

# November 2005

## Christian Youth Outreach - CYO

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We continue to pray for the work of Christian Youth Outreach (CYO) in Colchester.

### CYO Celebration

The CYO Celebration this year (see box for details) is all about 'the big picture', the work of many churches and organisations of this area as they work with young people in the name of Christ. There will be an exhibition of Christian youth work followed by the celebration with worship, video testimony, prayer focus and a few words. What are your hopes, dreams and visions for the young people of Colchester? Come along to the celebration and join with others in prayer for the work of CYO.

### New Youth and Schools Worker

Plans for a new Youth and Schools Worker have come much closer thanks to the confirmed offer of a three year grant to cover 50% of the costs. The job description for this new member of the team reflects CYO's two highest priorities:

- Working with young people in schools to help them understand God's love for them
- Working with churches to help them develop effective mission to the young people of their area.

To match the grant CYO needs to raise an additional £12,000 per year.

Please pray for God's provision. CYO are looking for increased giving from individuals. If you would like to give financially to support the schools worker please contact CYO, PO Box 9272, Colchester CO1 9AX, Telephone 01206 863835 or mail@CYOcolchester.org.uk



### Prayer points...

- Praise God for the many opportunities that CYO, Xtra Time and Collective have to take the good news of Jesus to young people and to help others in this exciting work.
- Praise God for the offer of half time funding to develop the sports outreach.
- Please pray for a new Schools Worker, and for the extra giving needed to cover this.
- Please pray for wisdom as they look into having someone new work with Xtra Time to develop this ministry.

Thank you

### CYO Celebration Sunday 30th October 2005,

**Venue:** St Botolphs church, Queen Street, Colchester

**Time:** From 7:00 pm  
(Exhibition of Christian youth work)  
7:45 pm Celebration begins



## Colchester 2020

Colchester 2020 Assembly met on **Friday 7th October 2005** at the Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate. The main focus was on 'Youth' and 'Business'.

In these meetings leadership from every aspect of our town is represented, health, business, education, leisure, the arts etc. In this issue we focus prayer on the business sector.

The strategy for business was shared at the 2020 Assembly. The following concerns were expressed. I hope you find these stimulate prayer.

1. Is Colchester really open for business? There is a low level of prevailing business in Colchester because demand is parochial.
2. People are afraid to raise their head above the parapet and challenge the status quo.

3. Lack of commitment to see things change because of reluctance to get involved either because the business is 'too small' or they are 'too busy'
  4. People insist that everything is okay here when really there are huge challenges facing future generations!
  5. Is the business community thinking about opportunities such as the Olympics?
  6. Is it too diverse/ too many partnerships without cohesion?
  7. Does Colchester have a true business identity? Sense that it doesn't
  8. Where will extra jobs come from to support the regeneration projects?
  9. People live here but don't work here with London so near (effect on community)
  10. We offer a huge amount but hide our light under a bushel!
- Please pray for:
- Church influence in the sphere

- of business.
- Christian leaders in our town as they stand in places of influence. As they network together, pray and advance the Kingdom of God.
- Permanent, lasting change. Many of these concerns could be expressed about any part of our town. I.e. Identity issues.
- God's wisdom in these long term problem areas, and for Gods voice to be heard in every sphere of society
- The work of Work Dynamics, and the town chaplain's work
- Effective community life (see also page 4)
- For courage and focus for those called to lead, for long term strategy and establishment of Godly values
- For fresh energy and vision for those in leadership
- For the leadership of Colchester 2020 LSP

## Feedback and answered prayer

There has been a lot of feedback this month. Thank you to everyone who has taken time to write in, email or phone CPn.

### Rowhedge Christian Fellowship

'Thought I'd let everyone on the Prayernet know how our 24/7 prayer went. We managed to fill all 168 hours with 23 people! We had families praying together (even an unsaved husband). Our young people were down a lot, early and late, our young Christians put in a lot of time, even children spent time in the room.

Many of us went in with our

prayer list ready to do business with the Lord, but realized that actually, He just wanted to spend quality time with us. So much of the time was spent enjoying Him. Which was great.

It was a fantastic week, one we will repeat, the Lord felt very close. Rend the Heavens Lord and come down!

### Prayer for Options:

1. 'We are looking for people committed to pray for this work on a regular basis—please contact CPn if you would like to be involved.

2. We are excited by our move to Cornerstone Building on 19th October, right in town in a building with many other agencies, under the Primary Trust umbrella.

Thanking the Lord that we can do all things in Christ who strengthens us'. Carol

**SMILE MEGA KIDS CLUB**  
**Date:** Friday 4th November  
**Venue:** The Stanway school  
**Time:** 7-8 pm  
**Age group:** 5—11 years  
 Please continue to pray for this event



## Colchester — an Open Heaven?

Earlier this year a visiting speaker, respected as someone with prophetic insight, sensed that there was an “open heaven” over Colchester. (See John 1: 47–51)

Jesus taught us to pray “your kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven”. When I think of an open heaven I envisage more of heaven coming to earth, more of God’s kingdom in every sphere of society, both inside and outside of the church. An open heaven would mean more fruit from our labours and more obvious answers to our prayers.

