



# Stockton Town Pastors Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 14, August 2011

## Street Angels Projects Get The PM's Support

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has given his support for the work of projects such as Stockton Town Pastors, which are linked to the Christian Nightlife (CNI) Network. Through his Private Secretary, Mr Cameron said "it is clear that Street Angels (and other linked projects) are doing good work in supporting those who are victims of night-time crime drugs and alcohol misuse, and sexual exploitation."



The PM was particularly struck by the fact that this work is motivated by Christian faith and believes that the work that people inspired by religious belief do across the country, in charities, community groups and in countless churches and other places of worship to address problems such as drug abuse has not always been sufficiently recognised. The PM wants to see a society where faith communities and other local groups come together to protect the most vulnerable, including those who are particularly at risk after dark.

## CNI Reception at Houses of Parliament

On 4th August 2011 86 representatives from 'Street Angels' initiatives throughout the whole of the UK were welcomed by Stephen Timms MP, the Vice-Chair of Labour's Faith Group, in celebration of the work done by local projects.



CNI Founder Paul Blakey MBE said: "The message from the Prime Minister shows the high level of support for the staggering contribution volunteers on the ground make to the well-being of this country."

STP project manager Steve Brock and his wife Hazel attended the reception. He said, "I look at what is happening in Stockton in respect of town pastors and the commitment of our volunteers, and then realise how much bigger this whole thing is when we consider there is equal activity in 200 other towns and cities across the UK through street angels and street pastors projects. People have a real desire to help others even in the most unsocial of hours and this speaks directly into the hearts of others."



Steve and Hazel with the Hartlepool Town Pastors coordinator Colin Sawtell and his daughter Angela, at the Houses of Parliament

Further details of Christian Nightlife Initiatives can be found on their website:

[www.cninet.weebly.com/](http://www.cninet.weebly.com/)



## STP Volunteering Opportunities

**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) takes place in the Parish Church Gardens between 12pm and 6pm on Saturday 3rd September 2011, and STP will be providing security. This event is very popular and there will be a wide range of Christian speakers and musicians. If you would like to join Steve Brock, Sheila Brown, Nancy Sharpe and Margot Inglis as part of the STP team please contact Steve.



Would you like to be part of an 'exchange' on a Friday and Saturday evening? We can arrange for you to go on patrols with Middlesbrough's Boro Angels or Hartlepool's Town Pastors—contact Steve Brock if you would like to see what the nightlife in other towns is like.

## Redcar & Cleveland Street Angels?

On the 9th August 2011, as a result of being approached by the Redcar & Cleveland's Community Safety Partnership, Steve Brock presented an overview of the street angels initiative with a view to them developing their own project. The success of such projects rests upon the equal partnership working of police, council and local churches, and further discussions are now under way to see how this might be developed.

## STP Research & Publicity

The independent evaluation of STP being conducted by Teesside University is in its final stages, with publication expected in the Autumn of 2011. Stockton Council and Cleveland Police (Stockton Management Team) have assisted STP in meeting the costs incurred, and everyone looks forward to the findings being released.

A professional cameraman came out on patrols with STP during the Stockton International Riverside Festival on the 5th & 6th August, and was met with great enthusiasm by those out enjoying themselves. A DVD will be produced in the coming weeks and made available as part of a wider publicity campaign.

The STP Management Board are busy putting together a publicity and fundraising programme which will commence in the autumn. This will include refreshed flyers, leaflets, gift-aid / information and a series of presentations across local churches and community groups. The STP website is also being rebuilt to reflect the professional relationship it is building with the wider community.

## 'Thankyou' to STP

The following voicemail was received recently:

*"I would just like to say thankyou very much—whatever you are—you helped me get in a taxi last night in Stockton High Street. Wow, I was in a bad state and I'd just like to say thankyou very very much. Good service. Thankyou."*

## Point to Ponder

"No-one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care"

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the USA,  
1901—1909



## Who Are The STP Volunteers?

As part of a regular feature in this newsletter, volunteers tell us about themselves.



This time, the project coordinator **STEVE BROCK** is in the spotlight. If you would like to do something similar for future editions please let Steve Brock know (before he approaches you!)

*Q: How did you become involved in Stockton Town Pastors (STP)?*

A: I've been a member of Stockton Baptist Tabernacle (Tab) since I became a Christian in 1995, and was aware that the Stockton Churches Together group were exploring the possibility of starting a 'Street Pastors' initiative in the town. I was approached by the steering group who were looking for a project manager and, well, here I am!

