



September 2004

Week 1. Alpha

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Then Jesus came to them and said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

This month's prayer guide has an emphasis on prayer for mission both here in Colchester and abroad. We start week one praying for Alpha.

- Every year churches come together on the same day to pray for communities and the impact of Autumn Alpha suppers and courses.
- In 2003 more than 17,000 people from over 1,800 churches joined together to pray and tens of thousands of non-church goers attended Alpha suppers and courses.
- This year the vision is that groups of local churches will come together on 10th September 2004 to pray for the re-evangelisation and transformation of communities and the impact of Alpha.

The name of the seventh Alpha initiative has changed to the 'Alpha Invitation' to reflect the vision to invite everyone in the UK—family, friends, neighbours and colleagues—to an Alpha supper and course to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Alpha in Essex there will be five Beacon Prayer Meetings across the county.

There will be one covering the Colchester and Tendring Districts on **10th September 2004**
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.

150 churches across Colchester and Tendring have been invited to this prayer event.

Let's continue to pray for our community, our friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Let's pray for the opportunity to invite them to the course.

Posters on billboards, buses, church notice boards and taxis will invite people to 'text Alpha to find out more'. Those who do will be sent a message with details of how to find a local course. Let's be prepared!

We want to know that every person in Colchester has heard the gospel and been given the opportunity to respond.

Please come and join with others at St John's church on 10th September as we unite in prayer pray with many Christians around the UK.

Further details about the meeting:
Tel. 01255 851319 or
Teresa at Colchester Prayernet
Tel. 01206 242235

Week 2. T.B.G. Colchester

IS GOD AT WORK?

In July 2003 some Christian business people gathered in Colchester to explore how they might use their business skills to bless the poor of the earth. We were privileged to have the Chairman of the Transformational Business Network (TBN) with us.

TBN's vision is “ **The extension of God's kingdom through business - bringing physical and spiritual blessing to the poor**”

Three people from the Colchester Transformational Business Group (TBG) will be involved in a trip to Rwanda from **3rd -13th September**. During the trip we hope to encourage and support local entrepreneurs and explore possibilities for longer term

partnerships. In this way we are seeking to develop 'business as mission'.

Please pray for the team: Simon Musgrave, Robin Cotterill and Tim Hill from Colchester and Mark Vyner from Leicester.

We are meeting to pray for this trip on **31st August at 8 pm**. We would really appreciate it if people from the prayernet would come to support us in prayer on that evening and of course during the trip itself. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Meeting venue:
April Cottage
Seven Star Green
Eight Ash Green

Shortly after our return, on 14th October, we are planning an open evening with a buffet to share our experiences. Please keep this date in your diary.

We continue to pray for business people :-

- That Christians in the workplace will be affirmed in their calling
- For new business ventures initiated by like minded Christians
- That modern day Josephs and Daniels will be raised up to have real influence without compromise
- That the business community will be challenged and inspired by what Christians are doing
- For the forming of multi-skilled teams who can take their expertise, on a voluntary basis, for short term trips to make a real difference in the developing world

Future prayer events

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. There will be a full report on his visit in the October prayer guide.

'Sowing Seeds For Revival' 17th—20th November 2004

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 from Sowing Seeds For Revival (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 prayer event. There is no charge but we will need to know numbers. For more details please contact Colchester Prayernet.

A week of prayer 24/7 Provisional dates: Weds Dec 15th - Weds Dec 22nd

Following on from the very positive meeting Tim Abbott and myself

had with the Town Centre manager Chris Rawlinson we have provisionally booked the following week of prayer to be held in one of the empty shops in the town centre. We are very excited to be able to launch this alongside the Town Partnerships Christmas activities. Please continue to pray for this event and pop the dates in your diary too!

PRAYER BREAKFASTS:
Saturday 4th September
8.30- 10 a.m.
Christchurch Ireton Rd

For more details contact:
Dennis Codd, 01206 395792



Week 3. Ramparts, Wivenhoe Lodge

Ramparts Christian Education Centre, Wivenhoe Lodge

Role of the Ramparts Trust.

A proposed development project that could be rented out for any Christian Education. This could include a school, or part-time classes for children or adults, and could link in with Christian activity at the University.

Please pray:

- To seek the Lord for the way forward,
- To see once again whether we can build support for this project within the Christian community in Colchester,
- To gain support from church fellowships

Prayer meetings. After a quiet couple of years or so, we are proposing to start a series of monthly prayer meetings at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Colchester Evangelical Church, at Abbeygates.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday 21st September at 7.30 pm.

The focus of our prayer is the development of this Christian Education

Centre at the Wivenhoe Lodge site. All welcome

Please pray with us:

- As far as we are aware, there have been no further developments at the Wivenhoe Lodge site.
- Planning permission that the Ramparts Trust has is for the development of the Wivenhoe Lodge site as a school and will expire in March 2006.
- Any development would need to have started by then for the permission to remain valid.
- This may mean an adjustment to the planning application.

Please pray for us:

Jamie MacAlister (Chairman/secretary)

Jock Strover Trustee)

Vic Copus (Trustee)

Lorna Copus

Michael Allen (Treasurer)

Anne Owen Trustee)

Blessings Jamie

Back to school

As the schools start back for another year let us pray for the Secondary schools, pupils and staff.

Please pray for:

- Alderman Blaxill School
- Gilberd School
- Girls High
- Philip Morant School and College
- Grammer
- St. Benedict' s Catholic College
- St. Helena School
- Sir Charles Lucas Arts College
- Thomas Lord Audley School and Language College
- The Stanway School

Mind, Body and Soul Exhibition

On Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September Journey into Wholeness (JIW) will for the third year have a stall inside the Mind Body Soul Exhibition at Charter Hall.

