

Stockton Town Pastors

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk



TOWN PASTORS GO 'SIRFING'

STP volunteers went out on patrols during the Stockton International Riverside Festival event, which took place between 28th July and 1st August. This was the 23rd such festival and provided a wide range of entertainment each day and evening in the town centre area, culminating a huge fireworks display in Trinity Gardens on the Sunday evening. The 'Riverside Fringe' music festival was an integral part of the overall event, with 10,000 people coming to see some of the acts, which included The Lighting Seeds, The Human League and Calvin Harris.



The Police and Council have been delighted with the success of the event, the only rise in crime apparently being in pick-pocketing. STP volunteers were certainly busy on the Friday and Saturday evenings, both during the festival and afterwards as people left the Fringe and made their way into the town.

We were pleased to welcome a number of 'Youth For Christ' students from Dallas, Texas – led by one of our volunteers Fiona Toop – who joined us as observers on patrols (see above photo). They had a wonderful time but were quite surprised at the 'night-time' culture in the UK and saw the need for projects such as ours. We eagerly await next year's event, when we are likely to focus our resources on the late evening time when there is most need.

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FACEBOOK

STP now has its own 'Facebook' page. Just log into Facebook and then type 'Stockton Town Pastors' into the search engine.



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SUMMER VIBE

STP volunteers took part in this event in Stockton Parish Church Grounds on 26th July 2010, which was organised by 'A Way Out'. There were lots of display stands there, with representatives from a number of public and voluntary services. We made some really good contacts, resulting in a number of individuals offering to become involved in our STP volunteer training programme – please see 'STP Training' below.

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STP TRAINING

Further training is currently being arranged which is open to all STP volunteers, and these sessions will take place every Monday evening in October and November 2010 (except for 18th Oct & 29th Nov) in the West Lounge of Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9pm. This is in addition to the Conflict Management, First Aid and Volunteer Handbook training which almost everyone now has, and is in response to the volunteer survey that was carried out as a part of our six-month review.

Subjects will include a revised 'Licensing' pack, Social Services, Mental Health, Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding, Drug & Alcohol Addiction and Housing options for the homeless.

The final timetable will be published shortly, but in the meantime please put the dates in your diary. Even if you have had this input previously it is still well worth attending, as there is fresh information which will help us understand more clearly what help is available.

Formal training accreditation will be given to all of those who have attended a significant number of the training dates (so it doesn't matter if you can't attend them all), which you will then be able to use as evidence when applying for jobs in the future.

The really good news is that 'Boro Angels' volunteers and some 'A Way Out' staff will be joining us for this training, allowing us to share our experiences and enjoy fellowship.

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UPDATE ON MIDDLESBROUGH & HARTLEPOOL 'ANGEL' PROJECTS

'Boro Angels' now patrol on Saturdays between 10pm and 3am, sometimes extending to 4am, and have an operating base called the Rendezvous Café from which to operate (for a trial period). It is located on Corporation Road opposite the 'Empire' nightclub, and is well used as a place of safe refuge by those 'out on the town'. Volunteer numbers are stable, meaning that patrols can be provided every Saturday. Tracey Brittain has now taken on the role of coordinator for the project.

The STP coordinator Steve Brock has a meeting with the Hartlepool Churches Together Enabling Group on Thursday 9th September 2010 to discuss how a similar project might work in Hartlepool. There is clear support for this from the local Police and Council, but as our own experiences have shown it is important for the churches to be involved if the project is to be a success. Please continue to pray for this development.

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ADAM WOULD LIKE SPONSORSHIP

One of our volunteers, Adam Newsham, has entered the ‘Tees River Rat Race’ which will take place on Sunday 29th August 2010, starting at 12noon. Competitors will ‘splash, jump, kayak, climb and dash 10 kilometres across a truly unique running course, linking together many special water and shore based activities en route’. Adam is looking for sponsorship, with any monies raised going to STP funds – so if you would like to sponsor him please send him an email: adam.newsham@hotmail.co.uk

In fact why not go along and support him at the event. The course extends between the Infinity Bridge and the Barrage, and you should get a good view wherever you place yourself.

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CHANGES OF PATROL START TIMES

The STP Volunteer meeting on 3rd July 2010 resulted in us deciding to start STP patrols an hour later, at 10pm with immediate effect. However, the operating base (Stockton Parish Church Hall) will be open from 9pm, and there will be a prayer meeting starting at 9.30pm which is open to anyone who would like to support the project in this way – so even if you are unable to join us for a full evening of patrols you are welcome to join us in prayer.

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NEW STP SUMMER COATS

Town Pastors now have a choice of summer or winter coats for their patrols (which has probably accounted for the recent downturn in the weather), modelled here so eloquently by Sheila and Adam during the recent SIRF event.

