



# July 2004

## Week 1. Seeking God's Blessing

May 26th saw the gathering in the Town Hall of Christian leaders, the Mayor and Dr Elizabeth Hall, with the Bishop of Colchester.

This was the fourth gathering of this sort called 'Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester'.

### We share some of the Bishop's thoughts and comments for our prayers.

'The desire was expressed by many that we get to know better our colleagues who are Christian leaders and ministers working across Colchester. As a primary purpose this in itself is seen to be valuable. I believe that four headlines have been clarified over the past months through our meetings together. They are:

- Healthy **structures** of Christian cooperation can only be built on growing **relationships** of trust and friendship. Imaginative plans come to nothing if they are not actually rooted in a real willingness to work together, based on growing friendships and mutual regard.
- **The sharing of information and open-ness to advice.** It is helpful to know about new developments in Christian work and the possibility of shared projects as they emerge. And to share current news about ongoing work in already shared projects like the YMCA, Beacon House, CYO, etc.
- It is valuable to join in with what we can while recognizing that we don't need to get into everything on offer! We need to give one another permission to move ahead with those projects and concerns for which we feel energy and a sense of God's call

while being glad that others can be involved in other parts of the work for which we do not necessarily feel equipped or personally engaged. **It is important for Christian ministers to feel led and encouraged rather than driven and constrained.**

- Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester's intention is **on behalf of the people of Colchester.** Our primary purpose is not that our barns may be enlarged but that the farmyard may flourish! (This is why it is so good that we are able to meet at this time in Colchester Town Hall at the invitation of the Mayor.) It is our hope and prayer that through projects of unassuming service and humble assistance to people in this borough in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: and through acts of witness and outreach shared together that the will of God might be more effectively worked out and His blessing sought in this town whose ongoing life we gladly share.

St Helena, patron of our borough, stands with the cross at the very top of our Town Hall. May that be a sign of the spiritual reality that we seek to make clear. Some of us in our churches and assemblies will have read last Sunday from John chapter 17. I commend verses 20 to 23 to you now as the impetus for a gathering such as this.

**May God bless us all, together, and enable us to be one channel of His blessing on Colchester'.**

**Bishop Christopher Morgan  
Colchester  
26/5/04**

### Inside this issue:

Seeking God's Blessing For Colchester

1 (A full report explaining the origin and history of this gathering is available, please contact Colchester Prayernet).

John 17:20-23

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'My prayer is not for them alone.

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

May they also be in us that the world may believe that you have sent me.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.

I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me'

JOHN 17:20-23



## Week 2. Colchester Borough Council

### We pray for the Cabinet

The Cabinet (also sometimes called the 'Executive') controls virtually all of the decision-making powers previously held by the Committees or Sub-Committees. These powers are exercised by the Cabinet within the Council's agreed policies. The Cabinet can also make recommendations to the Council on policy and budget issues. The Cabinet is currently made up of eight Councillors who are each responsible for specific subject areas known as portfolios.

The Cabinet members (also known as portfolio holders) are responsible for the day to day decision making within their own portfolio.

The Cabinet meets seven times a year in order to decide together upon important strategic matters.

Please pray for those in the cabinet:

- Strategy and local strategic partnership—John Jowers.
- Deputy leader—Robert Davidson (regeneration and partnership)
- Planning and transport—Richard Gower
- Business, leisure and tourism—Kevin Bentley
- Housing, health and community neighbourhood—Nigel Chapman
- Resources and assets—Nick Taylor
- Communications and rural affairs—Chris Arnold
- Street and waste services—Peter Chillingworth

We continue to pray for the appointment of the new Chief Executive at CBC. Andrea Hill will be leaving to take a new post in Bedfordshire. Andrea says 'It has been a privilege to work at CBC and I will be sad to leave. During my time here I have worked alongside many inspiring people

both within the council and community. There is a huge community spirit here that makes anything possible.' Please pray for Andrea and for the Council as they seek to find the right person to replace her.