The main focus of the stall will be to offer prayer for healing and to engage in meaningful conversation about Christian spirituality and the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray for:

- The planning team as they make final decisions
- Their communication with the organisers of the exhibition.
- Protection & unity for planning team & all

involved.

- those involved that we would have great expectations and faith.
- People to find God' s love in a real way.
- For God to get the glory .
- For the Lord to make people's hearts ready, preparing the ground
- Boldness and authority to proclaim Christ.
- The preparation & delivery of life mapping seminar (hearing God for people) & designing of new leaflets
- Committee/helpers/prayers

- Energy, creativity,
- That we might walk in integrity as children of light!

If you would like to be involved in the prayer support for JIW we will meet at: **St. Peter's church on Saturday 25th from 9am-6pm** and in **St Peter's church hall Sunday 26th from 9am-6pm**

Prayer training day Saturday 11th September, contact Caroline Browne for more information: 768713 Thank you for all your prayer we appreciate your support JIW team



Week 4. Feedback and answered prayer

As requested by some this item been included again.

As we look at God's Church in Colchester is it wonderful to see His people united in prayer and action. We focus our prayer this week on the Church in our town.

Thanks giving for:

- Every way in which the church is strong and active in mission, social concern, work with the homeless, mentally ill, the counseling services, those working to support the family, the elderly and the disabled,.
- Outreach to young people. Youth groups, CYO, holiday clubs, schools work, Xtra Time, school assemblies, Prayer into Schools, Christian Unions, Youth Alpha etc.
- Church leadership. We want to acknowledge the faithful service of the church leaders. Also thank God for leaders in the Council, hospital and business sector.
- Unity— for opportunities to work together. Pray for strong unity amongst leadership. Thank God for unity at grass-roots. Pray for humility and openness in all of us for the sake of those we are trying to reach.
- United prayer, for the many years of united prayer in this

place. The foundation of prayer laid by those before us. Every answered prayer.

- The encouragement we have received from God to continue working together— for the many Church ministries now firmly established. For the beginnings of 'Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester' and planned events like 'On The Move'.
- Salvation. Thank God for all those who have become aware of God in a new way during the last few months. May they have a deepening understanding of who He is.
- Alpha—ongoing in the town. The many that have come to faith through it.
- Mission. For the work with international Students at the University. For the work of COSCI. For the Colchester business men working together. Pray for those Missionaries sent out from congregations in this town.
- Those that work with the soldiers and families at the Garrison. Pray that God may comfort those living in uncertainty and fear.

Please pray that:

- God will continue to cause us to be salt and light. To shine brighter and lead people to

the Truth.

- We remain faithful in prayer, true to pray the will of God.
- That we are bold in prayer and in action until we see this town transformed
- God will move us on to see His Church revived, prayerful, active in our faith.
- We will see His Kingdom advance through His church in this place.
- As we look we will see only One Church, One Body working together and serving each other faithfully.
- We will not grow weary but will learn to wait on the Lord, renew our strength, knowing that He uses the weak things to confound the wise. Willingly doing things His way.
- That His Kingdom come, His will be done - here as it is in Heaven.
- We see a mighty harvest of souls.
- We will unite in the simple truth of loving Jesus and wanting to reach others with the good news of the Gospel, and not divide over doctrinal differences.
- That God's name will be glorified in Colchester!

More feedback

You will remember we prayed for David and Martyn as they handed out tracts in Castle park.

David writes to us:

'Tract distribution went well Friday and Saturday. Many tracts were given out. There was some negative feedback, but on the whole a success. I believe we need to pray that God will move on the people's hearts to respond

and come to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

We are praying to go out on a more regular basis as the Lord leads. Continue to pray as many emails have been sent out for prayer for the town around the world. We are believing the Spirit will move in a powerful way and that Colchester will never be the same again! God Bless

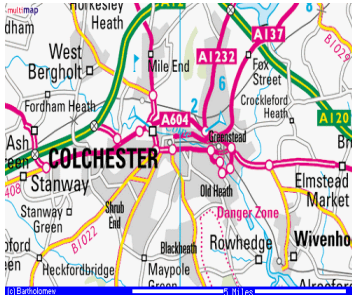
Ephesians 3:20
Matthew 9:37,38

David

Presence

an evening of Kingsland Church worship
Venue: Vagabonds, St Johns
Thurs 9th Sept
8 pm Cost £2

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.co.uk** with feedback, requests etc.
- **info@colchesterprayer.net.co.uk** 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.co.uk** if you would like to borrow books or tapes from the CPn library
- **watchman @colchesterprayer.net.co.uk** for information

Please check out the Colchester Prayernet web site at:

- **www.colchesterprayer.net.co.uk** 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!

Week 5. Church in society

If we do not shine, then who will be the light?

If we do not have influence, then who will mould the shape?

If we do not speak, then who will be the voice?

If we do not lead then who will show the way?

If we do not stay united, then where will unity be found?

If we do not go to the community, to whom will the community go?

If we do not impart life, then who will be their life?

If we do not show the way, then which way will they take?

If we do not lead against injustice then where will the downtrodden turn?

If we are not the salt, then who will flavor our community?

If we do not offer salvation, then where will they go to be saved?

If we do not forgive, then where will they ever find forgiveness?

If we do not act wisely, then where will they gain wisdom?

If we do not hear the community then who will ever hear their cry?

If we do not incarnate good citizenship then who will be the citizens?

If we do not make Jesus known then who will be their hero?

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 everyone who faithfully communicates each month.

Poem courtesy of Ed. Delph
'The role of church in society'