



April 2005

Colchester Renaissance

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Isaiah 26:1

*'We have a strong city;
God makes salvation its
walls and ramparts.
Open the gates that the
righteous nation may
enter, the nation that
keeps faith'*

Hebrews 1:10

*'In the beginning, O lord,
you laid the foundations
of the earth, and the
heavens are the work of
your hands'*

Psalms 24:1

*'The earth is the Lord's
and everything in it; for
he founded it upon the
seas and established it
upon the waters'*

A new partnership between Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and Essex County Council (ECC) will bring closer links between the two Council's work on regeneration.

Known as Colchester Renaissance, it will support up to £100 million of new private sector development in four regeneration projects in Colchester.

The four regeneration projects are:

North Colchester—Colchester's planning policies show North Colchester as an area for major growth over the next decade.

In July 2003 the Planning Committee approved applications for a new junction on the A12 and a bus lane for a Park and Ride service, a total of 1,500 new residential units, an employment zone to create 3,500 new jobs, and a new 10,000 seater community stadium.

East Colchester - The Hythe area of East Colchester is highlighted in the local plan as a priority area for environmental, economic, and social regeneration. Its problems have resulted from the severe economic downturn of Colchester port, leading to its eventual closure and the loss of many traditional local businesses associated with it. The local environment has also degenerated badly as a result, with large areas of vacant, derelict, and polluted land. The river itself is also becoming badly silted and is virtually unused.

These challenges provide a huge opportunity to create an exciting new neighbourhood. Of the four wards

with the highest level of deprivation, three are situated in East Colchester. The impact of this deprivation is clearly seen in the high levels of health, social and economic inequality.

St Botolphs—The heart of the area between St Botolphs Street, Southway and Vineyard Street is proposed as the location for the town's new bus station and Visual Arts facility. Vineyard Gate Developments draft plans also includes new shops, residential apartments and a public space by the town wall.

Garrison

Garrison in Colchester for centuries. Following the Ministry of Defence's commitment to construct a modern replacement garrison, the town's long association with the Army looks set to continue. In addition to the new purpose-built garrison, the existing garrison site will be redeveloped.

Councillor Peter Martin, ECC Portfolio Holder for Planning, and Regeneration, said: "The Colchester Renaissance is a solid practical step in moving forward the Haven Gateway project – the largest redevelopment project in the South East of England outside of Thames Gateway.

"It is the first partnership of its kind in Essex where the County Council and a district are dedicating specific resources to bring about local renaissance. It is a recognition of how far Colchester Borough Council has

Colchester regeneration (from front page)

gone in helping to develop practical policies for the regeneration of the town and in providing a model of how that new development can act as a catalyst for providing existing residents with improved facilities and quality of life".

We pray :

- for those in authority that are making decisions concerning the regeneration projects
- That right from the start 'God's Kingdom come and God's will be done'
- For those who will make homes in these new communities
- For the provision of meeting places that create a sense of belonging and community. For adequate provisions of schools, churches, etc
- For improved provision of health facilities, clinics and GP surgeries etc
- For spiritual regeneration of these areas of our town. For the establishment of vibrant communities of faith
- For the united work of the church in the locality
- For increased opportunities for those who have seemingly had less in the past

We pray from Psalm 10:

'Arise Lord Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless in this town.

Thank you that you do see trouble and grief, you consider it to take it in hand.

Thank you that as the victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless

Hear, O Lord the desire of the afflicted; because you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more'

Amen

CYO news and prayer requests

Praise God For:

- Doors opening in the local Schools, assemblies at the Giberd School and openings for lessons at St Benedict's
- Collective's involvement in Tendring and Collective gig in Ipswich
- The plans for the Xtra Time estates league

We continue to pray with CYO for:

Premises

We have not yet found a new office home for CYO so that we can move out of 40 Military Road by late spring. We still face the multiple challenges of finding somewhere that's suitable for our particular needs (office, meeting, storage, easy road access, parking nearby), somewhere that's in the right place and somewhere that we can afford.

It looks quite likely that we will need to pay more than we are paying now to find the same amount of space that we have at

40 Military Road.

Please pray with us as we seek out the next 'home' for CYO. Please pray for wisdom and for God's provision as we balance the need for enough space for the team against the cost of office accommodation.

Finances

CYO still needs to see an increase in monthly income to sustain what we're doing at the moment. As well as praying for this we're also praying beyond it to the possibility of being able to afford another worker.

Gap Year

Ben and Tim are finalizing the details of a one year apprentice scheme for young adults who would like to work with CYO, gaining youth work experience and receiving training at the same time. Please pray for wisdom and clarity as they put the finishing

touches to the scheme and for good take up when it is advertised.

Schools Worker

We are looking to possibly get some partial funding for a new Schools Worker. However, we would still need to find a good proportion of the money ourselves.

