

### ...group activity continued

- Make sure you have contact details for people who would like to pray and act in the future.
- Take a break over Christmas, but consider what you could do together in 2012.
- CO1 Colchester is provisionally booked for a Prayer for our Neighbours evening gathering on Tuesday 24 January 2012 (see below).

### During this week

Reflect on what you personally have seen and learnt during this Prayer for our Neighbours time.

Make a New Years Resolution of something you would like to do with a neighbour, or group of neighbours.

Inspired by news from Simon Lasky, from Stanway

## PRAYER FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS EVENING GATHERING

Please join us on **Tuesday 24 January at 8.00pm** in **CO1 café** (Holy Trinity Church, opposite Colchester library) for a Prayer for our Neighbours evening gathering.

We'll be meeting to pray, encourage one another and share stories of what God's been doing in our neighbourhoods.



CO1 Cafe, Holy Trinity Church,  
Trinity Street, Colchester CO1 1JR



This prayer resource is compiled by Colchester Prayer Net, working alongside other churches of various denominations. We exist to facilitate fervent, united prayer for the town of Colchester. For more information please visit our website.

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



# PRAYER FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

*A prayer resource from Colchester  
Prayer Net, to fuel a season of prayer  
across Colchester in October and  
November 2011*



This picture was given to Richard Smith in Colchester during 2011:

"There are reservoirs of Jesus' living water in every neighbourhood in Colchester. There are people who are thirsty for this living water. This water is separated from people by earth banks. These banks will be broken through by people praying for each neighbourhood, to allow the living water to flood out."

In response to this picture, we are inviting people from across the church in Colchester to pray in pairs or groups for their neighbours during October and November 2011.

**This resource is to encourage prayer during each week in November.** We hope this time of prayer will lead to more prayer and action in each locality.

## Feedback

Please feedback your experiences as you pray together to the 'Prayer for our Neighbours' Facebook page, email [admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk](mailto:admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk) or call Richard and Katy Smith on (01206) 570361.

(Your feedback will help us compile the resource for November.)

**28 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER**

**Acts 8:1–8**

## *Persecution, scattering and joy in Samaria*

At the start of November 2011, news continues to come in from people meeting to pray for neighbourhoods in south, west, north, east and central Colchester. People are meeting in large groups, as part of long established groups, and also new, smaller groups have started to meet and pray.

Near the town centre, people praying report that they have had pictures of water jars filled to the brim. They think this represents a full revelation of God being available for people. A new prayer group has encountered difficulties getting started. They are also hearing the call to have open eyes, minds and hearts as they walk in that neighbourhood. They see opportunities to invite people into their homes, and also reach out to those who use the church building as a venue.

A church community in west Colchester has started praying for their neighbourhoods in the early morning twice a week. Alongside this other regular prayer and worship times have started during the week. They are using this Prayer for our Neighbours Resource, but also wanting to be open to how the Holy Spirit leads them to pray.

Some missional groups in north Colchester are using the Prayer for our Neighbours Resource. This has been part of this church community forming small groups to reach out to particular people and places in their neighbourhood.

## **Reflection**

Sharing the news of Jesus with new people is often not easy. However, the story from Acts shows that the persecution of the early church in Jerusalem propelled the early believers to new places. Philip went on to find a welcome in Samaria, and see God do amazing things through him. The whole city saw great joy.

## **Group activity**

- Could we see great joy break out across Colchester? What do you think would enable this to happen? Would you be willing to endure even persecution to see this happen?
- Talk together about what you would love to see in your neighbourhood over the next year. Do share your dreams, even if you don't know how it's going to happen!
- Give thanks for this shared time of prayer together.

**Continued overleaf...**

## 21 – 27 NOVEMBER

Luke 8:1–15

### *The story of the sower*

#### **Here's another story from a neighbourhood in south Colchester:**

At the end of the summer a friend of mine offered me use of some of her allotment plot. I didn't think I had time or energy to take this opportunity on my own. Then another friend came to our neighbourhood and joined our church community. She had time and was keen to take on the allotment space.

So we've started a weekly allotment gardening group, and take time to pray for our neighbourhood as part of our gardening time. A friend from our neighbourhood has joined in. And she is very good at inviting other friends to come and join in with church community activities.

