



April 2007

Easter Prayer

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Town Centre Walk of Witness, Good Friday

Meet at 11am at St Nicholas Square and walk through town. Finish with a short act of worship at Lion Walk Car Park at 12 noon.

Mercury Theatre Easter presentation follows at 7:30pm

Lord God

Today we stand in the midst of incredible events

Even the angels are dumbstruck in amazement.
Jesus Christ the one who was and is life
Has been killed on a cross and laid in a tomb.
How can the Son of God,
The son of life itself, die?
It was for us wasn't it Lord Jesus?
It was an image of us that kept you there on the cross?
It was love of us that made you willing to die?
It was our sins you were destroying as you breathed you last?
What words can we offer in response?
No one has ever given so much for us
Lord Jesus,
Our words of praise seem so inadequate,
But that's all we have to offer,
Our adoration,
The worship of our lips and our hearts:
Lord Jesus our Saviour,
We praise you.

Father God,
Even though we have been touched by the greatest miracle of all,
The miracle of the cross,
Even though we have been reached by the good news of Jesus,
Even though we have experienced your love for ourselves,
There is still so much in our lives which denies you.
Our unwillingness to trust your will in all things

Our uncertainty about recognising the gifts you have given us,
And our unwillingness to use our gifts in your work,
Our inability to live our faith even in the most simple of circumstances -
When a friend needs a loving word,
When a neighbour needs compassion.
Lord,
There are still so many barriers we construct between ourselves and you
In order to keep you at arms length in our lives.
Today, as we gather in the shadow of the cross
And as we remember and reflect on the death of Jesus
We implore you to shatter all that blocks you out of our lives
Forgive us our sins,
Make us clean of them
And through the power of the risen Jesus
Grant us a fresh start in relationship with you.

Lord God

We want to know more of you in our lives
We want to experience your spirit leading us to growth in our faith
As we gather at this Easter celebration
We long for you to fill our worship with your presence this morning
Through singing and prayer
Through your word and through our fellowship together
Flood our lives with your glory and your love
In Jesus name we pray,
Amen

Business news

We continue to focus prayer on Colchester's business community. We had an opportunity to speak with business leaders at the last Col2020 LSP, and offered our prayer support as they develop business for Colchester.

Chris Rawlinson (Executive Director, Colchester Town Partnership) recently announced the aim to put Colchester on the map by becoming the first Business Improvement District (BID) in Essex.

Businesses can make this happen by joining other companies in the, 'I'm backing the Colchester BID' campaign. The Colchester BID would be an area where improve-

ments and new initiatives can be paid for and benefited by the businesses that fall into the catchment. This would initially look at the town centre area, but BID areas can happen wherever business people want them.

To date there has been no Town Centre BID in Essex.

Organisers say "This is your chance to transform Colchester and to make a real difference. Unlike any other initiative, the BID will put the power into the hands of local business – get on board and have your say in the improvements that you want to see."

Consultations are taking place with local businesses to decide

everything. There is already a BID Evaluation Team (BET) in place to develop the Colchester BID. A successful BID will be run by a board, including elected members from the levy-payers.

There will be a month-long postal vote in November where businesses in the Colchester BID area will be asked to vote. Every business will have just one vote each. At least 51% of businesses who have voted need to say YES before we can become a Business Improvement District.

For more information on praying for Colchester Businesses please see February prayer guide.

Feedback

Colchester Institute

'Thank you for your prayers for Colchester Institute's CU. The following week there were 3 of us, including 1 new person, which was a real encouragement. The staff CU also met that week which was the first time since September (previous monthly meetings were cancelled last minute due to a lack of staff attending). I was also encouraged that week by having the opportunity to offer prayer to 2 non-Christian colleagues - this was warmly welcomed! And one more thing, on the Thursday of the same week 5 of us met together for an early morning prayer meeting in the refectory!! This was really encouraging and exciting, and we have decided to continue meeting to pray on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Prayer makes a difference so thank you for your prayers and please keep praying for us'.

Natasha

Colchester Boiler Room Community (CBRC). Wait! Each of you must be careful how you build. For

God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid. Some will use gold or silver or precious stones in building on the foundation; others will use wood or grass or straw. And the quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it. For on that Day fire will reveal everyone's work; the fire will test it and show its real quality. If what was built on the foundation survives the fire, the builder will receive a reward. But if your work is burnt up, then you will lose it; but you yourself will be saved, as if you had escaped through the fire. (1 Cor 3:10-15)

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have rivers of living water flowing from his heart." (John 7:37-38)

Shout aloud Colchester - With Joy

you will draw from the wells of salvation'. *Richard*

Feedback from last months prayer guide.

