



January 2007

Inside this issue:

Prayer Requests from Bob Russell	1
An Open Heaven in 2007	2
Diary Dates	2
Through the Gateway	3
24/7 prayer room	3
The Lakes ministry	4
Feedback	4
CO1	5
CYO	5

'No one individual church can achieve or change much on its own, however together I believe there isn't any need in Colchester that together we could not tackle effectively.

*Leadership needs to be risk takers in releasing resources, especially people! 'Lord, please clearly show Your church in Colchester what is on your heart for this town & how we, your body, may do your will in order to bring this about'.
David Fry*

Prayer Requests from Bob Russell MP

We are very pleased to include some prayer requests from Bob Russell, MP for Colchester.

Please pray for:

- Affordable housing provision for families in Colchester. This is especially needed for families currently living in rented accommodation. 4,000 children in Colchester currently live in "less than adequate" housing. (Bob shared the story of one constituent who cannot afford to buy a big enough house for his family, and who would love to have an accessible garden for his children)
- Provision for army personnel and their families. Pray especially for the soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Also for the army welfare services that care for them, including the chaplains.
- The environment and climate change. For wisdom for Bob as he considers policies that may help.
- Bob in his role as an Opposition MP, that he can ask the right questions to challenge the government when needed. Also, that he will be part of developing legislation that is, in Bob's words, "beneficial to our communities, our nation and the whole world".

Also, Bob asked for prayer that Parliament will produce the "best legislation possible".

Bob also asked for prayer about our democracy, and participation of people in that.

He is concerned that people do not take democracy and freedom of speech for granted. He wants people to keep on participating and being active in local and national government, so that the freedom that we enjoy is continued and protected.

Finally, Bob requested prayer for the many individuals that he tries to help in his work. They often come to him with very difficult and serious problems.

Please pray for wisdom and perseverance for Bob and his team as they endeavour to help.

We pray for legislation that will benefit our communities, our nation, and the whole world.

Prayer for MPs

Two groups are set up to pray for our local MPs. If you would like to pray for **Bernard Jenkin**, please contact Teresa Lasky at admin@colchesterprayer.net Tel 01206 244235

If you would like to pray for **Bob Russell**, please contact Richard Smith r_g_smith@hotmail.com Tel 01206 522781

Please give details of your postal address, church affiliation and the name of your minister if you would like to be involved.

An Open Heaven in 2007

This slogan came to me while I was preparing a series of talks regarding "Increase".

The Bible says in Proverbs 10:15 ***"The rich man's wealth is his strong city, but the destruction of the poor is their poverty."***

Rich people are able to make a difference in this world because they have the means to invest, build, give etc, but people that are in poverty very seldom can make a difference in their communities.

Where so many Christians are trying to get material and financial wealth, I believe the Church has missed something of great value. I believe that like in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. There is a spiritual poverty in the Church that needs to be addressed. The Bible says is the God who brings increase. How about believing Him for an increase of His glory to fill our Churches again?

Unless we see an increase of God's presence in our lives and in our Churches, the backslider, the unsaved, the prostitute, the drug addict cannot get from us what they really need, and that is the presence of God in us touching them. If there is a poverty of spirit, they will not enter the Church doors, but go to some spiritualist or medium to find what they are looking for.

To experience this open heaven in Colchester, we must believe and see that the following 7 areas of increase is demonstrated in the Church.

1. **Increase of Love** (1 Thess. 3:12). We need more love in the Church. Too many fights and divisions that hinder the work of God.

2. **Increase in Faith** (Luke 17:5). Faith is so vital to our Christian walk because it puts us in a position where believe that what is impossible with man is possible with God.

3. **Increase in Righteousness** (2 Cor. 9:10). The Christians need to start doing the 'right' thing which is measured by their obedience to the Word of God.

4. **Increase in Wisdom** (James 1:5). Our wisdom has limitations, that is why we need more of God's wisdom for what we need to do to impact our community.

5. **Increase in Disciples** (Acts 6:7). Notice I did not say people. God adds the people, but we must make disciples with those that we already have.

6. **Increase in Blessing** (3 John 1:2). This could mean an abundance of thankfulness, and joy because of what Christ has done for us

7. **Increase in Anointing** (John 3:34). More of His glory and His presence filling the tabernacles of our Churches.

God wants to pour out from heaven more of Himself because it is a demonstration that He is real to us and a sign and a wonder to the unbelieving. Are you expecting a mighty move of God in Colchester? Then purpose in your heart to have these seven areas of increase become evident in your life. If it is in your life, then when we meet corporately, it will automatically be in the Church.