The new coats are breathable and shower-proof, but unlikely to offer warmth in the colder months. Many thanks go to Brian Jones for his perseverance in securing delivery in time for the British ‘summer’.



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FLIP-FLOPS & LOLLIPOPS

These continue to be very popular, and STP volunteers have now given away in excess of 500 flip-flops since we started patrols. A new flip-flop supplier has been identified and we will shortly be taking delivery of more stock. It is important to say a big ‘thankyou’ at this point to the Stockton Police Senior Management Team for donating £500 to cover this cost.

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NEXT STP SOCIAL EVENT

Our social secretary Brian Jones has arranged a ‘Summer Barbeque and ‘Day at The Races’ for our next social, to take place in Stockton Parish Church Gardens (or the hall if the weather is poor), starting at **6.30pm on Tuesday 24th August 2010.**

The evening is open to all STP volunteers, family and friends (including children and grand-children), and activities will include a 3-legged race, egg and spoon race, rounders, basketball, skittles etc – so you will not be bored..... There will also be a face-painter there.

The police and council officials who we have dealings with have also been invited, and it is a real opportunity to let our hair down and have some fun. However, I’m told by Brian that the bouncy castle is limited to children only!

I would urge you to come along to this event, and if you are doing so could you please bring along sufficient produce for your own barbeque needs, plus a little bit more (so we can feed our guests). Additionally, Brian would appreciate it if you could email him with details of how many will be in your party brian@stocktontownpastors.co.uk .

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STP IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The STP Coordinator has recently received the remaining Photo ID Cards from the printers, so if you are one of the few volunteers waiting to be issued with these then please contact Steve Brock.

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CLEVELAND POLICE CO-ACT DAY

The Christian Police Association have developed a UK-wide programme aimed at reaching out and building bridges between Christian communities and the Police – more details can be found on the website www.coact.org.uk

A regional CPA meeting will be held at Tees Valley Community Church on Saturday 13th November 2010, starting at 10am and finishing at 3.30pm. The Stockton Town Pastors project will be covered during the event and several key individuals within the community will be there – including senior police officers and members of the four local Community Safety Partnerships. Please put this date in your diary – all are welcome.

The event will also mark the start of our ‘first birthday’ celebrations – you will remember that we started patrols on 4th December 2009. There will be lots of publicity and hopefully an open meeting where others can come to learn more about us.

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STP ACTIVITY DATA

It might be of interest for others to know how many incidents (and what type) STP volunteers deal with. This information is collected through reports made onto our nightly incident logs and the data is then extracted on a monthly basis. The table below shows our activity from the start of 2010.

Total Engagements:	316 (52% female)
First Aid administered:	46 (15% of all activity)
Anti-social behaviour:	38 (12%)
Homeless / place of safety:	18 (6%)
Reconciled / placed in taxi:	30 (9%)
Other help (advice, flip-flops etc):	108 (34%)
Other significant contact:	76 (24%)

Age Groups dealt with:	
Under 18yrs:	26 (8%)
18 – 24yrs:	118 (37%)
25 – 34yrs:	116 (37%)
35yrs & older:	56 (18%)

Total volunteer-hours on patrol:	2,128 hours
Total volunteer-hours in café:	229 hours

Environmental: (bottle & volume litter pick-ups):	683 items
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SIGNIFICANT DATES

Below are some dates and events which you might like to pray about. Please don't forget that our volunteers patrol every Friday and Saturday evening, and if you would like to pray along with us then please feel free to come along to our operating base (Stockton Parish Church Hall) at 9.30pm, before we go out on patrols.

17.08.2010:	Coordinator & Chairman present STP review to Stockton Renaissance Board
20.08.2010:	Coordinator presents to Stockton Rotary Club
23.10.2010:	Pray For Stockton Meeting – Stockton Parish Church Hall – all welcome
03.09.2010:	Coordinator presents to Stockton Reducing Violence Group
09.09.2010:	Coordinator presents to Hartlepool Churches Together Enabling Group
13.09.2010:	STP Steering Group meeting
14.09.2010:	Joint STP / Police / Stockton Council meeting
27.09.2010:	Pray For Stockton Meeting – Stockton Parish Church Hall – all welcome
06.10.2010:	Stockton Church Ministries meeting
12.10.2010:	Joint STP / Police / Stockton Council meeting
25.10.2010:	Pray For Stockton Meeting – Stockton Parish Church Hall – all welcome
03.11.2010:	Stockton Church Ministries meeting
06.11.2010:	Coordinator presents to St Andrews Church, Darlington
13.11.2010:	Cleveland Police Co-Act Event (see above), Oakwood Centre – all welcome
22.11.2010:	Pray For Stockton Meeting – Stockton Parish Church Hall – all welcome
01.12.2010:	Stockton Church Ministries meeting
09.12.2010:	Coordinator presents at Teesside West Rotary Club