

Are you a 'Friend of STP'?

Stockton Town Pastors are extremely grateful for the support it has from the local community, and as a result it has launched a 'Friends of STP' section which will keep people informed of our activities.

There are three ways in which you can become involved:

- **Become a Volunteer**

You can find out more about what being a volunteer with STP means by reading our STP Volunteers page and looking at our STP Handbook on our website. You will be given full training and on-going support by the project manager, and will receive a warm welcome from our band of volunteers.

If you would like to come out on patrols with us as an observer before making up your mind – or just to find out a little more about what we do – then please email the project manager.

- **Support in Prayer**

The project is borne out of and is sustained by prayer. If you are the leader of a church or small group, or an individual and would like to be kept informed of our activities then please email the project manager, who will send regular prayer requests and make regular visits to your prayer group to keep you up to date.

- **Support Financially**

Although the project relies heavily upon volunteers, financial support is necessary for many reasons, including:

- * Volunteer training, CRB checks and legal expenses, Insurances
- * Equipment – Jackets, Office, First Aid
- * An un-ending supply of flip-flops, lollipops, bottled water etc.
- * Contributions towards premises utility bills (heat and lighting)
- * Promotional materials (leaflets, DVD and website)

Additionally, STP is actively looking for a premises on the High Street from which, in conjunction with others, it can offer care guidance and support.

Whichever way you chose to become involved, you will be included in the 'Friends of STP' group and will receive regular emails, newsletters and invitations to our social and public events.

You can register as a friend by contacting the project manager (see back page for details). Additionally, donation / gift-aid forms and volunteer application forms can be downloaded from the STP website (under the 'downloads' page).

Remember, also, that involvement in STP is not restricted to people of a particular faith and is open to anyone who has a desire to help the local community.



STP Help in Rough Sleepers Count

On the 11th October five STP volunteers took part in a 'Rough Sleepers Count' organised by Stockton Borough Council, between the hours of 3am and 5am, to try and determine the number of people who are homeless and living on the streets. We were joined by volunteers from other local charities and by council employees, and the whole of the Stockton area was divided up into 8 areas. The main focus was around the town centre, the Riverside and Thornaby, and many miles were covered on a wet and dreary night.

We were also joined by a resident from one of the local hostels, who had himself been sleeping rough until recently. He was able to show us all of the likely places and, although no homeless people were found on the night, we were satisfied that we had done all that we could to try and locate those who do not have a 'roof over their head'.

Stockton Borough Council run a great wrap-around service from their 'Housing Options' offices on Ramsgate at the junction with West Row. These include housing, benefits, addiction and health advice to all residents, and are able to deal with a range of needs during one visit, making the sometimes complex process of engaging with a number of different services extremely simple.

Vote for STP

There is still time to vote for Stockton Town Pastors in the NatWest Community Force awards competition—voting closes on 26th October so please be quick. The website link is: <http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/1946>

The site is occasionally slow because of frequent use, so please be patient.

Games Pastors Required

Would you like to become a 'Games Pastor' during the London Olympics in 2012?

The Christian Nightlife Initiative (CNI) charity is working closely with the games organisers to provide a 'street angels' service to the many thousands of people who will be attending the event which starts on the 27th July August and goes through to the 12th August. The Paralympic Games events is also being covered, and this starts on the 29th August for 11 days.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these events please contact either STP project manager Steve Brock or visit the specially prepared website: <http://www.morethangold.org.uk/service/games-pastors.html>



New Assistant Coordinator for STP

As most STP volunteers will already know, the project manager Steve Brock has a number of individuals who share in the task of helping look after things when STP are on patrols. These are:

Ian Bartle	Cath Harris
Steve Johnson	Brian Jones

Darren Holliday (pictured) has recently joined this group. He has been a volunteer since February 2010 and



now attends Berwick Hills Baptist Church. Darren wears the traditional STP coat when on patrols, rather than the rather fetching cape he chose to wear for this picture (l.o.l.)

STP Volunteer Training

Stockton Town Pastors is working in conjunction with 'A Way Out' to develop an accredited core training package for its volunteers. The Open College Network (OCN) will credit the training, which will consist of a one-day course followed by on-the-street assessment of volunteers and will result in students being awarded a nationally recognised certificate which they can use in their portfolio to demonstrate their experience to employers etc. The course is free to all volunteers (both new and existing), and the date of the next training day is:

Saturday 29th October 2011

9am—5pm

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

Free refreshments and lunch are also included. If you have not already booked your place and would like to attend, please contact the project manager Steve Brock.

Boro Angels and Hartlepool Town Pastors volunteers will also be attending, so do come along and get to meet them.

The course consists of 5 elements and is designed to provide volunteers with sufficient knowledge to be confident and safe enough to go out on patrols in either of the towns:

- Conflict Management and Resolution
- Volunteer Handbook policies & procedures
- Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding
- Night-Time Environment Issues
- Initial Actions at Crime Scenes

STP Barbeque



Nearly 40 people attended the STP summer barbeque on 28th August, at Steve and Hazel's home. The weather stayed fine but windy, and Darren did a great job in keeping everyone supplied with cooked meat. Everyone brought food to contribute to the event, and there was a great time of fellowship. The only concern was in wondering just what it was that happened to make Rachel react as she did (see photo above)!

Prayer Points

This will in future be covered in a separate regular email. If you would like to be included in this circulation please contact Steve Brock.

STP Volunteer Anita Burke was not too keen on being paired with the latest STP recruit! Caption suggestions to Steve Brock please.



STP Project Manager:

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Visit our Website:

www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

