



Stockton Town Pastors Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 11, March 2011

Stockton Town Pastors has become a formally constituted body, with a Management Board chaired by Stockton Community Priest the Reverend Derek Rosamond, who is also Priest in Charge and Methodist Minister at St. Pauls in Newtown, Stockton. It has applied for charitable status and is preparing a business plan for the years 2011—13, which will be available for all to see on our website when agreed.

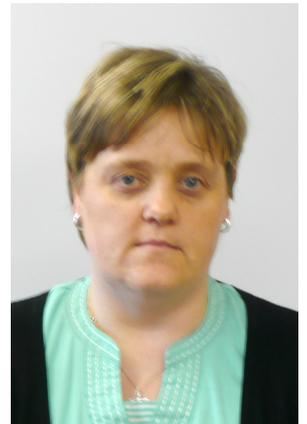
Derek is pleased with the progress made since the project started in December 2009: *“Stockton Town Pastors has quickly established itself in the town and has good links with the police, council and other local services. It will soon have charitable status allowing us to take advantage of the concessions announced in this month’s budget and our steering group is keen to provide the framework from which our volunteers can continue to work within the night-time environment, providing help and support to those in need.”*

You can read more about STP’s status and its developing links with another local charity ‘A Way Out’ overleaf.

Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) is a Christian charity which helps new Street Angels projects to start up, and offers guidance, advice and fellowship to existing ones. There are now more than 70 such projects across the UK, and CNI will be holding a management board meeting on the 4th and 5th April 2011 in Luton. The North East region is represented by STP project manager Steve Brock, who is excited about the potential for similar initiatives across the Tees Valley. CNI is chaired by Paul Blakey of Halifax Street Angels, whose bumper March newsletter can be accessed by going to their website: www.streetangels.org.uk and following the ‘newsletters’ link on the home page.

STP Volunteer Becomes A Minister

Samantha Wood from St. Chads church in Roseworth is about to be licensed as a lay minister. Sam, who has been volunteering with STP since July 2010, said: “I have been worshipping at St. Chad’s for about 30 years, and felt the call to some kind of ministry about 20 years ago. I kept putting this to the back of my mind, hoping that it would go away, however the voice got louder. I eventually decided to speak to my parish priest about the possibility of a vocation in the church. Lay ministry was what I was being called to do. As part of the process I have worked with other denominations in Roseworth and Hardwick and became involved with the Ecumenical worship group, providing the display work for services and activity weekends. I have been training as a lay minister for the past three years and will be licensed as a lay minister on the 17th September 2011 in Durham Cathedral. Once licensed I will be working in the parish of St. Chads where I will continue with my youth work, taking services on a regular bases. I would like to get more involved with baptism preparation, and bereavement ministry. I am particularly interested in working with children and young people that experience loss and bereavement, and hope to do further training in this field once licensed.



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STP Prayer Evening Is A Blessing

Volunteers and supporters of STP decided to hold a day of prayer and fasting on Thursday 10th March 2011, followed by a prayer evening at the Destiny Church (DC) in Norton. The purpose was to give thanks for all that has been achieved so far and to seek direction for the future.

More than 20 people attended, and we were supported by members of the DC worship group. The STP Chair Derek Rosamond opened the evening, and we later broke into four groups to pray over the following matters:

- Thanks for all the Lord has done in Stockton, and Hope for the future
- Wisdom for the STP Management Board and volunteer coordinators
- Protection for STP volunteers, and for continued unity, fellowship and growth
- Continued growth in unity across all churches in Stockton
- Thanks and continued support for those working with STP, including the police, council and safer partnerships
- That STP's move to 'The Cave' at A Way Out's premises will secure in the public eye the availability of help for those in need not only on Friday and Saturday evenings, but throughout the working week

There were opportunities throughout the evening to write on a flip-chart things we thought God was saying to us, and the following was recorded:

- * An avalanche of mercy is coming over the Tees Valley. I sense a canopy of glory is settling over Stockton
- * Amongst the rubble of the High Street a standard is being raised up
- * Pray for all STP volunteers, this is God's work and commitment is wanted
- * Give thanks to the saints for their faithfulness through the ages

Further to this, we were drawn to Proverbs 1: 20/21 *"Wisdom calls aloud on the street, she raises her voice in the public square; at the head of the noisy street she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech"*

During prayer in respect of STP's move to 'The Cave' the following acronym was suggested:

Christ's

Authority through

Volunteers, for

Eternity

Hartlepool Town Pastors are hoping to start patrols on 27th May 2011, and are currently going through training and administration processes. The steering group chair is Colin Sawtell from the Elim Living Waters Pentecostal church in Whitby Street, who had the following to say: *"There is real support across Hartlepool for this initiative from churches, the police, council and Safer Hartlepool Partnership. We are looking forward to being able to have trained volunteers out on Friday and Saturday evenings in Church Street to offer help and support to those in need."*



Currently there are 20 volunteers but the number is growing each week. They will operate from the Elim church in Whitby Street, a great building which is currently under refurbishment. A café will be open during the times that volunteers are on patrol, but will also be open during the day in support of the church's existing outreach programmes in the community.

