



Stockton Town Pastors Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 12, May 2011

STP Moves to 'The Gate'

Stockton Town Pastors have successfully moved their operating base to 'The Gate' on Stockton Riverside—near to Joe Rigatoni's restaurant. The premises is used by the 'A Way Out' charity which helps at-risk women and youths—and with whom Town Pastors has an alliance.



Town Pastors operate a café from the premises between 9pm and 12am on Fridays and Saturdays, but anyone in need of help or advice is welcome to call in during any weekday if they would like to access services—an 'A Way Out' member of staff will always be on hand to assist.

The STP Coordinator Steve Brock said, *"the building is ideal for our purposes in many ways—it is only a two minute walk from the main night-time activity, the café facilities are first class and, most importantly, it provides one central location where those at risk can come on a Friday and Saturday evening and then return to during the week if they would like further help and support."*

If you would like more information about the café, or would like to be involved in staffing it, please contact Steve on 07526 641 796

Hartlepool Town Pastors on Patrol



Hartlepool will have their own Town Pastors starting on the 27th May, when weeks of training and organisation come to fruition. They will operate from the Elim 'Living Waters' Pentecostal church in Whitby Street—a short walk from the night-time environment in Church Street. The premises has a café where people are welcome if they would like help or just need a safe haven away from the hustle and bustle of the many pubs, clubs and food outlets in the area.

More than 20 volunteers have gone through the training programme and some have already been on patrols with Stockton Town Pastors to gain experience.

Chief Inspector Kath Prudom from Cleveland Police, said: *"Hartlepool Town Pastors is an extremely valuable initiative, which will offer additional support and guidance to those who visit Hartlepool's vibrant night-time economy. A great deal of planning has gone in to ensure that the project is as successful as it can be and we hope that people coming into the town embrace the scheme."*

The project is still looking for more volunteers to go on patrols or work in the café. Full training will be provided. If you would like to support Hartlepool Town Pastors please contact their project manager Colin Sawtell on 07828 093 728

Have you been helped by Stockton Town Pastors or would you like to comment on what we do? Then why not visit our Facebook site?





The 24th Stockton International Riverside Festival will take place 4th—7th August 2011, and promises to be the most entertaining so far, with magical performances from around the globe. More information can be obtained from the website www.sirf.co.uk.

Stockton Town Pastors will once again be patrolling during the event on Friday and Saturday between 10pm and 3am. Our experiences from last year's event showed that the town was exceptionally busy after the main events finished at 11pm and other services had gone home. Our new operating base is right on the edge of the music festival area, and the café will be open for business as normal.

The ISAAC (UK) Road Show

An international inspirational Christian speaker Jackie Pullinger, will be in Teesside in June, and you are invited to a full one-day event at the Tees Valley Community Church, The Oakwood Centre, Cleasby Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees TS16 0RD.



The event is on Saturday 11th June 2011, and doors open at 9am, tickets £25. Full details can be found by visiting the 'A Way Out' website (www.awayout.co.uk)

Jackie's work and ministry in Hong Kong and around the world is well known to many and she is wonderfully equipped by God to communicate His heart and equipping to transform those in bondage to drugs and other addictions.

Teesside Gospel Festival

Activities: Vibrant Praise & Worship, Great Fellowship, Networking/Socialising, Festivities, Music, Dance, Solos, Poetry, Drama, Exhortation, Prayers, Refreshment etc...

Contact: Rev Sam 07957708126 Web: www.gracecovenantministries.org.uk

The Teesside Gospel Festival (TEGOFEST) is a yearly summer outreach awareness programme organised by Grace Covenant Ministries (GCM). Grace Covenant Ministries is a Christian charity set up to advance the Christian religion and education, relief of the disadvantaged and to prevent poverty among ethnic minority community.

TEGOFEST's aims are to:

- Create awareness in the general community of diverse ways by which various culture express the Christian faith and worship God. As the popular song rightly pointed out, in Christ there is no East or West but one great fellowship of love through out the whole wide earth.
- Break the cultural barriers between Churches especially in the expression of the Christian faith.

Further information can be found on the website: www.gracecovenantministries.org.uk

The 2011 event will take place in Stockton Parish Church Gardens on Saturday 3rd September. It starts at 12noon and finishes at 6pm—entry is free.

Stockton Town Pastors will be patrolling the event.

Stockton Town Pastors Social

Yes, it's that time again..... Andy Fox has bravely agreed to organise a bowling night for STP volunteers, friends and supporters. Bowling starts at 7pm on Tuesday 21st June 2011, at the Hollywood Bowl, Teesside Park. Optional meal at Teesside Park afterwards.

If you would like to book your place(s) please contact Steve Brock or Brian Jones





The Moses Project

Giving Guidance and Direction

The Moses project is a Christian based initiative which will be overseen by the leaders of Lightfoot Grove Church, Stockton. The vision for the project has grown out of the 'Parkfield Pantry' which is a Monday breakfast club operated from the Church Hall. Approximately 40—60 drug and alcohol addicts not only receive a two course hot meal but food and clothes parcels. This is done in a loving and caring environment .