**COLCHESTER 2020**—Local Strategic partnership (LSP). We are thrilled to be able to support the work of Colchester 2020 LSP.

Please pray for:

- the Assembly meeting Friday 2nd July 2004. Full report after the meeting.
- The partnership as they focus on health education within the poorer areas of our town. That the promotional leaflet and effort is effective in encouraging people towards higher standards in health care.

## Week 3. Feedback

**Smile Puppets:** 'We have just got back from Romania where we were involved in training youth workers. We had a great time and are probably going back in December. Since we provided training last year 40% of the delegates came back and have all set up 'kidz' clubs in Romania. The smallest club being 30 young people and the largest 300 plus per week, it is very exciting! We hope to have Kidz Clubs starting here in Colchester very soon'

'Three times recently the parable of the talents has been on my mind while praying. What are we doing with what we've been given? Are we using what God has given us—however small it

may seem?' Caroline

'When doing last week's slot on prayernet—Psalm 103 v19-20:

**'The Lord has established His throne in Heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord all his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey His word'**

As I prayed I was reminded that He has established His throne in Heaven & His Kingdom rules over all. It will happen in Colchester, this is what we are praying for. We need to be passionate for His Presence, persevering in the place of prayer, to see His glory fall on the church & much more. I am feeling inspired!' Katharine

### Parish Council Prayer

We want to offer prayer to the parish Councils. We want to pray and support the hard work they do each month. Please consider writing to your local Parish Council, thanking them for all they do and tell them we as a united church are praying for them. Please ask them what we can pray for and feedback the information to CPN. We will then pray for the needs together.

We want God to get the glory be acknowledged as He blesses Colchester town and Borough.

(Please see enclosed leaflet for your local parish Council Chair person, or you may find this information by visiting CBC website).

## Week 4. Maldon Road Chapel

Thank you to Jack Coward the minister at Maldon Road Chapel who has provided the following prayer points.

Please pray

- For 'new blood'. We really need two or three couples or single folk - preferably under the age of 50, as we are an ageing fellowship.
- For the elderly who in the past have been very faithful but are now finding it increasingly difficult to get out to the meetings.
- For effective contact with parents and carers of the young ones who come to the following activities:
  1. Tots & Co. This is a group for 1 & 2 year olds. Held on a Wednesday morning. Usually

2. Noah's Ark for 2 - 4 year olds. Held on Thursday mornings. Anything up to 25 children and we have a waiting list!
3. Crusaders. A club for 8 - 13 year olds. This is held on Friday evenings. 10 - 20 attend

Please also pray:

- For a BBQ being arranged during July.
- For the contacts in all the above activities. That there may be a good response to the invitation.
- It is hoped to follow this up with an ALPHA type series later on



Yours in Christ.  
JACK COWARD  
(Maldon Rd Chapel)

***If you receive scriptures, words of encouragement or direction as we pray please feedback to Colchester prayernet. We can then either forward your comments to those we have prayed for, or pray further by including it in the next prayer guide. Thank you to those who faithfully share with us each month***

## Future prayer events

### Prayer for Alpha

On behalf of Alpha in Essex there will be five Beacon Prayer Meetings across the county. There will be one covering the Colchester and Tendering Districts on:

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September**

**Venue: St Johns Church, Ipswich Road Colchester.**

The evening will start at 7 pm with light refreshments and the meeting will begin at 7:30pm finishing by 9 pm.

The aim is to provide an opportunity for united prayer for the Alpha Invitation, but also for the community at large and feature certain outreach works such as the Soup Run.

All are welcome to this event.

### Other Prayer Events

The 'Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester' Steering group have invited Russ Parker to Colchester. Russ will be spending the day with Ministers and other Christian leaders on **October 6th 2004.**

Russ Parker is best known for his teaching, book, and prayer ministry 'Healing Wounded History'. He will encourage us and help us to pray more effectively for our town.