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

Tony Sands, Pastor, Christian Outreach Centre Colchester

SMILE Mega Kids Club
Friday 5th January 7 pm - 8 pm
Stanway Secondary School
For more details
www.smilepuppetministry.org.uk
Tel 01206 735925

Prayer Breakfast
Saturday 6th January 2007

Time: 8.30 am - 10.00 am
Venue: Stanway Evangelical Church, Chapel Road

24/7 Prayer Room
28th January to 4th February
 St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road
(See page 3 for more details)

Colchester Prayernet Mobile Prayer School is in Chelmsford from January 9th, each Tuesday until February 22nd.

For more information contact Teresa:
schools@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

24/7 prayer week in our church at Alresford to start the new year. It is running from 31st December - 7th January. Already many of the night slots are signed up and I am so thrilled at the way God is working.

For more information contact:
 Marguerite & Alex Mccann 826896
margueritemccann@yahoo.co.uk

Ruth

Through the Gateway

"This week, I had the privilege of being invited to spend time with regeneration workers from Holland, Denmark and Germany. This is because I am involved as a volunteer with Hythe regeneration. It was part of a European Union initiative called BSure that links Regeneration projects in harbour towns and cities.

I submit the following reflections

1. The very fact that this project has been set up and financed is confirmation of Colchester's place as a gateway city, and the need to see and pray for Colchester in its European context.
2. There has been favour on people in Europe working together. All the workers told stories of how the links have helped their projects. One particular story was of a project in Crete being successfully replicated in Poland, even though those countries seem very different. The European visitors were able to see new things about difficulties and opportunities in the Hythe area. They were also listened to by local political leaders, per-

haps more listened to than local regeneration workers have been. They also challenged local political leaders and provoked a reaction.

3. I also saw that local political leaders have a desire for good things happening at the Hythe. However, they seem unable to see a way through some of the problems and challenges

4. Also a local political leader thinks that there had been little progress at the Hythe because of the other multi million pound projects happening in Colchester. Is this a symptom of being money led, rather than justice led?

5. Furthermore, a local political leader also stated the lack of decisive power that Colchester Borough Council have. He stated that he saw Colchester Local Strategic Partnership, a group of political leaders and business and arts and education leaders, as the real strategic leaders of Colchester. Is this confirmation of God's desire to work through every sphere of life in our town.

I suggest the following prayer areas

1. Thank God for what He is doing in Europe - blessing peaceful co-operation and enabling us to learn from each other. Also for the redemption of derelict areas of gateway cities. Pray blessing on those other gateway cities - in Holland, Germany and Denmark. Including Rotterdam, Hamburg, Emden, Bremerhaven.

2. Please pray for the Hythe. For the provision of what that needy community needs. For blessing and wisdom on the leaders and workers. For revelation of the new ways forward, because the old ways are not producing results.

3. Thank God for the work of the church in the Hythe. That where the church has been working there has been fruit. And the other agencies have recognised the success of the work. This is especially true for Colchester Area Community Church and the Kube youth club. Pray for more opportunities, more workers, and more fruit".

Richard (CBRC)

24/7 Prayer Room



Come shout, listen, be still, give thanks or question God

All of the above can happen and more in a prayer room.

St Stephen Church, Canterbury Road, Colchester is opening up a prayer room between **28th Jan to 4th Feb 2007** and would like to welcome all people, and all ages to come and experience the prayer room and spend some time with God.

The prayer room is open 24 hours a day during these dates

and we hope the room will be intimate and creative.

You simply sign up for an hour by phoning the number below and the rest is up to you and God. The prayer room is run in conjunction with 24-7 prayer and more information about this brilliant organization is available via www.24-7prayer.com.

If you have any specific prayer requests you would like to be brought to the prayer room please also contact us.

"The 24-7 prayer movement is one of the most out-of-control God things anywhere on the

planet at the moment. Whatever you do, don't just read about it – Catch the fire!" (Andy Hawthorne-Director, The Message trust)

Thank you Chris Liddamore
01206 512845
st.stephens@xalt.co.uk

The parish of St James the less and St Helen, Priory Street, is offering a Week of Accompanied Prayer, from Sunday 25th February, 2007, to Sunday 4th March, 2007. We warmly invite you to take part with us. There will be more information in the New Year.

The Lakes Ministry

The ministry in the Lakes Mental Health Unit in Colchester began in December 2005 when a group held a carol concert for the patients. The event was a huge success and most importantly, God really showed up! The group was then invited by the hospital chaplain to visit with a team on a regular basis to minister to the patients.

I Samuel 16:14-23 recounts the relationship between King Saul and David. Saul is tormented by an evil spirit and his counsellors advise him to "search for someone who can play the harp" and so "whenever the spirit...came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul, he would feel better and the evil spirit would leave him." There is power in worship, and there is power wherever

God's presence is manifest. This is the principle behind the ministry in the Lakes; to worship God, invite His presence, and allow the Spirit to touch and change peoples' lives.

The patients at the Lakes all have some form of mental health issue. Some have been admitted voluntarily, whilst others have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act. The most glorious thing is that all these people are loved by Jesus and can find total freedom in Him!