Recently I read the story of the lepers in the siege of Samaria in 2 Kings 6 & 7. Things were in a truly desperate state, to the extent that the people had resorted to cannibalism. In this appalling context, the prophet Elisha said that the siege would end the very next day and that food would be freely available, at an affordable price. This was considered outrageous by one of the King’s officials who said that this could not be, even if the Lord would “open the windows of heaven”.

The next day God caused the Aramean army to believe that they were being attacked. Actually they weren’t. But the army

fled, leaving everything behind. It was the four lepers who discovered this happy scene and they passed on the news to the gatekeepers of the city. In the ensuing rush out of the city the official was trampled to death.

What does this teach us about an open heaven?

1. We need to see the activity of God!
2. Things can change (for the better) very quickly.
3. A cynic can’t see anything good happening. When it does they can’t participate.

Over the course of this year I have begun to ask myself if we are seeing evidence of an open heaven here in Colchester. There have been encouraging stories from On the Move, and from Holiday Clubs. In our own fellowship we have seen a significant physical healing. There are reports of Alpha courses being well attended and a feeling that there is a greater openness to the Christian gospel.

Let’s believe God that we can experience the promised open heaven and that, like the four lepers, we will really make the most of it!  
Simon Lasky

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

With guest speaker Marilyn Harry, an anointed Welsh 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

**PRAYER BREAKFASTS:**  
**Saturday 5th November 2005**  
Ark Methodist Church  
8.30- 10 a.m.  
For more details contact: Dennis Codd, 01206 395792

**Journey Into Wholeness**  
Monthly prayer meetings are on 2nd Monday of each month.  
**Venue:** Mount Zion Church, Ipswich Road  
**Time:** 8 pm-10 pm. This month we will be thanking God for this year’s exhibition as well as praying for strategy of next years Mind, Body and Soul Exhibition.

**Future Church Conference**  
**Date:** 2nd – 3rd November 2005  
**Venue:** High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire  
**SPIRITUALITY, SUSTAINING A MISSION - SHAPED CHURCH**  
**Cost:** £75.00 all inclusive  
For more information or to register please contact Revd Terry Tennens on 02076547236 or email [terry.tennens@ctbi.org.uk](mailto:terry.tennens@ctbi.org.uk)

Colchester Prayernet has a new website. Visit us at [www.colchesterprayernet.co.uk](http://www.colchesterprayernet.co.uk)

**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](mailto: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).**



## More Feedback

'Please continue to pray for:

- University of Essex.
- Friends international FI. We welcome Michael and Caroline White as they settle into their job as co-ordinators of the work. They have been missionaries in Indonesia for about 20 years with OMF and have been in a pastoral ministry for 3 years in Harpenden. They started a work amongst International students in Harpenden while they were there and felt called to a work in Essex.
- Many new families to offer friendship for international students.
- The finance to come in to support this important work.
- Joan as she adapts to her new

role in supporting the Whites. God bless, love Joan'

- 'Jeremiah 18. It was about God building up nations and bringing them down and clay in the potters hand. As I was reading it I felt it was for Colchester as well as the nation. So I prayed that God would give us a bit more time (that's the feeling I was getting) so we can get out into the town more than we already are to get the people of Colchester to repent before Gods judgement comes. I then had a picture of all angels with sledgehammers knocking down walls that have been built around the town over the years and as we take the worship, the

praise, the prayer and the truth into the town the angels are knocking down another part of the wall/s. We need to help this by getting out there and doing more than we already are. Felt two things '*Not to only focus on activity within the temple and the church needs to be active not passive*'. Maria

'I pray for a mercy over Colchester that will:

1. Honour Christ as Lord over the town
2. Raise hope and strength for Christian communities for those who are exhausted physically, mentally and spiritually
3. Release of healing for the lost 'Julie

## 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 next few months I hope we will pray 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.

**'Colchester has earliest known Christian Community, deserving of more fruit.**

**Sharon spoke to dormant seeds, Colchester is not hard ground, it**

***is not uncultivated ground and seed is not going to be picked off by "birds of the air" but the seed will be allowed to germinate, to open up, to release the life of the Spirit and we call forth that which has a heritage, call this forth redemptively for Colchester.***

***We call forth not just church but Christian community, the ability for Jesus to be seen and heard in every sphere of society'.***

We repent :

- Where Jesus has been 'hidden' by our poor witness, lack of love for each other and our communities,
- Having a form of Godliness but denying the power there of (2 Timothy 3:5)
- Of negative confessions that Colchester is 'hard ground'

We pray for:

- The establishment of vibrant

Christian community in the Colchester area

- Freedom of expression and new shapes of church to emerge
- Jesus to be seen and heard in every sphere of society
- God's spirit to water dormant seeds within our lives, the life of our church,
- Fresh belief and expectation of what God may do here
- That prayer would rise up in line with God's purposes for this town
- Jesus to build His church (Matthew 16:18)
- Restoration of all that has been stolen from us in the past
- The people of Colchester to know the love of God
- Transformation of town values, structures and government,
- God to get the Glory!