evenings during the 'night-time economy' period when members of the public may become vulnerable and in need of help. This, in a period when we underwent the transition of our operating base in order to make the charity more flexible in its approach and more central to its service users and operating partners. With Total Payments for the year being £16978, we have experienced a significant operating deficit of £8493. During the latter part of the year a cost review was undertaken which realised some reductions during the 2014-15 period but which, it is anticipated, will realise further reductions into the coming year of operations as we look to grow our work to bring us back to a sustainable position.

	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
Donations from Individuals	£ 4,535.08	£ 5,821.82	Payroll £ 7,594.74
Donations from Churches / Organisations / Groups	£ 2,303.00	£ 2,334.88	Vehicle-Related Costs £ 7,300.09
Grants	£ 1,000.00	£ 5,000.00	Equipment & Supplies £ 683.65
Donation to the Vehicle Fund	£ 270.00	£ 20,991.91	Office & Communication £ 553.05
Subscriptions	£ 189.00	£ 80.00	Volunteer Costs £ 344.81
Sales	£ 187.50	£ 55.00	General £ 287.85
Fundraising & Socials	£ -	£ 530.64	Base Café & Refreshments £ 213.33
			17%
			7%
			14%
			60%
			0%
			0%
			2%

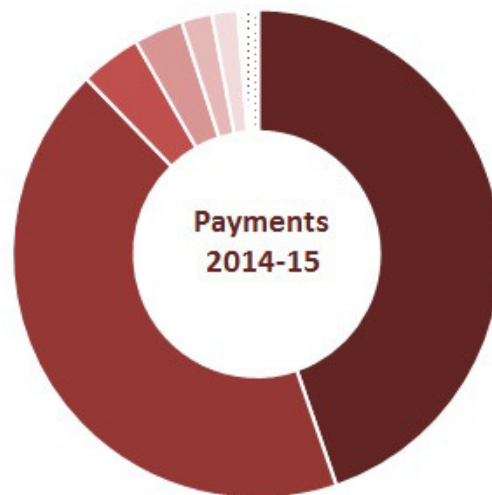
## Stockton Town Pastors

### 2014—2015 Annual General Report from the Treasurer



Donations from Individuals	53%
Donations from Churches / Organisations / Groups	27%
Grants	12%
Donation to the Vehicle Fund	3%
Subscriptions	2%
Sales	2%

81% of our income comes from cash donations made by individuals and local churches, primarily through regular giving via either the BT MyDonate website or directly into the charity's bank account. In pure monetary terms, the funding received from Churches, etc has remained relatively static having varied annually by less than £50 over the past three years. Donations from Individuals, however, has decreased by 22% from last year despite now being our primary funding stream. As previously stated, Total Receipts are now at their lowest level for the past four years which is, in part, a result of reduced grant funding throughout the year. For the second year running the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland has donated £1000 and this was our only grant funding of the year. Some of the funding received has been identified for a specific purpose and is treated as restricted funds. This relates to the vehicle fund and these receipts were solely utilised for this purpose, with no restricted funds remaining outstanding at the year end as overall vehicle fund expenditure exceeded the level of 'restricted' giving.



Payroll	45%
Vehicle-Related Costs	43%
Equipment & Supplies	4%
Office & Communication	3%
Volunteer Costs	2%
General	2%
Base Café & Refreshments	1%

Payroll costs are, marginally, the highest category of expenditure although, following a review of the charity's only paid role, this has reduced in real terms by 33% year-on-year with these reductions expected to continue into the next year. In monetary terms the overall payments for the year have dropped significantly but, if a single one-off payment in the previous year's accounts is adjusted for, it would represent a 0.6% reduction and continue the reducing trend to the lowest level of total expenditure for three years. With the exception of Equipment & Supplies, which increased by 57% to around £684, all cost categories have demonstrated a reduction when compared to that of the previous year.

The Vehicle-Related costs which were represented, in part, by the rent for the café property in previous years, are based upon the regular maintenance of the mobile unit along with the fuel, insurance and some cosmetic repairs during the year.