At present visits take place on a fortnightly basis on a Sunday afternoon and include an informal service that lasts no more than an hour. Within the hour there is a short message and discussion where the patients are encouraged to contribute. Every visit ends with an opportunity for individual prayer ministry for patients. This time is

often very powerful as the time of worship, prayer and discussion raises issues in individual lives which results in a very open attitude towards personal prayer.

We thank God for this amazing opportunity. We pray for the team that visits and for the staff and patients at the Lakes; for lives transformed by the love and power of Jesus.

The team is now looking for those who can join the intercessory prayer team. If you are interested, please contact me with your name, postal address, church and minister details. lorraine@kingsland.org.uk or via the Kingsland Church office on 01206 508948

Feedback

"In September I was walking along the edge of the Barracks near Abbeygate and I felt God saying "You must not pray for Colchester for the sake of Colchester, you must pray for Colchester for the sake of the world"

I have thought and prayed about this for a couple of months, and believe that this is true for these days - If Colchester is a gateway city, and God has declared the 'gate is open' (and I believe he has), we can no longer pray as we used to.

I think God is asking for a maturity in our prayers and our lives - not just asking "bless me for my sake" but instead asking "bless me in order that I can serve You better" - individually and as a church and as a city... Asking "bless us as individuals in order that we can live lives of integrity, bless us as

church in order that we can bless our city, bless our city in order that we can take your gospel to the nations".

If we are a gateway city, and if that gate is open we must take responsibility with our prayers and our lives. We must watch what comes in and leaves the city - and pray these are the things God wants to see...

Praying with Richard today I had a picture of a world map jigsaw - at first it was black and white, then as I watched, I 'zoomed in' and saw individuals doing they're bit (living and praying). Gradually as they were obedient, the picture changed. Each jigsaw piece became colourful - and gradually the whole map became colourful. I felt the picture was

another confirmation of the above - that we should all play our small part faithfully, but keep looking to God for the big picture (especially crucial as 'gateway' people) in order that we keep seeing his Kingdom and purposes outworked!"

Katy

To contact Teresa Lasky please write to:

1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt.
(01206 242235) or email:
admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

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.

CO1



CO1 is the local Christian charity renovating Holy Trinity Church by the library in Colchester, into a youth outreach centre, music venue and public café. Here we will be able to host events. Other youth or Christian projects can also use it as a venue for their special celebrations, events or even weekly Sunday services!

What's happening now?

January Sale - Saturday 13th!

CO1 will be opening its doors for a special "behind the scenes" preview.

In order to assist in the fundraising and to give some "ownership" to the community, CO1 is having a January sale... but what are we selling?

It's really a sponsorship drive - we need many things like taps and toilets, microphones and micro-waves, sofas and soft furnishings, bricks and paint...

If you want a look inside the newly emptied church and look into the

not-too-distant future then come along between **10am - 4pm on Saturday 13th January** and come and buy some thing - we'll take cash or a cheque!

What's in it for you?

Those who spend £20 get a Gold Discount Card (10% off for an entire year!)

Those who spend £10 get a Silver Discount Card (5% off for an entire year!)

For more information visit the website: www.co1.org.uk

Many thanks,

Phil Toms

Webmaster & Trustee

CYO

On Monday Tim and two Trustees met with three applicants for the post of Youth and Schools Worker with CYO.

It was a joy to meet with three such excellent candidates, all with a clear passion to reach young people with the gospel and, between them, a wide range of relevant skills and experience. All of this made our deliberations that much harder, but after prayer and much discussion we are pleased to let you know that we have appointed Tom Haward, from West Mersea Free Church, to the post. We'll bring you more news about Tom soon.

Please pray for Tom and for Tim (this is going to get confusing!) as they prepare for this new phase in the life of CYO.

Please pray for the other two candidates (it's not fair to name them here) who are left continuing to seek God's plans for the next step in their respective ministries. This post is part funded for which we praise God, but please pray that more people will be inspired to support CYO in the coming months.

Tim Abbott
Director, CYO

PS

We're still looking for accommodation for the new member of Collective. Please pray that we'll find the right host household. If you are considering this, or know someone who might be suitable, please get in touch urgently. Thanks.

As we enter 2007 a challenge from Daniel Cozens Through Faith Missions:

"In my mail recently I was invited by an organization to donate thousands of pounds towards the production of a survey to find out how people are converted. Discovering trends can be useful, but I'll put my money again into Through Faith Missions where the answer is clear: **Preach the gospel of Christ crucified.**

Lay hands on the sick. Embrace this hurting world. Go beyond the church. Follow the words and instructions of the Lord Jesus, and live and preach the Gospel, the blessed life-changing Gospel, to the multitudes out there. Don't analyse the ship—take it on the high seas! Do some fishing". Amen!