

December 2005



Welcome to Colchester

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We welcome Michael and Caroline White to Colchester. As the new Friends International workers at the University we pray for them and their work here. They send this to us for our prayers.

Friends International

Our vision :- That every international student would have a Christian friend, giving them the opportunity to respond to the message of Jesus Christ.

"I was not looking for God, I was looking for friends", said a Chinese student at his baptism in north London.

Essex University has 3,000 International students, many seeking answers to life. In many ways outreach could not be easier, on the other hand there is an enormous cultural and language divide. Our biggest group of internationals are from China so we often feel we have learnt the wrong language. Our years in Indonesia however do help us to begin to understand the Asian mindset.

We are settling into our new role as Friends International Staff Workers. We moved here at the beginning of October from pastoral work in Harpenden and prior to that many years in Indonesia.

Our local volunteer team are well organised and experienced having been engaged in Campus ministry for about 10 yrs under the name of COSCI.

There are good relationships on campus between the different Christian groups, which is a tremendous blessing, we are doing a mission together with them the last week in November.

Some prayer pointers:-

1. Regular activities:

- VISA(like alpha) course
- TEA & TALK café style, which is very popular
- Table Tennis, with socialising.
- About **100 students** being hosted regularly for meals

2. Christmas:

- Many of the 3,000 overseas students will be left on the cold , windy concrete campus over Christmas holidays. Pray that we have sufficient hosts willing to receive students into their homes for at least one day over that holiday period.
- About 70 Students and 30 helpers are expected at each of the Christmas parties 10th and 17th December at two local Churches. Pray for Michael giving a short message at each on the meaning of Christmas.

With much appreciation, Michael and Caroline White

Awaken me to your presence in this season,
Alert me to your love.
Affirm me in your peace,
Open to me your way
Reveal to me your joy .
Provide for me,
those wise companions
Enfold me in your light
For my heart is ready
Lord my heart is ready.



Christmas Prayer

We pray for the people of Colchester this Christmas season. For many of us this is a time of excitement and expectation, a time to celebrate and share our faith. For others, however it is a time of stress, sadness and anxiety.

Let's pray that:

- The true message of Christmas would penetrate the hearts of many this year.
- That in the search for meaning and hope people would begin to open up to the gospel message. (Is 9: 2)
- That we would seize every opportunity given to us (Phil 1:18)
- That as the churches fill – the Holy Spirit would touch lives.

Let us also pray for:

- Those alone this Christmas. The homeless and those caring for them. Those in care homes or hospitals. People in prison, and their families. (Heb 13:3)
- Those to whom the mention and memory of family brings pain, regret or sadness.
- Families under increased pressure, financial, emotional
- Safety on the roads. Pray for police and publicans, hospital staff etc.
- God to use us, His church to be a blessing to those in need
- Those working to care for

others over the holiday time.

We pray for those away this Christmas:

- For soldiers away in active service
- and for army families

We thank God for all He has done in Colchester in 2005, for:

- Those whose lives have been changed by knowing the love of God
- His faithfulness to us and His life expressed through us
- Fresh expressions of unity and new networks in place
- His gifts to us, His provision for the work He has called us to
- 24 hour prayer, every answered prayer, prayer in the work place
- His work with young people, in education and family support services
- New partnerships within the town, for new relationships formed for the sake of the Gospel

And we continue to ask for:

- His love to motivate us, for every service
- His Holy Spirit to guide us
- New doors opening!
His Kingdom come!

Amen

Advent prayer focus, respect Ephesians 6.1-4

Give thanks: for every home where children are nurtured and loved, and for all those who provide support in parenting. Pray: for wisdom and patience for those who struggle with parenthood. Pray for the safety and protection of children at home, in church, in society.

Romans 13.1-5

Give thanks: for the sense of law and order we enjoy in the UK. Pray: for those who enforce the law will be shown the respect which enables them to operate effectively and that they will serve with integrity.

Luke 2.8-18

Give thanks: that God chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. That he respects the poor, the uneducated, the social outcasts. Pray: that the poor of the world would be respected by richer nations and given opportunity to fulfil their God-given potential.

Deuteronomy 10. 12-19

Pray: for fair treatment of all people who arrive in our land as asylum seekers. Pray that churches may be ready to give a welcome in Jesus' name.

1 Peter 3. 1-7, Ephesians 5.21

Give thanks: for the mutually honouring picture of marriage presented in the Bible. Pray: for deepening respect in the marriages known to you.

