

Do You 'Love Stockton'?



The Christian communities across Stockton-on-Tees and the wider Tees Valley area are embarking upon a vision which will see Stockton changed and trans-

formed through unity and working together—the mission statement being: “Working together with one heart.”

Although still in its early stages, the project has received the support of many local churches and of the Tees Valley Christian Charities ‘The Forum’ Trust, who will be actively involved in development. The central themes are:

Love in Action—What would a ‘loved’ Stockton look like, and what can we do to improve the town and support its communities?

Unity—All Christian churches and organisations working together to serve the needs of the town, whilst acknowledging the unique value and independence of churches in their local neighbourhoods.

Collaboration—Sharing resources to the benefit of all local churches, providing solutions to situations outside the capacity of smaller congregations .

Communications—A ‘Hub’ of information for Christian activity, i.e. church services, events and fellowship, leading to maximum public awareness, coordination and sharing amongst the wider community.

Community Development—Developing and supporting ideas and local projects that will

have an impact in the area both in terms of physical and spiritual regeneration, including working together with the council, businesses and other stakeholders to see change.

High Street Premises—With so many potential activities resulting from this project it is quite possible that they will be coordinated from a central building which would be open to the public and offer access to a wide range of services. A clear business plan demonstrating the long term sustainability of such a building is paramount.

Project governance will be provided through a management board consisting of representatives from Stockton Churches, the Tees Valley Christian Charities Forum, the Project ONE Trust and other individuals who are able to bring specialist knowledge to this initiative. A development manager will be appointed to begin the process of pulling together each of these strands of unity, collaboration, communications and community development together and—importantly—will ensure the Christian and wider communities in Stockton are kept informed of progress.

Do you ‘Love Stockton’ enough to dare to imagine what the town would look like if it was loved; and if the community took rightful pride in the heritage, river frontage, good public services and local businesses that already exist? Why not allow this vision to ignite your passion for the town and the people in it, and become actively involved—YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

For further details of the project please email: steve@stocktontownpastors.co.uk

Town Pastors in Yarm

A recent open night at Yarm Methodist Church was successful, and potential new volunteers have expressed real interest in providing a town pastor presence in Yarm High Street on occasional Wednesday evenings to meet the needs around the extremely popular ' Cannonball' events which are arranged during out-of-term time for university students—the first of these possibly being on the 21st March 2011.

Yarm Parish Council is considering premises for a potential operating base, and volunteer application and training will start later in February.

If you would like to know more about this exciting development, or would like to become a volunteer, then please contact the STP project manager Steve Brock on Mob: 07526 641 796.

Accredited Training for Volunteers

Volunteers from Stockton and Hartlepool Town Pastors and Middlesbrough's Boro Angels who attended a one-day 'Supporting Users of the Night-Time Economy' course have now begun the assessment programme that will lead to national Open College Network (OCN) accreditation for those completing the process. This is the first course of its kind in the UK and the Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) charity is hoping to extend this to the 100+ other night-time projects across the length and breadth of the country.

Coursework includes conflict management, volunteer handbook policies and procedures, child and vulnerable adult safeguarding, initial actions at crime scenes and a general understanding of the various pieces of legislation relevant to the night-time environment.

Town Pastors are extremely grateful for the continued support of 'A Way Out', a local charity who are the registered as an OCN Centre.

You Are Invited To:



The Cleveland Branch of the Christian Police Association (CPA) welcomes you to their day of celebration and thanksgiving for all the difference that a range of 'CoAct' initiatives are making on Teesside.

10am—3pm Saturday 3rd March 2012

**Low Worsall Village Hall, Yarm,
Stockton-on-Tees TS15 9QB**

The event will include presentations from Paul Bright, Assistant Director of the CPA; Steve Brock, Deputy Chair of the Christian Nightlife Initiatives, and Inspector Andy Fox, the head of one of Stockton's community policing teams. The event will also offer you the chance to influence future local activity . A speed-networking session involving local charities will provide lots of information and a 'voting' process will ensure that your views are captured.

Entry and lunch is free, and grateful thanks go to the event sponsors Cleveland Police for their support in allowing this event to take place.

Email: stevebrock@stocktontownpastors.co.uk to make your booking—all welcome.

Final Call for Sponsorship Monies

You may recall receiving sponsorship forms in respect of 'The Big Splash' event that Moses Project fundraiser Alan Brunskill took part in on Boxing Day 2011. If you sponsored Alan then please could you get your sponsorship money to him so he can make the presentation to the project? If you didn't sponsor Alan but would like to make a donation, please contact Brian Jones on Tel: 07753 301 012.

More First Aiders for STP

On 4th February 2012 a further 14 STP volunteers gave up their valuable Saturday to become trained to Emergency First Aid at Work standard. This means that 85% of all our 52 active volunteers are now trained to give first aid—something we are called upon to do on regular occasions when out on patrol on Friday and Saturday evenings.



Our sincere thanks go to the trainer Barbara Broadbelt, to Destiny Centre Church in Norton who allowed use of their magnificent premises free of charge, and to Tees Achieve who, through the efforts of their manager Christine Vipond, secured the training for us at no cost to STP through the Neighbourhood Learning for Deprived Communities (NLDC) programme.

Carol Service 2012

Stockton Churches, together with Stockton Borough Council, are planning to host an open-air carol service on Stockton High Street near to the Town Hall at 1pm on Saturday 15th December 2012. The Salvation Army band will be playing, and many local dignitaries will be invited. Please make sure this is in your own and your churches diaries—come along and enjoy the service and whilst there why not do some shopping at Stockton's Open Market?

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, starting on the 29th August for 11 days.

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

Additionally there will be an 'Olympic Torch' relay passing through Stockton-on-Tees, stopping overnight at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium on 17th June 2012. Stockton and Hartlepool town pastors and Boro Angels are planning to support this event—further details shortly.

Christian Nightlife Initiatives

Catch up on national CNI news by visiting their website and reading the February 2012 issue of their newsletter:



<http://cninet.weebly.com/newsletters.html>

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Visit our Website:
www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

