



May 2007

Street Pastors

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On 4th April representatives from the Church, the Police and the Council gathered at Castle Methodist Church. There we heard about the inspirational work of Street Pastors (SP). We heard stories of the church on the street, going out to people, meeting them where they are at. By caring, listening and helping people God is touching lives and street crime rates have dropped.

What is a Street Pastor?

“A Street Pastor is a Church leader or member with a concern for society - in particular young people - and who is willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (i.e. their perspective of life) and location (i.e. where they hang out - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc).

Street Pastors will also be willing to work with fellow activists, church and community leaders, and with agencies and projects, both statutory and voluntary, to look at ways of working on issues affecting youth, and initiatives that will build trust between them and the SP.

As the SP gets to know people in the community they will find out what their needs are and what can be done to help. A presence of SP will earn credibility in the community, so that people know that the Church is there for them in a practical way. The role is not about preaching heaven and hell, but one of listening, caring and helping - working in an unconditional way.

To be a SP you need to be over 18

(no upper age limit), a church member and able to commit to a 12 session training course in three groups of four Saturdays over a year. The course includes subjects such as counselling skills, drugs awareness, sociology, knowing your community, role and responsibility, and street safety.

Each SP team consists of at least three groups of four, each of which will work a minimum of one night a month, usually from 10pm to around 4am”. Ascension Trust
www.streetpastors.org.uk

Street Pastors in Colchester

The next stage of this process is an open meeting for all those interested in being part of a Colchester Street Pastors project.

This will be on **Friday 25th May from 9:30pm - 11:00pm** at Eld Lane Baptist Church. For more information contact Tim Abbott, 01206 863835 or tim@cyocolchester.org.uk

At this meeting the vision and practicalities of SP will be explained to those new to the idea. This will also be the time to nominate a core team to take the process forward.

Please pray for:

- People to catch the vision and ethos of SP
- The partnership between church, police and council
- The release of resource, funding and people
- A core team to take this forward
- This initiative to be established in Colchester

Matthew 9:36—38

‘When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord therefore to send out workers into the harvest field”.

University of Essex

Many thanks to those of you who pray for the work of Friends International (F.I.)

Praise God that:

- The Easter outing to Sudbury went well, with all the Christian literature being taken by the students when we had a picnic in Sudbury Baptist church! (We ran out for the first time!)
- Many students attended Easter services
- 10 students attended the

showing of the JESUS film on Easter Saturday with one student exclaimed excitedly "Now I know why the cross is used as a symbol, and why Jesus died."

Please pray for:

- The Bible studies this term, that they will be well attended, despite exam time.
- The arrangement of the summer pre-session programme. That we will have contact with many pre-session students

this year.

- That there will be NO suicides/deaths or robberies on campus this year.
- The campus to be a safe place.
- Thomas Yapp as he is inducted at the **Anglican Chaplaincy on May 16th** that he will always be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for praying,
Joan Davies

United Worship

Summer Sounds

Please pray for the worship band 'Presence' as they are involved in the Summer Sounds initiative in the town centre all through this summer. Rob writes:

"Summer Sounds is an initiative set up by the Colchester town partnership to encourage more of a "cafe culture" around the town. It was explained to me as a counter measure against the drinking culture that seems to rise up after work on Friday. By setting up groups of musicians around the cafe areas, we are hoping to attract a relaxed atmosphere as people stay to listen and use the cafes. As opposed to finish work, get drunk and have a fight!

"Presence" like to use the opportunity to bless the town by helping with the project and by singing positive stuff - good news for the poor, freedom for the captives. The reaction is usually great with people asking more about what we are singing, and rarely escaping without being prayed for! We are expecting more dates this year and hope to use as many as we can. We are praying for more and more of a "prophetic edge" this year, hoping to declare much

more of the Father's heart for Colchester. I am excited about the prospect of the indigenous song being sung around the place and hope that we see more of this".

UNITY music group

Thank you for your prayers, love and concern for us as a group. We really do value your support.