The ministry of CYO really needs another worker to take on the schools work and develop it. We're praying much about this, but also want to be open to other possibilities or ways of working with schools that God may have for us.

Finally

We're also seeking opportunities to visit your church or home group to share up to date news about the work of CYO and our vision for the future. Call the office to book a visit from the CYO team.

Update—back to Church Initiative

'The Initiative was launched on the 27 February 05. At that time, even though there has been little by way of publicity, 93 people had visited the site. Hard copies of the book 'It's time... to come home' have sold well and feedback has been good.

The areas we are praying into are these:-

Publicity

We have applied for charitable funding to advertise the website and book and are asking for God's favour when the trustees of these charities meet to consider our application.

Links

We have contacted a number of ministries where we believe b2c is complimentary to what they are doing (Care for the Family) and On the Move. Our prayer is that these ministries will agree b2c could add a significant dimension to what they are doing and will

want to use the website and book.

Courses

Some progress has been made in getting these done but there is much more that needs to happen. I am praying for some help with these and for the finance necessary to get them on line when ready.

Fruitfulness

Compliments are encouraging. What we want more than anything else is to hear of God's purpose in giving the vision being fulfilled. This means people who used to go to church coming home to God, to His ways and to church.

We have heard from Martin Graham, Director On the Move that having looked at the website, he likes the approach and has asked for copies of the book that the team can use on a mission to see how it goes. Blessings...' John Jarvis

SMILE MEGA KIDS CLUB

Date: 8th April 2005
Venue: Stanway school
Time: 7-8 pm
Age group: 5—11 years

Please see January prayer guide for more information

Care for the Family will be presenting:

'Bringing Home the Prodigals'

Date: Friday 13th May 2005
Venue: Charter hall
Cost: £6.00

ON THE MOVE July 27th—July 30th 2005

On the Move is a free barbeque in the town centre hosted by the local churches working together. Team members from the local churches will form part of a number of worship bands, invite people to the barbeque, cook and serve food or host at tables.

If you'd like more information, look at the 'On the Move' page at www.colchesterchurch.org.uk

University news from Friends International

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the forty days of prayer and fasting for the University.

Praise God for...

- the Christian drama that the Christian Union were able to present on square 3 on campus on the 18th March... We were able to carry trays of hot cross buns, Easter eggs and Easter booklets and students helped themselves to what they wanted.
- the inclusion of Friends International in the university international booklet for the next academic year.
- the Easter events that are in full swing as I write this including an Easter celebra-

tion, Passover meal, showing of the Passion film, Sunrise service and breakfast.

- Nine Chinese students baptised at Eld Lane on Sunday 20th.

Please pray for..

- more folk who will befriend students. The university is thinking of setting up a host scheme and if we had more Christian hosts there would not be need for this.
- the couple who are interested in the student work in Colchester have their formal interview on April 12th.
- For the necessary finance to be forthcoming. We need a definite commitment of 5000 pounds. God bless —Joan

PRAYER BREAKFAST:

Saturday April 2nd at:
Plume Avenue URC
8.30- 10 a.m.

For more details contact
Dennis Codd.
Tel: 01206 395792

Mission news

Transformations Business Group (TBG Colchester)—Uganda.

I believe that the poor have a special place in God's heart. Already in 2005 we have seen red nose day, the 'Make Poverty History' campaign and the commission for Africa. TBG is about people using their business skills to bring spiritual and physical transformation to the poor. I returned to Uganda in February as part of a team of 4 from UK spent 10 days working in partnership with Ugandan Christians. The main objective was to provide training in the basics of running a business. We had 5 training days in two cities with between 60 and 130 people attending. We also helped set up a driving school, ran parenting seminars and helped with the administration of a micro finance project. More trips are planned

this year to Rwanda and Uganda with Transformational Business Group Colchester. For more information and details of our monthly meetings please contact Simon Musgrave 01206 579864 or myself, Simon Lasky 01206 242235.

Pete and Ineke in Thailand

We are getting on well. It is a very busy place and on the go all the time. Bangkok itself is very busy and bustling. There are lots of people to meet and names to remember. The people are very friendly and welcoming and we are looking forward to Sunday with lots to do. The prison visit was quite something. Very humbling to see such joy and spiritual hunger in such a place. The service is organised by some women prisoners from Ghana and Nigeria and who have taught lots of songs - their worship was great and the singing was wonderful.