*Q: What experience and qualities do you bring to the role of project manager?*

A: I suppose first and foremost those qualities that most people look for in one another – honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, a temperate nature and so on – things which we are encouraged to pursue in the Bible and which speaks clearly of our Christian heritage in the values expected (but not necessarily always secured) in British society. But what makes me different from millions of others? Like most Christians I try to live out those values in practice but recognise that, only by the grace of God am I redeemed; so I am different only in the fact that my faith is in God, the love that His son Jesus has for all of us, and the power of the Holy Spirit to work in all our lives.

*Q: Is it true that you used to be a police officer?*

A: Perfectly true, and something I enjoyed. I served for 30 years with Cleveland Police (formerly Teesside) and retired in 2002 but after 18 months I went back to work with them in a support capacity in their Operational Performance Team for 5 years. I then worked for a short time with Safer Hartlepool Partnership developing a Specialist Domestic Violence Court in the town. The experiences throughout my working life have all been important in the

role I play in managing and developing STP – not least of which is understanding the need to support your staff – each of our volunteers are the most wonderful yet humble people you could wish to meet; and the necessity to work in partnership with others – including the police, council and the wider church.

*Q: How do you spend your time?*

A: I'm employed by STP as the project manager 1½ days a week and in addition usually do at least two Friday & Saturday nights on STP patrols during the month. I'm currently a Deacon at the Tab and have a range of duties there, which can keep me busy. I have a fascination for golf (but no ability), and love getting away in our motorhome with my wife Hazel whenever we can.

*Q: What motivates you on a daily basis?*

A: What gets me out of bed is the belief that each one of us has what the world today would call 'a duty of care' for one another, regardless of the circumstances in which people find themselves, and without judgement. This should not be a burden but a delight as we reach out to help others. The problem is that we have been conditioned to believe this is the responsibility of someone else – but who are those 'others'? – Yes, you and me and everyone else that makes up the rest of society. We may choose to pay others to take on this role from a statutory perspective, but that does not entitle us to relinquish our responsibility individually. So why should we become personally involved? Ask any one of the STP volunteers and they will tell you they feel blessed because they are able to help others and this is the reward for each one of us should we reach outside of our own lives and into the hearts of others who are in real need, both materially and spiritually.

*Q: How do you see the future of STP developing?*

A: You just need to look at the work that is happening across the UK (see the front page) to realise that STP is not the work of man but inspired of God. As life becomes more difficult and challenging for everyone we as part of the Christian church need to be prepared to reach out in love to our communities, and for this we need a clear definition of what 'love' is. I refer you to the gospels.....



## Stockton Town Pastors Summer Barbeque

*Sunday 28th August 2011, from 3pm*

The afternoon is open to all volunteers, family and friends. If you would like to come along please contact Steve Brock who will let you have details of the location and what you might bring (sweets & savouries etc) to contribute to the feeding of the flock!!

Fine weather has been ordered, along with a gazebo to offer shelter from the sun.

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### Dates of Interest

Please hold these meetings in prayer, that the work of STP is advanced and hope is brought into the lives of many:

28/08/11: STP Summer Barbeque

03/09/11: Teesside Gospel Festival

07/09/11: STP Management Board Meeting

20/09/11: STP presentation to Stockton Methodist Circuit Meeting

17/10/11: STP presentation to Stockton Anglican Deanery Synod

Please also remember those street angels volunteers on patrols across the UK every Friday and Saturday.

## CNI Donations Made Simple



A new web site has been launched to encourage people to donate to projects across the UK working in the night-time economy.

[www.wehelpedu.org.uk](http://www.wehelpedu.org.uk) is an idea of Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI), whose network includes **STOCKTON TOWN PASTORS**, and its aim is to encourage people to support the work that takes place week in and week out in Stockton and across the country.

The site highlights a number of different methods that people can invest into the charitable work including:

- Giving by text message—text DUCK22 £amount to 70070
- donating as you shop on-line
- donating unwanted or scrap cars.

Do you own a banger that's merely gathering dust in the garage? Giveacar is a UK based fundraising organisation that specialises in donating unwanted and scrap cars to charitable causes throughout the world, including the Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network.

They provide a FREE service which is available throughout the UK, and will arrange the collection of the vehicle and, depending on its age and condition, either send it for environmentally safe disposal and recycling at an Authorised Treatment Facility, or to a properly regulated salvage auction.

To arrange collection of a car, visit [Giveacar.co.uk](http://Giveacar.co.uk) or call 020 0011 1664, quoting Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives as your preferred charity, or visit the web site.

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Visit our Website:

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