June 6th

Unity will be singing & sharing testimony at an Evening Ladies Fellowship group at Meadgate Church in Chelmsford.

June 9th

We will be taking part in an Inter-denominational 'Grace & Mercy' conference at 'Christchurch' Church, Ireton Rd in Colchester.

July 4th

We will be singing at a Parkinson's Disease Association Charity Event at 'Christchurch' Church, Ireton Rd in Colchester.

In Philippians 4:4-9, it says, 'Rejoice in the Lord always...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'.

We would particularly appreciate your prayers for protection, and for God's strength & enabling during the following events, coming up over the next few months.

Many thanks once again.

Thank you again for your prayers and support, Unity

www.unitygospel.co.uk

This year's **Civic Service** to welcome and pray for the new Mayor of Colchester will be held at St John's Church, Ipswich Rd, Colchester on **Sunday 27th May at 10:30 am.**

Vocations Day. At St John's Church, Ipswich Rd on

Saturday 19th May. This day is an opportunity for anyone wanting to explore church ministry and is organised by the Bishop's Area Team for Colchester. For more information contact St John's church office, or drop in on the day!

Prayer Breakfast

Date: Saturday 5th May

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

St Mary the Virgin Church, New Church Rd, West Bergholt

The Police

"The Police Service needs your prayers as we celebrate the **National Day of Prayer for the Police Service on 17 May 2007.**

Your Police Service needs Christians to support them in their work. Please consider linking with local Christian Officers and Staff to develop prayer networks and support community projects. Please watch our backs.

Jesus told us to pray that his Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. There is no place in God's Kingdom for injustice, fear, hatred, dishonesty, addiction and violence. These are the very things your Police Ser-

vice is seeking to tackle.

So please pray:

- That senior officers may have wisdom to direct their forces well and have concern for all their staff
- That local forces would be effective in administering justice, supporting victims, preventing and detecting crime, reducing the fear associated with it and building public confidence
- That officers will be kept safe and will enforce the law with integrity and wisdom especially in volatile situations
- That officers and their families would be protected from the effects of stress and know

God's peace in their lives

- That Christian Police Officers and support staff will be strong and effective in their witness within the Police Service
- That God would crush the forces of evil that are at work in the lives of individuals and communities which lead to addiction, despair, crime and disorder
- That the church would respond to local issues and help bring communities together with the police to tackle local problems effectively"

For further details contact:

Christian Police Association
Phone - 01234 272 865
Email - info@CPAuk.net

Colchester 2020

Here is some feedback from the most recent Colchester 2020 Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) meeting on 15th March. As ever, the workshops were stimulating and exciting with plenty of opportunity to have your say! We discussed the following aspects of town life.

- Gateways
- Business
- River environment
- Heritage and culture
- 2012 Olympics
- Town Centre
- Employment and job skills
- Life opportunities
- Transport
- Climate change

As before we will use some of the statements made to stimulate prayer!

⇒ "Most assembly meetings are information giving but Colchester is here to *DO* something."

- ⇒ "We need to be proud of what we are and celebrate who we are"
- ⇒ "This is a moment in time, don't believe it when people say 'it would have happened anyway'!"
- ⇒ "Need to consider promotion of Colchester at Gateways internationally".
- ⇒ "Branding us as not just the 'oldest recorded town' but the 'oldest town with the brightest future'."
- ⇒ "Need to be more coordinated so we are pulling in the same direction!"

