

# October 2005

## On The Move

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At the end of July many of us worked together with the On The Move (OTM) project in the town centre. It was a wonderful time and we want to thank God for His goodness expressed to us and for the many answered prayers.

- Rev. Richard Morgan writes: 'The 'On the Move' Barbeque in Colchester town centre fed nearly 4,000 over four days and provided many opportunities for the church to be available to people where they were.
- More than 50 people filled in a response card indicating that they wanted some further contact with a local church, and of those some 16 had taken the opportunity of the b-b-q to ask the Jesus to come into their lives for the first time.

More than 200 people from 25 different churches were part of the team. Many team members regarded the whole experience as a life changing one. One member commented 'our church will never be the same again'.

Our eyes were opened to what was possible if a united church made itself available to share its faith in the centre of town.

We pray that the experience of working together in unity will encourage a continuing coming together of Christians from across the denominations

for mission in our town.

As well as the food and the conversation, the b-b-q was supported by a prayer room and of course saturated with worship by groups who sang at venues across the town centre as well as the worship at the b-b-q site itself.

Thanks to the whole team and to Eld Lane Baptist and Castle Methodist who hosted the b-b-q and prayer room respectively.

The big encouragements were all individual - those who discovered that they could talk about their faith to perfect strangers, those who we were able to pray with, those who made a start with Christian faith. It was wonderful to see God 'On the Move' in many people's lives'.

Revd Richard Morgan

Please pray:

- For those who responded to God at OTM, (Matt.13:3)
- For follow up opportunities, including courses, on going relationship, Alpha invitations etc
- For continued unity with the Body of Christ and for healthy, vibrant expressions of God's love in us.
- For God's guidance about future events and projects together

Amen

***'We pray that the experience of working together in unity will encourage a continuing coming together of Christians from across the denominations for mission in our town',***

***Rev. Richard Morgan  
On The Move***



## Colchester 2020

Colchester 2020 Assembly meet again on **Friday 7th October 2005** at the Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate. The main focus this meeting will be on 'Youth' and 'Business'.

Please pray for this gathering. Representatives from Open Door, Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester, YMCA, Emmaus, Colchester Prayernet and others have opportunity to network with leadership from across the town and discuss together the future vision of Colchester. In these meetings leadership from every aspect of our town is represented, health, business, education, leisure, the arts etc.

In our prayers I ask us again to consider the following.

'In almost every case where society was at peace, prosperous (both spiritually and materially), and advancing, we see the partnership of priests and kings, church and government, vision and provision working together to incarnate God's Kingdom on the earth. By government we mean politics, business, education etc. or other spheres of influence in

society. The church's vision here is absolutely essential' Quote from 'Church and Business, Ed Silvano.

Examples: Gen, 47:1-12, Dan, 2:46-49, Dan, 6:25-28, Ez 4, Est. 9,10, 1Chr.17, etc.

**'The church represents the spiritual side of life, and without Christ and the hope of salvation, life is bleak. Each governmental sphere has it's own contribution to make a great community, each must respect the others contribution. Without the visionary 'priestly' role of the church all of society suffers. We are looking for a way in not a way out!'**

Quote from Nation Strategy'.

- Pray for continued coming together of the church and those in governmental leadership in Colchester. For the church to gain credibility, continue in unity and express Jesus style servant leadership.
- Pray for CPn as we offer a prayer group to support the work of our local MPs. The next stage is for a reference to be sent to House of

Commons recommending the work of CPn.

- Pray for Church influence in every sphere – business, education, media, health etc
- Pray for leaders of our town to encounter God!
- Pray for Christian leaders in our town as they stand in places of influence. As they network together, pray and advance the Kingdom of God.
- Thank God for relationships already in place, For the work of Work Dynamics, CYO, United Solutions and many other partnerships.

### Leaders in Government

Father, I pray that as the leaders in the government acknowledge You in all their ways that You direct their paths and that they will find favour in Your sight. Show them Your ways that they may know You and find grace in Your sight – considering that this Government and nation are Your people. (Pro 3:6; Exo 33:13)

Lord, I pray that the leaders will hate evil and love the good, establishing judgement in the governmental gate. Because when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice. (Amos 5:15; Pro 29:2)

Friends International (FI)  
Introduce Michael and Caroline White, with guest Speaker: Richard Weston Director of Friends International Ministries. Tea provided!  
Date: **SATURDAY 15th October**  
Time: **2.30 pm - 5 pm**  
Venue: St Johns' church, Ipswich Road, Colchester

**PRESENCE IN THE PARK -** Contemporary style worship event.  
**Venue:** Castle Park bandstand  
**Date:** Sun 9th Oct. 3 - 5 pm.  
Please pray, come and support, this worship event in the Castle Park. Presence say *'We want people to see and hear more than just the music'*.  
What a wonderful opportunity!