### 'Sowing Seeds For Revival' (SSFR)

A further opportunity for us to unite and gather to pray for Colchester. Colchester Prayernet in partnership with Kingsland Equipping Track have invited Martin Scott (SSFR) and a prayer team to visit us. There will be times of corporate prayer, some teaching and some on-site praying and prayer

walking. We hope to build on the work of Russ Parker and the many years of prayer for the land and people of Colchester. All are welcome to this event. More details later!

### Dates:

**17th—20th November 2004**

Please ask God to help us as we continue to unite in prayer and action for the sake of our town.

### PRAYER BREAKFASTS:

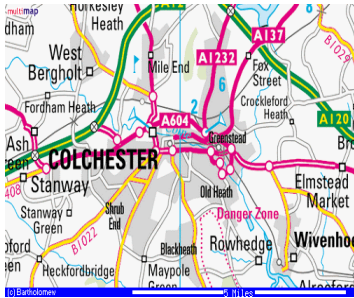
**Saturday 3rd July**  
8.30- 10 a.m.

### St Johns Church

For more details contact:  
Dennis Codd, 01206 395792



1, Lodge Court  
West Bergholt  
Colchester



24 Hour Prayer for Colchester

Thank you for your continued commitment to pray with others on the Colchester PrayerNet (CPN). Please keep in contact by writing or emailing:

- **admin@colchesterprayer.net** with feedback, requests etc.
- **info@colchesterprayer.net** if you would like more information to share with your congregation or would like me to speak with your Minister about CPN.
- **admin@colchesterprayer.net** if you would like to borrow books or tapes from the CPn library
- **watchman@colchesterprayer.net** for information

Please check out the Colchester PrayerNet web site at:

- **www.colchesterprayer.net** We hope to develop this further with links to other sites such as CYO, TBN, Alpha etc and also to united church events in the town. Please tell us what you think!

*Thanks to Simon Musgrave who gave his time to construct the site for us.*

## Week 5. Education— Focus on schools

**Prayer for Schools:** We pray for young people and the schools they attend. This month we pray for:

**Alderman Blaxill.**

Head teacher: Ian Poulter

A small, growing, friendly, 11 - 16 school with some 550 students on roll.

‘We pride ourselves on creating a community atmosphere within the school in which staff, students, parents and governors work together closely, for the benefit of our students’.

Mission Statement:

“To be a school with an orderly, caring and cheerful environment, in which all pupils and staff enjoy success and a sense of achievement.”

We recognise that our mission can only be achieved by:

- Creating a school community based on mutual respect, trust and co – operation.
- Offering a firm commitment to effective Teaching and Learning that strives to achieve the

best possible results.

- Having high expectations of students, staff, governors and parents.
- Encouraging and celebrating individual strengths and achievements.
- Fostering an effective Home and School partnership that recognises that parents are their children’s “first and enduring teachers”.
- Developing purposeful Community links.
- Giving individual support and guidance.
- Providing and maintaining quality resources.
- Promoting spiritual and moral development in order to make moral judgments with understanding.
- Preparing students for adult life, recognising that learning is a life long process.

Developing the skills and abilities of all its staff.

**Birch CE Primary School.**

Head teacher: Ms Kate Moore

‘The Christian faith emphasises the value and worth of every single individual. We are created in the image of God. We believe every individual has his or her own distinctive character and gifts or abilities which are to be developed and used to the full.

As individuals we live and work with others and depend on each other. Jesus Christ’s command to ‘love one another’ calls us to respect and help other people. These Christian values are the foundation of the Vision Statement, which governs the aims and life of our school.

“We want our Christian school to be a welcoming, caring, happy and stimulating place where everyone is encouraged to:

1. reach high levels of achievement
2. feel valued and have confidence in their own abilities
3. develop their potential for the benefit of all”