What a privilege to be there. The 4 of us who went in guessed we prayed for around 70 women during and after communion for all sorts of heart rending things. We then took a flight to Phuket then north into the next province to visit tsunami relief projects. The resort was very nice and we took a long evening walk along the amazing beach - but it's pretty hard to enjoy it knowing what happened and seeing the evidence of destruction all around. The only guests at the resort were people involved with tsunami work of some kind or another. The commemoration services at Kanchanaburu and Chungkai were absolutely amazing. What an enormous privilege. To see the pride and memories and tears of men who endured so much for us was very emotional. Pete and Ineke

Feedback answered prayer

From Pastor Tony Sands
'Isaiah 26:1 .A song to be sung over our town of Colchester. Walls of salvation are the believers taking their roles, not man-made positions, but by believing men and women of faith. We, the believers, then open the gates (spiritual) tearing down strongholds and (natural) being open to the people that God will bring into fellowship. Even people that have hurt us or those we do not get on with. The attitude of believers must change to open the gates, because there are people that God has prepared who need to come through the gates. We do have a strong city! Christians who believe that there are more for us than against us'

Answered prayer:

You will remember the September National Alpha prayer gatherings. We had one here in Colchester at St Johns Church building. We thank God for 17% increase in national attendance of 2004 Alpha course. Alpha main growth area being people under 40 years old.
We pray for: The families and friends of the young woman who died at the Ardleigh junction last week, the man who died at Marks Tey station and for the young woman raped in the town in March. We pray God's comfort for them all. We pray that our town will be a place where people will experience God's love and presence. A place of life and hope, and that the church will be a place of strength and guidance.

XTRA TIME

Projects in Greenstead, Highwoods and Tiptree continued to tick over nicely with numbers once again on the rise. After much deliberation we decided that the Prettygate project should remain closed. Xtra Time Prettygate has not been running since November last year and we have been unable to recruit a new team to restart it. On a more positive note plans for the Xtra Time Estates League really came together over March with a pilot arranged for five weeks over June and July at Leisure World. Ben is very excited by the prospect of the League and has forged a good working relationship with the Colchester Police.

Colchester Area Community Church

'Please Pray for Community Church in their move to the Hythe.

Colchester Area Community Church have recently moved their church office into larger accommodation at the Hythe, which they are hoping will enable them to be able to make a bigger impact into this community where currently there is a lot of new housing being built as part of the redevelopment of this part of East Colchester. Planners have designated this as a regeneration area and the Community Church's desire is to see it become a place of spiritual regeneration as well as economically and socially. Please join your prayers to theirs for God to visit this historic part of Colchester with His presence and power.

Since the autumn of 2002 the Community Church have operated the Hythe Toddlers Group as a service for the community from the Hythe Community Centre and also KUBE - a youth project (from the same venue) on Sunday evenings. A number of young people from the Hythe community attend KUBE regularly and the unhelpful things which they are into has become very apparent. Please pray for wisdom for the Church's KUBE Team as they seek to connect with these young people and influence them for good and in the process introduce them to Jesus as the answer for their lives.

Whilst the Church has a heart to serve into the community through these initiatives, ultimately they long to see some people come to accept Jesus as their Saviour through the Toddler Group and also KUBE. With the Church offices now in the community they are giving prayerful thought as to what 'activities' could be helpfully

added to further develop the relationships with parents who have used the Toddler Group and also young people attending KUBE. Pray with them for another young man living at the Hythe to get radically saved and impact the present generation in a similar way to how Charles Spurgeon was saved at 15 years of age in 1850 and impacted his generation. Pray for the:

- watering of the seed which the Community Church have sown over Easter time through door-to-door visitation;
- the Easter Display at their new premises and the showing of The Passion of the Christ film to invited people.
- local people to begin to drop in to the Community Church's new facility at 126 Hythe Hill for a chat or advice and prayer
- lives to be changed by the presence of Jesus.
- attendance of some of these residents of the Hythe at the Community Church's Sunday worship services at the Sir Charles Lucas Arts College in the neighbouring Greenstead community. Thank you'

Roy Wheeler

Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn. Please continue to let us know how God leads you in prayer. By post to: 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt, CO6 3JL or email Teresa at : admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

The prayer guide is edited by Teresa Lasky. (The contributors views are their own, and do not necessarily express those of the editor).

Seeking God's Blessing For Colchester are offering an opportunity to gather to pray and celebrate Pentecost together.

Date: Sunday 15th May 2005

Venue: St Botolphs Church

Time: 8 pm,
refreshments served from 7pm

Please pray for this event. Encourage others to come to pray and celebrate together.

My place in God's Harvest Field

SATURDAY 14th MAY

St Johns' church, Ipswich Rd.

Time: 7 p.m.

Meet the FI team informally over a cup of tea/coffee + recent display of recent work + short update of work locally.

7:30pm. Praise and worship followed by guest Speaker Patrick Johnston, WEC Field Director and author of Operation World.

There will then be a time of reflection and prayer.

Please pray for the **MILITARY ALPHA COURSE** which started on March 4th 2005 and is running for 10 weeks. The first course being offered to **13 Regiment RCL at Roman Barracks.**

Please pray for this significant event, for:

- Those organising the event
- Soldiers and families
- Move of God within the military families based here in Colchester
- Future events