



Stockton Town Pastors

NEWSLETTER



Website: www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

Birthday Edition

Well, the snow was falling heavily in December 2009 when we took our first steps onto the High Street at Stockton Town Pastors, and as we celebrate our first birthday it is snowing once more! But what a year it has been, and we have made an incalculable number of new friends – from pub and club door supervisors and the police, through to taxi drivers, food outlet workers and, of course, those who are just out there on Friday and Saturday evenings enjoying a night on the town.

There are so many stories to tell of the people we have met and the incidents we have come across where we have been able to help, support, care for or guide those in need. Each of these actions can be encompassed within the term 'Love'; something which we know the Lord has for each of us regardless of our circumstances, and it is simply this that we are extending to others, without judgement, as we offer help to those we meet.

For those who want to put some tangible figures to our activities there is a table at the back of this newsletter expressing what we have done in the last 12 months, but those volunteers who so willingly give of their time to come on patrols between 10pm and 3am will know through experience that we have achieved so much more. The one-to-one conversations with people, the constant 'thank-you's' from many who don't even know us but have heard about our work, and just as importantly the friendships formed between volunteers across sixteen churches in the Stockton area.

A great year indeed, and with the hope of more to come as Stockton Town Pastors, through its newly formed Management Board, strives for recognition in the form of becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee and securing Registered Charity Status; and forming links with 'A Way Out', a charitable Christian organisation helping vulnerable women and youths in Stockton.



Steve Brock, STP Coordinator and Jessie Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer of A Way Out, (centre) cut the cake to celebrate our first birthday; overseen by (left to right) Linzi Hawkrige, Nancy Sharpe, Brian Jones, Revd, Derek Rosamond – the STP Board Chairman – and Ann Barker.

The delicious and beautifully iced sponge cake was made and donated by Cath Ingram from Stockton Baptist Tabernacle – many thanks, Cath!!

STOCKTON TOWN PASTORS GOVERNANCE

Stockton Town Pastors (STP) now has a Management Board, which is responsible for the strategic management of STP, and they will meet on a regular basis to ensure future development. At their first meeting in November, the Board agreed to actively seek approval to become a Company Limited by Guarantee, and to become a Registered Charity.

Additionally, STP will work in partnership with 'A WAY OUT' (AWO), a local Christian Charity committed to reaching out to vulnerable and hard to reach women and young people – similar to some of those that STP comes across during its Friday and Saturday evening activities. We have always recognised that all STP volunteers can do is offer immediate help to those in need, but our links with AWO and local public services mean we can now offer a closer support whilst taking advantage of AWO's experience.

How will all of this affect the day-to-day activities of STP? Quite simply, there will be no changes to the way we operate – we remain independent (both as a charity and as a company) and will maintain our own finances, and our volunteers are still the responsibility of the STP Coordinator. However, the ability to refer individuals to those who are able to help is greatly increased, and where appropriate we will be able to continue to work alongside them in a controlled and professional environment. For example, the homeless can personally be supported as they are helped through the housing, benefits and health processes; and we can formally arrange to meet those who are simply in need of someone to talk to about matters of concern in their lives, in a safe environment.

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STP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

STP has been offered places on a series of '**Drug & Alcohol Awareness**' courses on the following dates:

11th and 18th January 2011

8th and 15th February 2011

8th and 15th March 2011

These are 2 x day courses and you will need to attend both days in order to complete the course. The course is free and an accreditation certificate will be awarded to those on completion.

If you would like to attend either of these courses please contact Steve Brock with the dates, and he will make the applications on your behalf.

Conflict Management and Risk Assessment is training to take place in January, for new volunteers and for those who are thinking of joining us – although at this time the date has not been set. If you would like to attend this (and have not recently applied to join STP) please let Steve Brock know as soon as possible.

Volunteer Handbook training will be provided individually or in small groups, as and when needed. If you would like this input then please contact Steve Brock.

First Aid Courses: No dates available as yet. If you would like to add your name to the list of those needing this, please contact Steve Brock.