#### **Reflection**

Even one person who encounters Jesus can make a big difference in their neighbourhood. Because this one person can invite and influence many others.

The story of sower confirms this, because it shows that even one seed contacting good soil can grow into a plant yielding 100 more seeds.

However, the parable of the sower also shows need for perseverance, because only a few of the seeds sown fall in soil that enables germination and growth.

#### **Group activity**

- Can you identify key people in your neighbourhood who invite and influence other people?
- Are you seeing key people who you should prioritise in spending time with, encouraging them and sharing more about Jesus?
- If you don't see any of these people, pray that God will raise these people up in your neighbourhood and show you them.

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#### **During this week**

Look to encourage someone in your neighbourhood who is a good influence on others.

Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community

## 30 OCTOBER – 6 NOVEMBER

Matthew 13:31–33

### *The mustard seed and the yeast in the dough*

#### **Here's a story from a neighbourhood in south Colchester:**

In September 2011 a friend of mine emailed me about meeting up for prayer. I knew another Christian living on that neighbourhood, so I asked if we could meet in a group of three to pray for the neighbourhood.

We decided to join in with Prayer for our Neighbours, and pray together in October and November. Some weeks we haven't been able to meet, but we keep persevering.

So far we've had chance to pray for the local Residents Association. One of these friends also hosted an open house, and invited her neighbours.

We are seeing a need to pray about parking problems. We are also praying about an outdoor community event that we could organise to grow a heart in this neighbourhood.

#### **Reflection**

Be encouraged that even a small group of people, or a small action, can enable the amazing new life of God's kingdom to come.

#### **Group activity**

- Are there situations in the neighbourhood that you despair about, and feel you could never make a difference? This is not true. Jesus says the kingdom of God can spring up from tiny actions. Confess any despair that you've felt, and pray for God to change the situation and bring new life.
- What small seeds could be sown in your neighbourhood?

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#### **During this week**

Consider what small action could you take for God's kingdom in your neighbourhood this week.

Is there a neighbour you that need to say hello to? Or a small act of kindness to help someone?

Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community

## 7 – 13 NOVEMBER

**Matthew 6:25**

### *Do not worry*

#### **Here's a personal story**

In August this year my employment situation was uncertain and I was a bit worried.

There was one afternoon in August I was at a friend's house with my wife. Our friend asked me if I still carried out private tutoring which I used to do few years ago and had taught her children. I replied that I had no students at that time but would be great to be able to have new students as my main employment was uncertain.

Later on while driving back I asked God to guide me and provide for my family. It was a simple prayer!

That very evening I had emails from two unknown people who had my details passed to them from different sources asking if I could teach their children. I knew this was an answer to my worrying heart! God reminded me that he knows what I need at the times he determines.

#### **Group activity**

- There is great anxiety and fear about the lack of employment, lack of income to provide for families and real suffering in the lives of people around us.
- Could we as a group commit to pray for a few people who are in difficult situations and tell them that we will be praying for them.

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#### **During this week**

Try if possible to meet someone who is looking for work and encourage them. Also explore if there are ways to help someone or their family practically as a group.

Enoch Kunarajah, DNA Networks

## 14 – 20 NOVEMBER

**Luke 10:1–9**

### *Jesus' followers are sent out to find people of peace*

We have been praying for the people of Stanway and specifically people of peace (see verse 6 in the Bible passage).

We have prayed for parish and borough councillors, the community policeman and others who seem to have lots of connections within the community.

#### **Reflection**

Jesus told his followers to go out and look for the people who welcomed peace. Jesus also told them to look and listen for people who were inviting them to spend time together.

#### **Group activity**

- Who are these people of peace in your neighbourhood? The people who welcome followers of Jesus, and are willing to hear about Jesus? Does anyone in your group know a specific person like this?
- Is there a particular place where you can meet people of peace? Is anyone in your group receiving invitations to meet or spend time with people in your neighbourhood.
- Pray for the particular people that you have mentioned, who seem open to Jesus. Also, pray for any invitations that your group is receiving, that you can see how to respond. Ask for the Holy Spirit to work as you share time with people.

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#### **During this week**

Look out for people of peace, community leaders and people who seek the best interests of those in your neighbours.

Inspired by news from Simon Lasky, from Stanway