

Across Town

Stockton Town Pastors—Project Update

Arrangements are in hand for the STP Annual General Meeting, which will be held at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle on the evening of Thursday 24th October 2013. We will have been on patrols in Stockton town centre for almost four years and will have lots to celebrate, so please make a note of the date in your diaries!

At the AGM will have the opportunity to reflect upon all that we have achieved—to date, more than 10,800 volunteer hours (not including training) amounting to an ‘added value’ of £126,400 to the community. There are also the 260 occasions when we have administered first aid—including 55 occasions when we have had to call an ambulance; the 6,200 bottles and glass items we have picked up or the hundreds of pairs of flip-flops we have dispensed to ladies in need! In total, we have personally helped more than 2,700 individuals in one way or another since that cold December night in December 2009, when we first stepped out onto the streets.

And it is all about those personal relationships, showing God’s love for others in our actions and doing all of this without judgement and regardless of circumstance!

We are continuing to build excellent relationships with the police, council, night-time economy workers and many who enjoy Stockton’s entertainment scene and this is spilling over into the broader Church through involvement with the ‘Love Stockton’ project and many other church-led initiatives across the town.

Bring friends, family and colleagues along on the 24th October 2013, and see what God is doing in Stockton!

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‘Dude With Wings’ Merchandise

The ‘Charisma Art’ company in Halifax has designed a collection of mugs, posters, key rings, fridge magnets, wall plaques and greetings cards to celebrate the ‘Street Angels’ projects at work across the country, and have agreed to give 10% of its sales to Christian Nightlife Initiatives.

There are six different pictures, each with their own scriptural verse. STP project manager Steve Brock has examples of these for your inspection, but if you would like further details please visit the company’s website: <http://www.charisma-art.co.uk>.

Welcome to New STP Volunteers

We have three new volunteers joining us in July—Dorothy Bell, Andrew Walker and Faye Sculley, bringing our total of ‘active’ volunteers (those who are out on patrols or in the café regularly) to sixty-two. They are going through training and will be out on patrols shortly—I am sure you will give them a big welcome and help them overcome any nervousness about wearing the bright yellow jackets!

Challenge for STP Volunteers

Following our recent successes in providing contestants for ‘The Town That Danced’ competition, and volunteers to help the police in their Investigative Interview courses, we now have a challenge of a different nature:

On patrols we regularly speak with the police, door supervisors, food outlet workers etc, but when was the last time you chatted to a **taxi driver**, other than to arrange a fare? Just look along the main roads in the town and see how many are parked up waiting for business—why not stop and talk? I am told they love what we are doing and would be pleased to get to know us more, so go on—offer them a lolly and a smile!

STP News:

Training—a Conflict management course has been arranged for 7pm on Thursday 4th July 2013 at Cleveland Police HQ, Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough. Volunteers include those from Boro Angels, Hartlepool Town Pastors and the soon-to-start Guisborough town pastors. If you would like to come along (either a new starter or as a refresher) please let me know in advance.

Open College Network—If you would like to become involved in the nationally accredited training programme for town pastors (we are the first in the country to run this) please contact me. There are two 2 x hour courses arranged as follows:

- Thursday 18th July 7pm Stockton Baptist Tabernacle—Night-time Licensing
- Thursday 25th July 7pm Stockton Baptist Tabernacle—Crime Scenes

STP Leadership Training—I have arranged for Stockton's CCTV supervisor to deliver training in respect of the use of radios, and this will take place 7pm on Thursday 22nd August 2013 at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle. The session will also include leadership responsibilities for the role of team leader within STP. If you would like to be considered for this, please let me know.

CRB Checks—These are now called Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. STP policy is to renew these every three years, and some volunteers will need to go through this process again within the next few months. The good news is that the initial renewal application can be done on-line. I will be contacting volunteers shortly to arrange this—there will be no cost to volunteers, and in future all checks should be 'portable' across different organisations.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Barry Copping, has asked to meet with leaders from each of the 4 street angels projects in the Cleveland area, and we will be seeing him on 31st July 2013 at his offices—isn't this great news!!

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STP Volunteer Sponsorships

Ray Dang has asked me to let everyone know that he managed to raise a magnificent £4,123 for the Myeloma UK charity as a result of his 22 mile swim earlier this year, and passes on his thanks to all who sponsored and supported him.

Sheila Brown completed the Race For Life event for Cancer Research UK in June; and is intending to do the Middlesbrough Pride 10K road race in September in support of STP.

Mike Kennedy has asked me to let you know that he is doing a sponsored Sky-Dive on 28th July on behalf of the Breast Cancer Care charity.

Adam, Newsham, Danni Massey and Paul Miller are going to do the Stockton River Rat Race on Sunday 25th August as a team, in order to raise funds for STP. This involves a 10km course with a twist—swimming, wading, crawling, climbing jumping and running. They are looking for other STP volunteers to join them, so please let Adam know if you would like to do the event. Of course, you could always sponsor them instead!!

It is wonderful to know that our volunteers continue to give of their time and endure what seems like agony to raise funds for others. Please support them wherever you can.



Christian Nightlife Initiative News

CNI Conference—There is still time to book for this event, which takes place on 30th August—1st September 2013 at the De Vere hotel in Daventry—just contact Steve Brock. So far, there are 100 bookings with half of those confirmed, so it promises to be a great weekend with opportunities to meet other 'Angels' from across the UK.

The cost is £150pp fully inclusive, and transport can be provided from the Teesside area in a minibus if needed, costing about £25 per head.

There are 9 STP volunteers going, so if you are unable to attend who may wish to volunteer for STP yourself that weekend as it seems we may be short!

STP Social

There are still tickets available for the STP historic walk around Stockton Town Centre—meet 7pm on Thursday 11th July 2013 at The George pub on Stockton High Street. Tickets are £2.50p to cover the cost of a buffet. Please contact me if you would like to reserve places.

Also, Ian and Diane Bartle from the Salvation Army are looking at organising a local car 'treasure hunt' in September—more details in the next newsletter.