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ADAM COMPLETES HIS SPONSORED EVENT FOR STP

One of our volunteers, Adam Newsham, entered the ‘Tees River Rat Race’ which took place on Sunday 29th August 2010. Competitors ‘splashed, jumped, kayaked, climbed and dashed 10 kilometres across a truly unique course – and Adam did this all in aid of STP funds. At the STP birthday celebration, Adam handed over a cheque for £465 to our treasurer Peter Chapman, who had this to say: *“Adam is a wonderful young man and has a real enthusiasm for Town Pastors. The effort he has made in raising this money is truly magnificent, and I warmly congratulate and thank him.”*



Adam also recently celebrated his 21st birthday with a party at AWO’s ‘The Cave’ on The Riverside in Stockton when family, friends and STP volunteers wished him well.

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NEW STP VOLUNTEERS

A very big ‘Welcome’ to our most recent volunteers – some of whom are still undergoing training before being able to join in our patrols as team members – please encourage and pray for them as they make this huge commitment to giving up one Friday or Saturday evening per month to work on the streets of Stockton from 10pm – 3am:

- Anita Burke (Tabernacle)
- Esther Boyes (Destiny Church)
- Mark Boyes (Destiny Church)
- Tracy Chetty (Destiny Church)
- Adam Crooks
- Cath Harris (Destiny Church)
- Margot Inglis (Tees Valley Community Church)
- Martin King (Tees Valley Community Church)
- Stuart Levin (Destiny Church)
- Emily Mulcaster (Rivers of Life)

Once trained, this will bring our total of ‘active’ volunteers (those who are coming out on patrols once a month) to 46, whose ages range from 18 to 79!

A great fellowship is taking place amongst volunteers from all walks of life, and it is truly amazing to see individual friendships being developed.

If you would like to join this wonderful group and have a heart to reach out and help those who are vulnerable and in need in Stockton during Friday and Saturday evenings, please contact Steve Brock.

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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.



Is Being a Town Pastor Worth it?

(submitted by one of our volunteers, Jim Clementson)

I am reminded of a true incident, where or when I don't know:

A young lad was walking along the sea shore when he noticed a good number of star fish washed up onto the beach. He started throwing them one by one back into the sea. An elderly gentleman approached the lad and asked what he was doing, adding "Don't you think you are wasting your time?"

The warmth of the sun was drying up the starfish and many were dying as a result. The young lad continued to throw back into the sea those star fish which appeared to have some life. Turning to the man, the lad said "You may say it doesn't matter" and as he did so he then picked up another star fish and threw it into the sea, proclaiming "It matters to that one!"

So, you see being a Town Pastor is valuable by giving people hope and offering them a life line.

Yes, it matters a lot.

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You are Warmly Invited to the

**Cleveland Police
Carol Service**



**Baptist Tabernacle, The Square,
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TE**



Free entry, no tickets required
Buffet afterwards
Officers, staff, family & friends welcome

The Cleveland Police Carol Service will include a short 'birthday greeting' for STP, delivered by the STP Management Board Chair, Revd, Derek Rosamond. The event is likely to be full to capacity, so please come early to get a seat.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the lower hall.

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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 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.

09.12.2010: Coordinator presents at Teesside West Rotary Club
 14.12.2010: Cleveland Police Carol Service, Stockton Baptist Tabernacle – 7.30pm
 13:01:2011: STP Management Board Meeting

Additionally, there are ongoing meetings between the STP Management Team and A WAY OUT, as our partnership is developed.

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STP ACTIVITY

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 January to November 2010.

Total Engagements: 498 (56% male)

First Aid administered:	72 (14% of all activity)
Anti-social behaviour:	52 (10%)
Homeless / place of safety:	25 (5%)
Reconciled / placed in taxi:	52 (10%)
Other help (advice, flip-flops etc):	182 (37%)
Other significant contact:	115 (24%)

Age Groups dealt with:	
Under 18yrs:	36 (7%)
18 – 24yrs:	203 (41%)
25 – 34yrs:	185 (37%)
35yrs & older:	76 (15%)

Total volunteer-hours on patrol:	2,847 hours
Total volunteer-hours in café:	330 hours

Environmental:
 (bottle & volume litter pick-ups): 1,374 items

There has also been an increase in our engagement with other agencies resulting from some of the contacts we make out on the streets. For example, we have been involved in a Case Conference and Problem-Orientated Policing (POP) initiative in respect of a vulnerable male, resulting in him being fast-tracked back into his own flat together with an accompanying care package involving SP volunteers.

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