Several people feel we need to pray further into this from Sharon Stone. (*Please also see March prayer guide for full notes*). Sharon Stone said: **'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'.**

The Big Idea

Colchester Charities have got together to create 'The Big Idea'. "It's a simple idea that can transform charities and good causes in the Borough of Colchester whilst giving you the opportunity to be a part of something unique and very special.

Organisers are inviting us to put to one side just £1 a week for ten weeks and if just two thirds of our community take part together we will raise £1,000,000 for charities and good causes in the Borough of Colchester.

St Helena Hospice, Headway Essex and The Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre will use the money they receive for their own services, whilst The Town Fund and King Coel's Kittens fund will use their funds to distribute amongst any other charity or good cause in the Borough of Colchester that successfully applies.

Please also encourage all your family and friends to be a part of

The Big Idea as well - friends and family with links to the Borough of Colchester no matter where in the world they are now.

The Big Idea will only work if **we** all work together as a community - and really believe that the community of the Borough of Colchester can come together to make **The Big Idea** an amazing reality.

If you can afford more than £1 a week please do so to support those in our community who cannot afford to take part.

If you have a company or personal website you can help by placing a banner advert of **The Big Idea** on your site. Simply download the banner from the website, then place the image on your website, linking to www.thebigidea2007.org

You can pay in

- Online through the web site by simply clicking on the buttons marked 'Donate Now!' using a credit or debit card.

- To any HSBC bank using :
Account no : 01638165
Sort Code : 40-23-10
- Online using your internet banking
- By texting BIGIDEA to 80100
- Using one of **The Big Idea** envelopes that will be available throughout the Borough of Colchester or by visiting or contacting any of the charities involved."

Organisers would like all money to be paid in by May 6th if possible but don't let this put you off arranging events for later than that or for continuing to put £1 aside for as long as you like.

CBRC will meet every Friday
From: 11pm-3am
At: Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane (downstairs lounge)
Aim: To pray for peace on the streets. To pray and chat with people on the streets and in the prayer room.

Nightstop

NIGHTSTOP is the provision of emergency accommodation for single 16-25 year olds in the homes of approved volunteers. The host offers a bed for the night, meals and the opportunity for the young person to bath and wash their clothes.

We also provide a listening ear.

We have had a busy 9 months since we launched last July. To date, we have accommodated 21 clients with host families. All of them, apart from one have gone onto to more permanent homes.

Our biggest referring agency is Colchester Borough Council. They have asked us to help with several young people who were

still at school or college. Without Nightstop the youngster would have gone to 'bed and breakfast' in Clacton or Ipswich. At a time of uncertainty, in the youngster's life, continuing their education was very important. This gives them a future and stops them getting into the cycle of long-term homelessness.

For some, we have been able to offer a lifeline when they have suffered physical abuse from family members and they have had nowhere to turn.

At present, we have 3 regular host families, and one long-term host family. We have five volunteer drivers. We have one befriender

and one of our volunteers, Gill, has organised a prayer chain.

Despite our successes, we have also had to turn away 13 young people through lack of hosts.

If you can help us in any way, as a host; a driver; befriender or prayer partner, please contact us on 07772 665952. Full training will be given. We also need people who are willing to make up Welcome Packs of toiletries.

We would love to come and give a presentation in your church, women's groups, or do an educational talk to your youth group.

Jeannette Hewes
Project Coordinator

Journey into Wholeness

Preparations are already underway for the stall at the Body Mind and Spirit Exhibition in September at Charter Hall.

We praise God for

- the contacts made last year,
- the new opportunities open at Brentwood and elsewhere
- The prayer support of the Boiler Room Community and Prayernet.

We pray

- For more committee members.
- That our budget target might be met.
- For a creative theme for the new stall at the BMS Exhibition.

- For wisdom regarding follow up event following the BMS Exhibition.
- For wider vision for the work and involvement of new people in it

We also pray for

- Beverley Ridsen (in Southend) who has recently been diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus.
- Howard at this time as his wife (Dee) has just come out of hospital following surgery and he is caring for her.

Forthcoming Events

21st May - Committee meeting
170 Berechurch Hall Road

University of Essex

"If Jesus was God ...then where was God when Jesus died on the cross?" This is just one of the questions we have been asked recently by an international student.

Praise for:

1. The Easter outreach on campus where Christians on campus gave out:
 - 400 hot cross buns/400 Easter eggs with John 3 v 16 written out and wrapped round the egg
 - invitation to a free lunch + hearing about the true meaning of Easter.

There was a good response to this and lots of interesting conversations took place.

