



STOCKTON TOWN PASTORS

Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment

Registered Charity No. 1143017



Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment

Issue No. 25, October 2012

Across Town



STP Thanksgiving Evening a Success

STP held its first Annual General Meeting on 27th September 2012 since becoming a registered charity, and immediately afterwards celebrated almost 3 years of providing a caring presence in Stockton Town Centre by holding a thanksgiving evening at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle in Stockton.

Over 100 people attended including STP volunteers and friends, with many local churches represented.

The evening started with welcome and prayer from the Chair of the board of trustees Revd. Derek Rosamond, and the STP journey to date from Project Manager Steve Brock. Partners were then invited to talk about the role and impact of STP:

Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Lynne Apedaile, spoke about the way STP had made a difference to the night-time economy of Stockton and how a healthy and vibrant night-time is vital to the success of any town.

MP James Wharton spoke about his experiences of a night on the town with the STP volunteers. This evening had made a massive impact on James and he spoke about the people he had helped and the recognition of the role of the volunteers on improving the community for all.

Police Inspector Brenda Sharpe spoke about several people she had seen the STP volunteers helping and thanked those who volunteered on behalf of Cleveland Police.

Next, six volunteers from Stockton Hartlepool and Middlesbrough were presented with certificates from Chief Inspector Andy Fox in recognition of completing OCN accredited training. Two of the volunteers, Sue Mulcaster and Sheila Brown, then shared some of their experiences of working on the streets of Stockton.

The evening concluded with the vision for the future of STP including encouraging people to become 'Friends of STP', links with a new initiative 'Love Stockton' aiming to open a Christian presence and base for STP on the high streets, and furthering links with CNI Network including helping launch new projects in other local towns and joining together for training, etc.

A time of networking over a magnificent buffet was then enjoyed.

STP Membership Plans



One of the matters discussed by Trustees at the AGM was the possibility of extending membership from the current nine members of the Management Board to include its volunteers and those 'Friends of STP' who support us financially and in prayer.

Membership would allow individuals a vote at future AGMs and provide an opportunity to directly influence the future of STP. We already have an informal 'Friends of STP' section which includes all active volunteers and others who support us financially and/or in prayer. Benefits include regular newsletters, prayer bulletins and invitations to social and other events.

A carefully worked out 'membership' policy will have to be developed and this work will form a part of the STP Management Board business over coming months. All volunteers will be kept informed of progress. If you would like to be involved in a working party to develop this further then please contact the project manager Steve Brock.

STP Activity

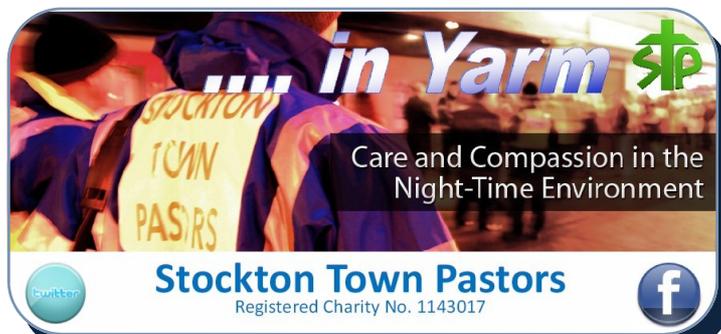
Town Pastors have been patrolling Stockton town centre Friday and Saturday evenings since December 2009, (and on occasions in Yarm on Wednesdays) offering care and compassion in the night-time environment to those in need. We do this without judgement and regardless of circumstance, and all of this is done as a practical expression of the love Christ has for us, and of the love we are commanded to have for one another.

Incident Type	Stockton Town Centre				Yarm 2012	Totals:
	2009	2010	2011	2012		
First Aid administered:	4	59	68	34	11	176
Ambulance subsequently called:	1	20	17	4	0	42
ASB / Violence:	2	41	30	17	3	93
Police subsequently called:	0	14	32	27	0	73
Reconciled with family / friends:	1	16	46	15	3	81
Placed in Taxi:	1	40	48	34	4	127
Homeless / Place of Safety:	1	28	15	5	1	50
Other Help:	5	198	458	28	2	691
Flip Flops:	No data - included in			276	19	295
Bottled Water:	'Other Help'			34	12	46
Other Significant Contact:	6	137	271	208	26	648
Totals:	21	553	985	682	81	2322
Bottles / Glass Recovered:		1610	2156	1201	27	4994
Volunteer Hours:	230	3498	2971	2118	125	8942
Active Volunteers (Est. Average):	24	47	50	55		

However, the 'Activity Measures' are NOT the drivers for us being there – these naturally fall out of interactions with individuals and they help the Police and SBC to evaluate, in part, our contribution to public safety. Volunteer hours do not include time spent in training.