Steve Brock, the Stockton Town Pastor project manager, is assisting in the development of this initiative and said: *"At the moment there are six churches in Hartlepool involved in this, and the support on offer from other public services is heartening."*

STP Alliance With 'A Way Out'

Volunteers will already be aware of the close relationship that already exists between these two organisations, and at the STP Management Board meeting in March the following agreement was reached:

A WAY OUT and Stockton Town Pastors are to form an alliance, to enable both organisations to help improve well-being and safety of more and more vulnerable members of Stockton's community.

AWO are an award winning Christian charity with an excellent record of success in reaching out to vulnerable people. Delivering services over the last 9 years across Stockton and the Tees Valley, AWO have been able to develop a robust infrastructure and quality governance, alongside sound operating procedures.

STP are a newly formed project, with a strong cohort of support from the local community, police and local churches. Delivering outreach services to people in Stockton at times when they may be vulnerable, STP have made significant inroads and are demonstrating early success.

AWO and STP believe that by working as a partnership they are better able to tackle the many and diverse situations that they both face in their ministry to the people of Stockton-on-Tees.

AWO are committed to supporting STP at a board and operational level. AWO will offer skills, expertise and participation at a governance level. Both STP and AWO will support each other at an operational level, coordinating their service offer to members of the community where they are able to maximise the impact and effectiveness of both organisations.

Jessie Joe Jacobs, CEO of AWO comments "*Mergers, collaborations and partnerships are becoming increasingly important within the voluntary sector, as we face the unique challenges of the 21st century, in particular the dramatic changes taking within the public sector and civil society. We believe the need for complementary working may be truer now than ever before*".

Stuart Cornwell, chairman of AWAY OUT comments, "*We look back with gratitude for the progress that has already been made between both organisations, in building trust and in working together in partnership. We look forward in hope as we work together more formally in the future, as two Christian organisations with a mission of transforming individuals and our community.*"

Derek Rosamond, Chair of STP comments: "*After a lengthy period of preparation and negotiation with partners including Cleveland Police and Stockton Borough Council, Stockton Town Pastors has now delivered its services on the streets for well over a year and they have been extremely well received by the public and agencies alike. STP now looks forward to the next chapter moving forward in partnership with A Way Out.*"

Both AWO and STP undertake to work proactively in support of each other.

Both AWO and STP will actively look for opportunities to offer each other support in the mutual achievement of high standards of integrity in the areas of operations, publicity and fundraising, which will maximise each organisation in the cause of serving the people of Stockton-on-Tees.

In all activities, our partnership will be characterised by honesty, integrity and a validity of purpose, using method and means in harmony with Christian principles, as well as with a recognition of legal requirements.

Inter-organisation services and arrangements between both organisations are currently being developed, and **Derek Rosamond will be available to answer any questions volunteers may have in respect of the alliance, at:**

9.30pm on Friday 1st April 2011,

Stockton Parish Church Hall

Even if you are not listed for patrols that evening please do come along and learn more about this important move. Derek will be coming out on patrols with us on the above date, so you will also have the opportunity to speak with him personally.

STP Operating Base Move As most will already be aware, STP are preparing to move their base to 'The Cave' café located at the 'A Way Out' premises on Stockton Riverside for a trial period of six months. We are currently building storage space for STP equipment but as soon as this is completed we will make the move—likely to be in the first week in April so watch out for updates!

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, this is a real opportunity for the public to identify one single point of contact every weekday as well as Friday and Saturday evenings, should they feel in need of help.

We are extremely grateful for the help and care we have received from Stockton Parish Church over the past 16 months, and the Reverend Alan Farish is prepared to welcome us back should the need arise—we have truly enjoyed our stay with you Alan, and look forward to continued unity in a range of ministries across Stockton.

Stockton Town Pastors Evaluation

Professor Philip Whitehead, School of Social Sciences and Law at Teesside University, has agreed for a wide-ranging independent evaluation to be carried out by a post-graduate student Justin Kotze. This will start in May 2011, with a report published in the autumn. Both Cleveland Police and the local council are in full support of this activity, and are hopeful that its findings may be used to support closer working partnerships nationally.

Justin will be coming out on STP patrols in June and July and will be speaking with volunteers, the public and those who work within the night-time environment. He will also be speaking with the police, council and other STP partners as part of this work.

We look forward to meeting you Justin, and are sure that you will enjoy your time with us.

The ISAAC (UK) Road Show

An international inspirational Christian speaker Jackie Pullinger, will be in Teesside in June, and you are invited to a full one-day event at the Tees Valley Community Church, The Oakwood Centre, Cleasby Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees TS16 ORD.



The event is on Saturday 11th June 2011, and doors open at 9am, tickets £25. Full details can be found by visiting the 'A Way Out' website (www.awayout.co.uk)

Jackie's work and ministry in Hong Kong and around the world is well known to many and she is wonderfully equipped by God to communicate His heart and equipping to transform those in bondage to drugs and other addictions.

Dates For Your Prayer Diary

- Wednesday 11th May 2011 3.30pm— STP Management Board Meeting at 'A Way Out'
- Sunday 29th May 2011 6.15pm—Stockton Churches Together Service at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle
- Saturday 11th June 2011 9am—Jackie Pullinger event, The Oakwood Centre, Stockton

Point To Ponder:

"So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish. I'm really glad of that. But in a few minutes I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm going to need a lot of help!"

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Visit our Website:

www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