2. The Bible study on Greenstead in a home for 8 international students who are taking a keen interest in studying the Bible.
3. The faithful students belonging to the Christian Union who have had an outreach every

Friday on campus. Pray for all the good seed sown.

Please pray for:

1. International students to visit churches in Colchester over Easter and hear the message clearly explained.
2. A trip to Sudbury with 50 students and helpers from the University of Essex on Thursday 12th April....that the weather will be good and a time when good friendships will be built up.
3. More students to take an interest in the Bible studies undertaken on campus.
4. Thomas Yap...the new Chaplain as he begins work on campus at the beginning of May.
5. For unity amongst the Christians on campus.

God bless. Happy Easter to you all. *Joan Davies*

15th September - Training Day
10am - 4pm (venue to be confirmed)

29th - 30th September
Body, Mind and Soul Exhibition
Charter Hall

20th or 22nd October

Follow up supper - venue to be confirmed

For more information please contact Prayer Co-ordinator, Paul Jonas, on Colchester 520021

An Open Meeting to discuss churches ministry to the people in the **Stanway/Tollgate** development.

Date: Saturday 28th April

Time: 10am—4pm

Venue: TBC

Further information from Jane Mason via SGBfC

SMILE Puppet Ministry Mega Kids Club - NEW VENUE

Friday 6th April
Kingsland Church Lexden Rd
(new building)

Contact Ella Havell
01206 735925 or
EllaHavell@aol.com

Prayer for MPs. Prayer groups are now in place if you would like to pray for your local MP. We have prayer groups for Bernard Jenkin (Colchester North) and Bob Russell (Colchester Town). If you would like to be involved please contact CPn with your postal address, church affiliation and the name of your minister.

Prayer Breakfast

Date: Saturday 7th April.

Time: 8.30 am – 10.00 am

At: Abbeyfield Community Church

Street Pastors

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue.

Here in Colchester a growing number of people are exploring ways of working with, and demonstrating God's love and care for, the thousands of mainly young people who flood into Colchester town centre on a Friday and Saturday night. Working in partnership with Churches, the Police and the local Council, Street Pastors schemes in other towns and cities have seen measurable reductions in nuisance and street crime and made the Church visible in a tangible and meaningful way to thousands of young adults.

You are invited to a meeting with a team from the national organisation behind Street Pastors to hear first hand how such a scheme could work in Colchester. This will be on **Wednesday 4th April from 2pm to 4pm at Castle Methodist Church** and is intended for Church leaders and those they would recommend as having a specific interest in this type of ministry. Street Pastors is for the whole town, not just the town centre churches - the vast majority of people reached through it will come from outside the town centre and we are discovering that there are Christians all across the area who have the gifts and passion to undertake this kind of ministry.

CYO is sponsoring this event as one of the partners behind Street

Pastors here in Colchester because we believe this has the potential to be a powerful practical witness to God's love for the people of our town and because the results from other towns and cities across the UK speak for themselves.

It would help with our planning if you could let us know if you will be attending.

We do hope you can join us.

Tim Abbott
Director, CYO
for the Street Pastors
(Colchester) planning group

For more information check out the Street Pastors web site, www.streetpastors.org.uk

Colchester Boiler Room

Thank God for:

- 24/7 prayer shop in West Mersea supporting Stop the Traffik anti-slavery campaign. This shop was organised by West Mersea Free Church. Many young people and unchurched people supported this prayer shop. Also action with young people in Colchester town centre supporting Stop the Traffik campaign.
- Fresh regular times of prayer have been established. Friday Night Prayer at Colchester Baptist Church every Friday prays for people in the night culture. Also, fortnightly prayer support has been established for the Lakes Ministry. This supports Christian worship and prayer work in the Lakes psychiatric unit.

- The successful launch of the Council of Advisers. These are 7 leaders, drawn from across the church in Colchester, who advise the leaders of the Colchester Boiler Room Community.

Coming up:

- 24/7 Prayer room hosted by Gosbecks Christian Fellowship at the Jesus Centre, King Harold Road. Proposed dates Sunday 22 April – Sunday 29 April.

Please pray for:

- More opportunities to work with church congregations to encourage prayer and action in Colchester area.
- For more people to join with Colchester Boiler Room Community as Partners to enable more prayer and action and new things to happen.

To keep in touch with Colchester Boiler Room Community activities check the web log at www.colchesterboilerroom.blogspot.com

Or contact Richard Smith on 01206 522781

Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month. To contact Teresa Lasky email: admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk or tel: 01206 242235 or write to 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt.

To contribute to next month's prayer guide contact Marie Morris at: info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

The contributors' views are their own, and do not necessarily express those of the editors.