Update on STP Patrols in Yarm

Some STP volunteers have been providing a presence on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer in support of students and their friends attending regular 'Cannonball' events at The Keys on Yarm High Street.



Andy Chambers, manager at The Keys, said he was full of admiration for the job that STP do, and would like this to continue for further Cannonball events because he believes our presence has a calming influence on people and we have helped diffuse lots of situations which potentially could have escalated. Some Yarm residents have also expressed their gratitude as to the way the events were handled by all involved.

The 'Cannonballs' finished in September but it is likely that there will be a couple of events in December, and STP will be looking to provide a presence at them. This is a totally different experience to being on patrols in Stockton town centre and most of those 'out on the town' are under 21. Yarm Parish Council are grateful for the work we do and allow us to use the town hall as an operating base, which is ideally located and very cosy.

STP volunteers who worked in Yarm are going for a meal at the Raj Bari Indian Restaurant on Yarm High Street on Thursday 25th October. If you would like to join us there, or are interested in doing STP in Yarm in December, then please contact the project manager Steve Brock.

STP Open College Network (OCN) Training

We now have a list of four current and six new students who wish to do this training, which could lead to a national qualification equivalent to GCSE Grade A—C. Six volunteers have already passed, and were presented with their awards at the STP Thanksgiving Evening in September.

The accredited training "Supporting Users of the Night-Time Economy" is currently unique in the UK and other Street Angels projects are keen to be involved. It is a great qualification to have in your portfolio if you are looking for a job, and demonstrates your ability to work as part of a team in sometimes difficult circumstances.

If you would like to add your name to the list of new students (and have not already done so) please contact Steve Brock, who will arrange training. An open evening to get volunteers started on this course will be arranged for one Thursday evening in November.

First Aid Refreshers & CRB Renewals

A significant number of volunteers are due to have First Aid refresher training towards the end of 2012 (the certificate lasts for 3 years). I am in the process of arranging training dates (likely to be a full Saturday in January 2013), and will contact those who are due for renewal nearer the time. Additionally, 20 volunteers are due a CRB renewal and I will let you know when this session will be.

STP Training and Development Evenings

These last three years have passed quickly, and many volunteers will have experienced things they may not have even dreamed about prior to joining STP! It is important that we remain focused on providing true care and compassion for those sharing the night-time environment in Stockton, and that we share with each other those things which help us grow both individually and as a project.

Therefore, I am arranging a development evening—provisionally Thursday 6th December 2012—when we can talk openly about future needs. It is a great opportunity for you to air your views and influence change, from things such as the size of bag we carry to the hours we work and even the policy in respect of flip-flops! This is a MUST as part of our training, and I urge all volunteers to come along. I will announce the time and location later but please put the date in your diary. Food (pie, peas and chips?) will be provided. It is also our 3rd birthday, so let's celebrate in style!

I am aware that lots of STP events are starting to fall on a Thursday evening—OCN training, development evening, even the CRB evening is likely to be on a Thursday. I know that some volunteers have other things planned, but it does appear to be the one evening when most of us are free. I urge you to try and make these evenings over the coming weeks. However, if you are unable to do so I will make special arrangements for individuals to ensure you don't miss out.

STP Annual Report 2011-2012

As a registered charity STP has to submit an annual report to the Charity Commission. Our AGM in September 2012 marked our first year as a charity, and the full report can now be viewed via the STP website: [http://stocktontownpastors.co.uk/documents/STP AGM Report 2011-12.pdf](http://stocktontownpastors.co.uk/documents/STP%20AGM%20Report%202011-12.pdf)

Forthcoming Events

Below are some of the meetings and events that the STP Project Manager will be attending over the next month. Additionally, STP patrols operate from the A Way Out premises on Riverside Road, Stockton, from 9.30pm every Friday and Saturday evening and we would value your prayers.

- 25th October Yarm STP Social, 7.30pm, Raj Bari restaurant, Yarm High Street
- 6th November Presentation to Darlington Churches Together, 10am, St Cuthbert's Church
- 8th November Presentation to Thornaby & Yarm Rotary Club, 5.30pm, Tall Trees
- 15th November Love Stockton management board meeting, 2pm, Stockton Baptist Tabernacle
- 15th December Love Stockton Carol Service, 12noon, Stockton High Street.

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Visit our Website:
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