

# Across Town

## Bishop of Durham Visits STP Board



The newly appointed Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend Paul Butler, called in on STP's Management Board along with his wife Rosemary, during a tour of Stockton-on-Tees on Wednesday 26th February 2014.

They joined us for tea and cakes and were keen to hear all about our work in the community, taking a particular interest in our engagement with the

needy and vulnerable within the town's night-time economy.

Paul and Rosemary have witnessed the work done by street angels and pastors in Nottingham and Southampton and were impressed with the levels of friendship and understanding that has grown not just within the local community but across Christian denominations as a result.

STP project manager Steve Brock explained the range of equipment and training involved, and of course offered the Bishop a night out on the town with STP! We have been accompanied on patrols in the past by Tom Wright, the ex-Bishop of Durham, and by the Reverend Mark Bryant, Bishop of Jarrow.



Issue No. 40

April 2014



Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment

## Are You Registered For Membership Yet?

The 1st April 2014 marks a very important change to the structure of Stockton Town Pastors, which affects all of its volunteers. Although we became a registered charity in July 2011, the only 'members' were the Board of Trustees—currently eight in number set against more than 60 volunteers.

In 2013 the Board agreed to offer 'full' membership to all active volunteers with effect from April 2014, at a subscription cost of £1 per person per year—although you may wish to donate more—with non-volunteers (friends of STP) also being able to apply for 'associate' membership.

Many volunteers attended a meeting in January where this matter was discussed, and it was publicised in the February newsletter. Approximately 33% of volunteers have already responded by making membership application, and a recent letter was sent to those who had not responded which explained the importance of membership.

If you haven't yet replied to the letter then please do so quickly, as you may otherwise lose your opportunity to vote at STP's next Annual General Meeting on 26th June 2014, when you will be able to vote volunteer representatives onto the Board. Further details can be found on the STP website under 'downloads' if you need further information or access to the application form.

In order to stand for election onto the Board or vote, you must be a 'full' member.

Whilst it is important for the STP Board to have a strategic view of our project's activities it is also valuable for volunteers to have a democratic influence in decision-making. If you would like to consider standing for election onto the Board as a 'volunteer representative' (meetings are quarterly) then please speak with Steve Brock who will explain the process in more detail.

Please also encourage family, friends and relatives to become 'associate' members, giving them access to socials, newsletters and our popular weekly prayer bulletin.

## Street Angels—Christian Nightlife Initiatives (SA-CNI)

Are holding their Northern Conference in York on Saturday 12th April 2014—more details available at: <http://www.sa-cni.org.uk/northernconference.html>

Those who went to the national conference in Daventry last August had a great time and appreciated the opportunity to meet volunteers from other street angels projects across the UK.

The Northern Conference starts at 9.30am with coffee and networking, followed by prayer and welcome by the Right Reverend Tony Robinson, Bishop of Pontefract and patron for SA-CNI.

Speakers include Jarrod Cooper, senior minister of New Life Church in Hull, who features regularly on Christian TV and Radio. His talk will equip and challenge us as we seek to bring transformation to the communities and people we serve.

Singer Philippa Hanna is fresh from her stadium tour supporting Wet Wet Wet. She is one of the biggest names in the UK Gospel scene, Sheffield based, has released three albums and is a regular on TV and radio.

The afternoon will comprise a number of 'street angels' focused workshops. There is also a concert led by Philippa (above) in the evening, starting at 7.30pm

Costs for the day, including lunch and evening concert, is £20 per head if booked in advance—please contact Steve Brock or book online a.s.a.p. if you would like to reserve tickets.

Additionally, Steve is arranging the use of a minibus so that Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Guisborough street angels can share the cost of travel to and from the venue. Cost will be minimal and dependent upon the number going, but likely to be in the region of £10 return. Please contact Steve if you would like to share in this.

## Opportunity—'Afternoon Tea' at Lambeth Palace

SA-CNI are arranging for street angels from across the UK to meet together for afternoon tea at Lambeth Palace—residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury—on Monday 20th October 2014.

Unfortunately the Right Reverend Justin Welby will not be available to greet us on the day, but it is an excellent opportunity to meet with other volunteers and, of course, to take a tour of this historic building.

SA-CNI will be announcing further details in the coming weeks, but if you are considering making this journey then please contact Steve Brock, who can coordinate volunteers from the Cleveland area and possibly arrange transport.

---

## STP Representation on Central Locality Forum

Stockton Borough Council has recently revised its strategic community and volunteer strategy to ensure that the wider public have a greater opportunity to influence local decision-making. The Borough has been divided into four areas and Steve Brock, STP project manager, will sit on the 'Central' locality forum covering large residential areas and including the town centre.

STP's knowledge of the night-time economy and the needs of people who are vulnerable and in need has been recognised as being of real value in helping to provide focus on public services.

STP is also represented on Stockton's Independent Advisory Group—acting as a critical friend to the police in respect of the organisation's practices and procedures and securing closer engagement with the public.

---

## STP Mobile Unit—Invitation to Official Launch

Stockton's Mayor, Councillor Kathryn Nelson, will formally 'launch' the use of our newly purchased mobile unit at 4pm on Thursday 17th April 2014 on Stockton High Street, in the parking area just south of The Shambles (notice attached). Please come along with family, friends and colleagues to inspect the vehicle, speak with volunteers and offer prayer and thanks for the additional opportunities it will provide to reach out in love.

STP Project Manager: Steve Brock  
c/o Stockton Baptist Tabernacle,  
The Square, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TE  
Tel: 07526 641 796  
Email: [admin@stocktonwnpastors.co.uk](mailto:admin@stocktonwnpastors.co.uk)  
Website: [www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk](http://www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk)

