



## 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. 27, December 2012

# Across Town

*Wishing You a Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas, from all of our Volunteers!!*



# STP is **3** !!!

Stockton Town Pastors celebrates its third birthday this month, with a pie and pea social held at the Stockton Baptist Tabernacle—more about this event in the next newsletter.

Within its first six months STP had accrued 38 volunteers and it is a real testament to them that 25 of this number (66%) remain with us! Whilst some of the original volunteers have moved on to other things we have seen a continual growth in numbers. Presently, we have 53 active volunteers, with a further 5 in training.

94% of our volunteers are from local churches—18 in all—across a range of denominations, and their ages range from 18yrs to 81yrs (the average age is 50)! To say we have become a ‘family’ only partly explains the friendship and fellowship that has developed; a special bond has resulted as we have gone out onto the streets of Stockton (and occasionally Yarm) offering His love in a practical way to those in need, without judgement and regardless of circumstance.

Are our actions appreciated by those we help? Below are just a few emails and texts we have received recently:

- ◆ “Thanks for looking after a friend last night outside of glam”
- ◆ “Just want to say thank-you to the team tonight, for providing a helping hand for one of my family members who was out in Stockton. You guys are a blessing to Stockton”
- ◆ “Got home safe, thanks for looking after me xx “

The support of local police and the council, as well as pub and club door staff, remains central to our project and we are grateful for the many friendships that have developed. A special thankyou also to our STP Management Board members (past and present—further details in our Annual Report located on our website); without whose help the project would not have started. The hard foundational work carried out at the beginning and the continuing developmental work is essential to ourselves and our partners.

Many “Friends of STP” support us in prayer and financially, even though they are unable to volunteer for patrols, and it is great to know that we are being helped and cared for in this way. If you would like to know how to receive our weekly prayer bulletins, please contact the project manager Steve Brock.

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## Stockton Open Air Carol Service

The ‘Love Stockton’ project, together with the Salvation Army’s Stockton Citadel and other local churches, will be holding a carol service on Stockton High Street at the junction with Dovecot Street, on:

**Saturday 22nd. December 2012, starting at 1pm**

Please come along with your families and friends and help spread the true joy of Christmas amongst shoppers and local businesses. The service will be led by Revd. Alan Farish of Stockton Parish Church, and there will be lots of well known carols to be sung, along with a powerful Christian message.

**STP Volunteers**—please contact Steve Brock if you are able to help out at this event

## First Aid Refreshers Courses



First Aid training has been arranged for January 2013. Two one-day training courses have been arranged for Saturday 12th and 19th January 2013.

Both courses will start at 9am, ending no later than 4pm, and will be held in the Upper Hall of Stockton Baptist Tabernacle. Parking will be available in the Tab car park, overlooking the River Tees. Most volunteers who are due a refresher have been contacted, and the project manager will let them know which of the two dates they have been allocated. A free buffet lunch will be provided out of project funds, and the training is being supplied via the council's 'Tees Achieve' organisation.

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## CRB Renewals for STP Volunteers



Many thanks to all of those who attended the CRB checking evening on 29th November to have their CRBs renewed etc. Those who entered their details online in advance were able to be fast-tracked, whilst others had a short(ish) wait. 18 STP volunteers were checked on the night, with a further 12 from Hartlepool. We are grateful to Tracy and Jo from

Stockton Residents and Communities Group Assoc. (SRCGA) who came along to do this 'block' checking—it saved volunteers a lot of time and inconvenience, with Tracy & Jo doing it all in their own time!

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## Decorate a Christmas Tree

Saint Paul's Church in Newtown, Stockton, is holding a Christmas Tree Festival this year. It's like a flower festival but people sponsor and decorate their own Christmas trees instead of doing their own flower arrangements. It is not a fund raising idea, it's a Community event. It was such a success in 2011 that they are doing it again this year. There will be about twelve Christmas trees available to be decorated by local community groups, or individuals.

Stockton Town Pastors has a tree which has been 'creatively' festooned with handicrafts!

The festival will open with a special Christmas Concert by the Apollo Male Voice Choir and Christmas tree lighting service on Saturday 15th December @ 7.30pm and then run throughout the Christmas period.

All welcome—bring family, friends and colleagues to see the trees and lights, and to hear the choir.



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Visit our Website:

[www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk](http://www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk)