**SMILE MEGA KIDS CLUB**  
**Date:** Friday 7th October  
**Venue:** The Stanway school  
**Time:** 7-8 pm  
**Age group:** 5—11 years  
*Around 150 children attend this event, many with their parents.*  
Please continue to pray and see January prayer guide for more information

## Feedback, answered prayer

Following on from our prayer gathering on Thursday 15th September we continue to pray for Alpha courses that will run this Autumn. 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. We want to know that every person in Colchester has heard the gospel and been given the opportunity to respond.

*'As we pray we need to be aware that there is tremendous prayer commitment throughout the nation including the Methodist 'Year of Ceaseless Prayer'. There is a growing desire to see a 24/7 prayer room established within the town (sometimes known as a 'boiler room'). It would be inspirational for people to read Red Moon Rising to see the significance of 24/7 prayer in a locality'.*

**Prayer for the University:**  
'I felt a while back the Lord lead me to this scripture as a promise for the university Ecc. 11:1-2 (GNB) Cast your bread upon the water ..... I found it greatly encouraging when the Queen's representative presented an award commending University for 'Investment in International relations'. There is a need for Wivenhoe churches to be in preparation for all that God will do at the University!'

*'We need to speak and proclaim over Colchester and the UK Isaiah 52:7 and James 3:13-14, 17-18, speaking peace among/between believers and to the hearts and minds of all people in the town. Speaking freedom from fear over*

*the minds of people. Speak out the name of Jesus prince of Peace'*

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. I hope that over the next few months to can 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.

Sharon Stone also prayed for the University of Essex.:

*'A blessing upon the university as God wants to do a work of revival upon the campus in Essex. Pray for a release of the Holy Spirit upon the campus to contend against spirit of humanism and intellectualism that places itself above the knowledge of God.*

*'A child will lead them, and praise will be made perfect in the mouth of babes'. Sense a stirring of the Spirit to bring forth a new sound of praise, but also a leadership anointing in the young'*

*'Colchester has always been a place of torment and destruction although it was intended by the Romans to be place of rest and*

*retirement for their legionaries. Much in Colchester has been broken but there are some remarkably preserved things there from the past.*

*Spiritually Colchester has been a place of division and torment with personal animosity running deep amongst some of its 'spiritual fathers'. There were even 'spiritual watchtowers' established there in the past and they fell in division and disaster. Many 'splinters' have developed in the Christian community.*

*Any new thing in Colchester needs to acknowledge the past problems and not fall into them over again. Particularly there needs to be a strong drive of inclusiveness not exclusiveness that has characterised some works in the past there. It is important that any new work there be characterised by a spirit of serving and reconciling people and groups that are already there and not riding rough shod over the past.'*

***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).***

## Colchester Institute

Please pray for Colchester Institute:

'The college is facing change in terms of its partnership with an provider. We have always been partnered with APU but from September 06 we may be partnered with the University of Essex. Pray that changes would go smoothly.

Currently staff are feeling unsettled because of this and are unable to plan. There is some bad feeling between staff and managers - please pray for good working relations.

Staff Christian Union - please pray for me as I continue to lead the

group, and pray that God would work through our prayers and meetings. Think we need more passion and action!!

Student Christian Union (Christians United) - After the holiday this will start up again in September/October. There is only 2 or 3 of us to start out in the new academic year so please pray for an increase in numbers.

Earlier this year we had a Christian band - KATO- play here who were brilliant and several non-Christians came along. Please pray for fruit from that event, and

for a continued witness throughout the coming year.

Pray for continued good relationship with the new Student Union (they recently appointed a new leadership team). Thank you'

**Natasha Sayers**  
Academic Standards Assistant

## Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester (SGBC) is a gathering of Christian leaders from across the Colchester area, meeting together for friendship, mutual encouragement and prayer. We pray for SGBC as one of many expressions of unity across this town.