From 'Advent prayer', Courtesy of Evangelical Alliance.

Playhouse Public House

The new licensing hours for the Playhouse ,Colchester

'When I first saw the report on the front page of the newspaper about our pub's new opening times I initially felt angry towards the ungrounded accusations about our clientele and then happy for the free advertising!! But after numerous conversations with people about the effect our "new" opening times will have on the local community, I started to think about it in a Godly view. In 1 Timothy 2:1,2 Paul is advising Timothy to raise a mantle of prayer over the whole city, including its authorities. According to Paul, the total environment of the city can change to a peace-able life in all Godliness and reverence. In this way the Gospel will prosper in an atmosphere of

peace and freedom. Whilst praying into this , I remembered the original idea of our Government, and that was to create longer licensing hours, which "staggered" peoples drinking and socialising time , so less people would be on the streets at the same time and would hopefully eradicate the violence and anti-social behaviour that has happened at around 11 p.m closing time.

Through our licensing people and other local authorities I have realised how difficult and hard it has been to instigate these new licensing times and for everyone involved to get behind the idea. But after reading 1 Timothy 2:1,2 I have realised that with the amount of people praying for Colchester, and the Government wanting a more "peaceful" society from

different licensing , these two things could well be linked for a purpose, as He (God)" desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4)'
Paul Dungey
Playhouse manager

Colchester Soup Run

'We will be providing the normal Christmas Dinner at Cardinal Bourne Hall in Priory Street for the homeless on Christmas Day from 1230- 2 pm.

I would really appreciate if you could thank everyone involved with the Soup Run for their time contribution and commitment throughout the year. Its greatly appreciated what these people are doing for the homeless and needy people of our town.'
Thanks Den Codd

Feedback and answered prayer

SMILE Puppet Ministry would appreciate prayer support for their team. They have been going up to London to record 10 programmes for the revelation channel. 'We would like a prayer of protection around the team, but also pray for the audience they will reach. The programmes will be going out to the whole of Europe with the message of the 10 commandments. Then we want to produce DVD's to take across to America.

Mega Kids Club is growing each month, we have a strong team of 50 people helping out now. We have had reports that some children are now attending churches or clubs connected with their local churches, it is really exciting. If any churches want to get

involved we would be happy to chat with people about it, we really do want this to be a Colchester wide venture. Bless you and thank you' . Love Ella
Ella Havell

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Pyefleet House, The Strood
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SMILE Tel: 01206 735925
www.smilepuppetministry.org.uk*

Dennis Codd is standing down as Chair of the Colchester Soup Run with effect from 31st December 2005. He would also like to hand over the co-ordinating of the monthly prayer breakfasts and wondered if there is anyone out there who would be interested in relieving him from these post.

If you are interested and would like to speak to Dennis direct you can contact him on the following
TEL: 01206 395792
email dennis_codd@lineone.net

'I wanted to just let you know that next week there will be discussions about having a C.U. again in the Sixth Form College. Several Christians have been asked and it would appear that someone from CYO has now been in contact, so it should be happening very soon ! Please could we pray this into being again for our youngsters, apparently it has been a while since there has been one there functioning'
Lorraine.

Prayer requests

Collective—CYO

'My name is Kat and I work for CYO Colchester as part of the girl band called Collective. We go into school using re, dance, drama & music lessons to share the gospel. We then perform an evening concert at the end of the week and give the kids a chance to know more about Jesus .

This mission work is then continued with follow up in the weeks after the event.

I have written to you because I really feel we need to have a group of intercessory prayers who we can text or email before , during and after schools weeks to help with the spiritual battle. We are looking for committed prayer warriors who feel called to take up this role as it would involve being able to pray whenever a text/ email comes through.

We are looking for an intercessory leader who we could text, email or ring during the day who could then instigate a prayer chain to the subsequent members of the team.

We would also like to compile a biography of all people involved so if parents, teachers, pupils etc wanted to know who these people were we could show them they are a cross section of everyday individuals.

I would be really grateful if anyone would like to be involved they can contact me on 07719018844
God Bless xxx' Kat

Options are still looking for people to regularly pray for their work. 'The main prayer points at the moment are for in forming good

relationships with the other agencies in Cornerstone, for our new poster to be effective, for protection of all counsellors and their families, for new counsellors to be trained up (next year we would like 6) and for our finances. Thanks,' Carol

Prayer for MPs

Thanks to everyone who has written to CPn offering to pray for their local MP. You will remember that we are unable to print the prayer requests in the prayer guide, so small groups have been set up for both Bob Russell and Bernard Jenkin. It is not too late if you would like to be involved. Because of the nature of this project those organising this from parliament have requested that we keep a record of your details. So please contact CPn with your postal address, church affiliation and the name of your minister if you would like to be involved. Thank you.

