

Across Town



STOCKTON TOWN PASTORS

Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment

Registered Charity No. 1143017

Issue No. 20, March 2012



Spring is almost upon us and this is a great time to look back along the road we have travelled, then check our compass bearings to make sure we are still headed in the right direction—'onwards and upwards', so to speak!

When Stockton Town Pastors started patrols just over two years ago we were a group of 20 volunteers who were just a little fearsome of what the future held is store for us, as we walked into the busy night-time environment which was Stockton town centre.

Now, as we enjoy the many kind words of those we help and work alongside every evening that we are on patrols, we wonder why we were so wary. Each of the many contacts we have (an information table can be found at the back of this newsletter) has its own story attached—from those just wanting to know more about STP to those who are in immediate need of first aid or reassurance. It is the practical outworking of our love and genuine concern for others that speaks so loudly into their lives. What a privilege it is to do this work—yes, despite the cold wet and snowy weather and unsocial hours—just ask any of our currently active 55 volunteers!

And the really good news is that our project continues to grow in so many ways. I have just processed the 108th volunteer application form (no prizes for the lucky 100th I'm afraid) and on looking back we have seen a continual swelling of our numbers. There have been some who have not got past the initial interview and training stages of course, and some who have either moved on to other projects or whose circumstances have changed which has meant they can no longer make the same commitment in terms of time to the project—births, employment, moving to other parts etc—all the things that make life what it is. However, the really interesting fact is that most of those who started out with us in December 2009 are still coming out on patrols!

So why do you think this is? Well, the sense of friendship and fellowship that has developed over time amongst STP volunteers is a tremendous thing to experience, as well as just being able to help those in need regardless of the circumstances—and isn't that what we are commanded to do?

This is not just the case in Stockton-on-Tees, as Middlesbrough and Hartlepool volunteers will testify—as well as the more than 100 other 'street angels' projects across the UK (not forgetting a similar number of 'street pastors' projects, of course).

The relationships we form with one another as individuals and in partnership with organisations are at the very heart of our project, and will continue to remain so as we offer care and compassion to those in the night-time environment.

Town Pastors in Yarm



The extremely popular student-focused 'Cannonball' events at The Keys in Yarm recommence on Wednesday 21st March 2012, and STP volunteers will be there to offer support to those in need. Upwards of 2,000 students have attended these events in recent times—they occur outside of university term-time and offer the chance for youngsters to catch up with their friends as they return home from their studies.

The four events planned for the Easter break are 21st & 28th March, and 4th & 11th April. Volunteers will work from Yarm town hall, meeting at 9.30pm and working through until 3am. If you would like to join them for prayer before patrols, which start at 10pm, you would be most welcome.

Four new volunteers from Yarm-based churches, along with 5 existing STP volunteers, will make up a team of 3 or 4 on each evening.

Christian Nightlife Initiatives

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

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



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 10th 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.

New 'Street Angels' Projects

South Tyneside are recruiting volunteers for their project, with patrols starting in April 2012. The initiative is run by 'Churches Together', and supported by South Tyneside Council and Northumbria Police.

Whitby is also recruiting volunteers for their project, which starts patrols in June 2012. It is supported by 'Churches Together', Scarborough Borough Council and North Yorkshire Police.

Please pray for the both as they prepare to work in the night-time environment.

Olympic Torch Relay

This exciting spectacle will be passing through Stockton-on-Tees on Sunday 17th June 2012, and resting overnight at Middlesbrough Riverside Stadium.



Local councils are planning a series of events to mark the occasion, and Stockton, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough 'street angels' projects will be joining together to provide a presence.

Full details of the route and nature of celebrations are not yet known, but if you would like to help out then please let me know:

steve@stocktontownpastors.co.uk

Bishop Mark Goes on Patrol

The Bishop of Jarrow, the Rt. Revd. Mark Bryant, came out on patrol with STP volunteers on Saturday, 4th March 2012, accompanied by our STP Chair the Revd. Derek



Rosamond. He spoke with revellers, door supervisors and volunteers, and even had a look around inside the GLAM nightclub—many thanks to Paul, the club manager.

Afterwards, Derek said that the Bishop had been extremely impressed, particularly with the relationships that had been developed between STP volunteers, the public and those working within the night-time environment.

STP Activity Data 2010/2011 Comparison

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference
First Aid administered:	59	68	9 (15% increase)
Ambulance subsequently called:	20	17	3 (15% decrease)
ASB / Violence:	41	30	11 (27% decrease)
Police subsequently called:	14	32	18 (129% increase)
Reconciled with family / friends:	16	46	30 (188% increase)
Placed in Taxi:	40	48	8 (20% increase)
Homeless / Place of Safety:	28	15	13 (46% decrease)
Other Help:	198	458	260 (131% increase)
Other Significant Contact:	137	271	134 (98% increase)
Totals:	553	985	432 (78% increase)
Bottles / Glass Recovered:	1610	2156	546 (34% increase)
Volunteer Hours:	3498	2971	527 (15% decrease)
Active Volunteers (Est. Average):	47	50	3 (6% increase)

STP Project Manager:

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Visit our Website:

www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