The Bishop Of Colchester Rt Rev Christopher Morgan writes: 'I trust that you have found a good measure of rest and recreation through this summer period: and are now beginning to think about the rhythms of life and ministry for the twelve months ahead.

For this reason I hope you will be pleased to learn that the next meeting of Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester ministers and church leaders group will be on **Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> October** at the Mayor's Parlor in Colchester Town Hall, there by kind invitation of this year's Mayor, Councillor Terry Sutton.

I hope this will give us an opportunity to review some past undertakings and to look prayerfully into the future.

Councillor Sutton will welcome us and briefly outline his view of the borough now and his hopes and concerns for future developments.

Secondly, we will have a chance to reflect further on the significance of our Pentecost celebration at St Botolph's. What might this mean for our future work together?

We are being asked to consider a shared project of Advent worship (probably for 2006) entitled *Sharers in the Promise*. This is being offered to us by Richard Hubbard of Cantus Firmus Trust, whom some of you will know.

Alongside all this there will be op-

portunities to meet one another again: to renew existing friendships and make new ones. My colleagues and I hope that once again this will prove to be a good "person to person" occasion and also an opportunity for people in Christian leadership in the town to consult and pray together.

### **We have One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism**

We must not minimise our thinking when it comes to vision – we need to think BIG'

Please continue to pray for these gatherings, our relationships and God's guidance for future activity together.



## Colchester Evangelical Church

'How good it is to write and tell you of life at CEC. We are living in and enjoying exciting days. Stronger links with other Christians in the town is a real blessing. Many came together in the last week of July to unite in "On the Move" an exciting evangelistic opportunity. It was marvellous with some 15 people being converted and over 40 to specifically be followed up. God is good. This is what the Church is all about. Growing and being concerned for the community around it and working together.

We have had growing contact with a local NFI church with the possibility of worshipping with them during the refurbishment of our church building. Pray about this. We share similar vision for the town and it may be that we can work together in all kinds of ways as the town develops with huge housing programmes, especially close to our 2 churches.

The scheme of works for our building has now been completed and we are looking this month at appointing various folks for specific tasks and getting some quotes for the work. We believe God has been speaking to us about how we should move forward with the building.

This month also sees us planning for the weekend of Oct 1-2. On the Saturday PURSUE men's conference will take place. We are grateful to our friends at Plume Ave URC for the use of their premises. Chris Hill is the guest speaker and we want to encourage Christian men to reach their full potential in Jesus as they face up to the challenges of 21st century life. It's go-

ing to be a wonderful and transforming day. Great music, good food, and challenging ministry. Details can be found on our web site. If you need invitation and booking cards please let me know. We would love to see you there.

Chris Hill remains with us through the week-end. Preaching on Sunday morning and in the evening is the after dinner speaker at The Ramada Hotel where we have booked a suite for a special dinner, to which we shall be inviting not yet Christian friends and contacts. No-one can come unless they bring some friends. We need prayer for getting the right free literature to pass on and for the follow up event or course which will need to be on offer on that occasion. We are really getting excited about this. We just want to see people respond to the love of Jesus for them. Your praying makes such a difference. Pray on and don't give up.

With all that is happening as we seek to move forward in the Lord's purposes for us, we are only to aware of fighting an enemy. Much illness has come to the fellowship and it would be so good if you could stand with us in prayer for the healing of God's people.

One recent Sunday morning innovation has been the opportunity for people to share what they believe God has been saying to them through their regular devotion or whatever means He chooses, specifically for the church. It's not personal testimony, though sometimes it can be both, but very specifically words from God to the Church.

Well dear friends I have written enough I'm sure. What a privilege to stand together in seeing God's kingdom come. Every blessing and much love Graham and Pauline'.

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

### 'The Gospel for Spiritual Seekers'.

Two training days for those who want to be able to share their faith more effectively

**Dates: Saturday 29th April  
Saturday 6th May**

**Contact:** Sister Penny Horseman, Colchester Episcopal Area Evangelism Advisor for booking info.Tel: 01206 273 159

### PRAYER BREAKFASTS:

**Saturday 1st October 2005**  
ST MARY'S CHURCH, WEST BERGHOLT  
8.30- 10 a.m.

For more details contact:  
Dennis Codd, 01206 395792

### BBH Future Church Conference 2005

**Date:** 2nd – 3rd November 2005

Venue: High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

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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)