The Moses Project is named after Moses who, in the Old Testament, led Gods people out from a life of slavery to one of freedom. Addicts are bound by their addictions but through The Moses Project they will be given a Hope and a Future by showing how to turn "Hopelessness into Hope"

Although this is a Christian project with Christian principals it is open to people of any faith. Mentors will show the love of God through their actions and natural conversation.

There is a lack of programs to help male addicts over the age of 21 in Stockton amongst the Christian Churches. Females and males under 21 are catered for by 'A Way Out', another Christian project, and this organisation has been identified as a partner within the Moses initiative.

One of the many aims of The Moses Project is to foster a commitment to addicts that will promote pro-social friendships, strong interpersonal skills and reassert a Hope in the Future .

Stockton Town Pastors volunteer Brian Jones is managing the Moses Project and if you would like to know more about the initiative, which is likely to start in September 2011, he can be contacted on mobile 07753 301 012.



Can You Help STP?

As church-driven activities within Stockton continue to expand there are opportunities for each of us to review how we can support this growth—a truly Christ-based network is beginning to emerge and this can only benefit the whole community.

Stockton Town Pastors volunteer Brian Jones has been involved in STP from the outset, and in the last 18 months has provided valuable support as assistant volunteer coordinator. His involvement in the Moses Project will demand an increasing amount of time, and as a result we are hoping that a current STP volunteer will be able to step forward and help Steve and Brian as coordinators on an occasional basis. Brian commented: *"I remain truly committed to Town Pastors—it is where my heart has been from the start—and I want to be able to continue helping as a coordinator. However, there is a real need in Stockton for what the Moses Project will be offering, and I appreciate that it will take up a lot of my time. I believe God will lead others from within STP to provide support for Steve and I on an occasional basis."*

An assistant coordinator will have responsibility for security of the operating base and ensuring links between police and CCTV are kept open on Friday and Saturday nights. They will work closely with the project manager Steve Brock to ensure all STP volunteers are given the support they need.

If you are interested in helping in this way—on an occasional basis and not a weekly commitment—then please speak with Steve.

'A Way Out' Café

On Friday Evenings AWO staff work in the Yarm Lane / Yarm Road / Parkfield areas between 8pm and 12am and regularly coming across young people who are in need of companionship.

AWO are considering opening their café from 8pm on Fridays, and as a result I am looking for STP volunteers who would be prepared to staff the café from 8pm instead of our usual 9pm start. If you are able to help with this, please contact Steve.

Christian Nightline Initiatives (CNI)

This is an umbrella organisation providing support and advice to more than 75 'Street Angels' initiatives throughout the UK. Its monthly newsletter is a great and inspirational read, and can be found on www.cninetwork.org.uk. The June edition features the launch of Hartlepool Town Pastors on its front page.

The CNI Board of Trustees have been invited to the Houses of Parliament on 4th August 2011 to celebrate the work of our projects across the UK, and STP will be represented by Steve Brock and his wife Hazel. This is further evidence of the growing support Christian-based activities have in our changing society—take heart, as once more there is hope!

STP Evaluation

Justin Kotze from the University of Teesside is well under way with this piece of work, and in June / July will be out on patrols with STP volunteers as well as talking to police, council, club door-staff etc—not forgetting those enjoying our vibrant night-time economy, of course! Please make him welcome and don't be afraid to express your views to him about STP and what we do. His report will be completed in the Autumn and is likely to receive national circulation.

Friends of STP

During the Summer and Autumn a 'Friends of STP' will be developed which will allow the wider community to be kept informed of STP activity, and provide opportunities for individuals and groups to support us in prayer, financially and socially. Exactly how this will be achieved is covered in the STP Business Plan 2011—13, which can be found on the STP website under 'downloads'.

Dates of Prayer

Please pray for the events taking place as follows, not forgetting of course that STP volunteers are on patrols on Friday and Saturday every week :

27th May—Hartlepool Town Pastors on patrol

29th May— Stockton Churches Together Evening Service (Tabernacle 6.126pm)

11th June—Jackie Pullinger at Oakwood Centre

21st June—STP Social

28th June—Christian Nightlife Initiatives AGM

4th July—STP Management Board Meeting

4th August—CNI celebration Houses of Parliament

3rd September—'Tegofest 2011'

Point to Ponder

Addressing his congregation, a preacher said, "Would anyone with 'special needs' who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the front of the church, by the altar."

With that Kevin got in line and, when it was his turn, the Preacher asked, "Kevin, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

Kevin replied, "Preacher, I need you to pray for help with my hearing."

The preacher put one finger of one hand in Kevin's ear, placed his other hand on top of Kevin's head, and then prayed and prayed and prayed. He prayed a "blue streak" for Kevin, and the whole congregation joined in with great enthusiasm. After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back and asked, "Kevin, how is your hearing now?"

Kevin answered, "I don't know. It ain't 'til next week."

STP Project Manager:

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Visit our Website:

www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