'**Colchester AGLOW** are holding an outreach meeting on the **3rd December at Eld Lane Baptist Church.**

Guest speaker Marilyn Harry, an anointed evangelist with signs and wonders following.

We plan to go outside with a worship band and invite the public to the meeting.

We would welcome others to come and join us. We would so much appreciate the prayer support of the Prayernet on that day. We ourselves will be meeting for intercession at 12.20 pm then outside at 1.10 pm until 4.30-5 pm.' Anne

CYO Open Evening

Date: Monday 20th March 2006

Venue: St Johns Church
Ipswich Road, Colchester

Time: 7:45pm

Everyone welcome on this evening to meet the team, stories and video, songs from Collective, worship, coffee and gateaux!

PRAYER BREAKFASTS:

Saturday 3rd December 2005

Mariners Chapel Rowhedge
8.30- 10 a.m.

For more details contact: Dennis Codd, 01206 395792

SMILE MEGA KIDS CLUB

Date: Friday 2nd December

Venue: The Stanway school

Time: 7-8 pm

Age group: 5—11 years

Please continue to pray for this event

Colchester Prayernet has a new website. Visit us at www.colchesterprayernet.co.uk
It changes every week!

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).



Watchman Network

As we are approaching the Christmas season, a season of "seeing" (various people seeing angels, Magi seeing a star ...), it is a good time to let you know about the Watchmen Network (WN). As the shepherds and Magi saw "signs" and responded, so we are praying for more sight for Colchester, and for God's wisdom and guidance to know how to respond.

The WN is a branch of CPn. Currently about 12, men & women, who are committed to praying and seeking God for more sight for our

town (along the lines of Ezekiel 33). We get together once a month to consolidate and pray, but our commitment is to be available to the Lord at all times for the benefit of Colchester. Simply put, we are learning together to reverse the effects of history, to open the town's gates to good and close them to bad.

We are excited at the way God has been leading us recently to deal with issues of the past that continue to affect us today. We are beginning to see tangible, measurable change for the good

as we pray.

One of things that God has shown us is that there are "hidden" warriors in Colchester so, if as you read this you feel you'd like to know more about WN, please contact me, I would very much welcome the opportunity to chat with you.

Linda Roberts.
My email address is:
tlr02@btopenworld.com, or
phone 01206 864 177.

Sharon Stone prayer

During the summer some of us went to Chelmsford to hear Sharon Stone share her heart for the nation, the region and Essex. Sharon has an established reputation for her prophetic insight. She prayed for Colchester specifically. Over the last few months we have been praying into four main areas she highlighted. (If you would like to hear all of the recording then please contact me at Colchester Prayernet). The four areas for prayer are: Colchester's heritage, the worship of other gods within the town, the establishment of Christian community, prayer for leadership. This month we focus on 'the worship of other gods' She says:

'Colchester has alters to other gods & now you have castles built on the same sites & keep having things that release different types of worship & covering

things over so that things don't get dealt with.

In 54AD a stone temple to the Roman Emperor Claudius was built in Colchester. Roman Emperors considered themselves to be a god & they were worshipped. Castle was built on same site where the temple had been burnt down. When Romans came to Colchester, named town for the Celtic God of War, Camillus. Spirit of God giving a charge to deal with some roots.

Sharon made declaration to deal with some of these roots:

***Acknowledged that we want no other gods before You.
Acknowledged that where there is idolatry the land is cursed.
Father would you deliver Colchester, and where it has been a major site (8 different***

temples) for various forms of idolatry worship, we ask that it would be a place of intolerance, that would battle not flesh & blood but power, principality, rulers & wickedness in high places. Where these generations & centuries of hidden worship exist, we ask now that the church will have the ability to dismantle these areas – that Colchester won't be an area to invite other gods to this shore.

Lord deal with our land (in Colchester & England) – not to be welcoming to other gods (welcoming to people but not other gods). Father fortify your people & give them understanding'.

Isaiah 26:12,13
Judges 5:8
John 4:23,24
Matthew 22:39