About life opportunities:

There are still some geographical areas of deprivation in Colchester

1. Agencies need to be better co-ordinated so there is uniformity in opportunities across the town
2. Need to identify agencies with common goals and targets 'shared vision'. Shared vision will unlock resources for Colchester

3. Can Colchester 2020 influence agencies to deliver vision?

About business:

A business vision has been launched which aims to:

1. Co-ordinate marketing for town 'Open for Business'
2. Identify land opportunities for business development
3. Lobbying central government to make sure there is less red-tape and more flexibility for businesses
4. Better advice and information sharing to enable people to access local businesses

About the 2012 Olympics:

1. Need to unlock funding
2. Deal with apathy in Colchester about Olympics
3. Business sector and voluntary sector need to help University
4. Need to encourage volunteering (a four year programme from 2009)

CYO News

Schools and groups

God has been answering our prayers when it comes to creating openings in schools. Last month we were praying for new opportunities in Sir Charles Lucas, St. Helena and Thomas Lord Audley Schools. Since then we've taken assemblies and lessons in Thomas Lord Audley School, lessons in Sir Charles Lucas School and have received an invitation to take some lessons in St. Helena. We have also continued with lessons and assemblies at the Gilbert and Alderman Blaxill schools. Once again we've found that many students have a very real interest and honest questions about what it means to be a Christian.

The lunchtime group led by Amy, Tim and Tom at the Gilbert School continues, with a bunch of young people who are wanting to know more about Christianity. At Sir Charles Lucas School Amy and Keith (from Colchester Area Community Church) are meeting with students in a more pastoral role. During another lunchtime Amy works with young adults at the Townhouse. This work is in a specifically non-faith setting, yet Amy is often asked about her views as a Christian.

- Thank God for the many openings that we, and others, have to share our faith in appropriate ways in schools.
- Pray for Amy in her work at the Townhouse.
- Please pray for God's clear guidance as we seek to develop our ministry to young people through schools work.

Collective

Last month was amazing. We sense God preparing a generation of young people ready to be disciples and impact their peers with the power of their testimonies! We were working in The

Harwich School. Spiritually, it was a tough week but through the power of prayer we overcame. The lessons were fantastic and as the students got to know us, their questions became more searching. In fact, their response was so overwhelming we had to turn some away from the Friday night concert. The following Monday a year 11 boy announced to his entire French class that he had been seriously challenged about the reality of God at the concert and now considered himself a Christian!

CYO prayer needs:

- We are advertising for a new Finance Manager (paid, part-time).
- Due to a change in the circumstances of their respective hosts, we need to find new host households for two members of Collective.
- Collective need a sound engineer who can work with them in schools.
- We continue to seek an increase in the number of individuals supporting CYO financially.
- We are still looking for a new office base – we really do need somewhere with more space!

Thanks—CYO

Tom Haward

Tom Haward has joined CYO as the new schools worker. We welcome him and pray for him in this new role. He says: "The Church is not a fashion statement or a current fad; it is the empowered body of Christ. To reach young people and keep them is my vision. I don't want to see thousands of young people making 'commitments' and within weeks drifting away from the Church. Christianity cannot be something, which is simply an add-on to a young person's life, but something that is their life. Boldly and unashamedly Christ-centred, holy young people is part of my

vision and let us pray for that. In the schools we enter there are many students who are spiritually hungry, soul searching if you will, and need the crucified, risen and ascended Light of the World to drive out the darkness in their lives. They thirst for God and need someone to tell them about Him. I don't believe the answer is to 'reinvent church' so that it is moving in line with throw away contemporary culture, but to show young people how the Triune God brings lasting liberty. By grace they will be saved; please pray, plead for grace to be poured out on the young people of Colchester's schools. We will then see Spirit-filled ambassadors for Christ moving through our streets".

Tom Haward

CYO Youth and Schools Worker

Grace and Mercy Ladies Day

at Christchurch, Ireton Road, on June 9th 2007, from 10.00-4.00. Everyone is welcome to this event to hear Dotha Blackwood speak. She is a lecturer at Mooreland's College, and Spring Harvest.

Unity, a local group of ladies are coming to lead worship and tell us about their involvement with children in the Philippines.

Cost of the day £6.00 (including a ploughman's lunch) *Tickets available from Mavis Knight (540650), Juliet Keay (382621) and Pauline Stevens (544257)*

"We would really value prayer for this event. It came about after God laid on my heart almost 2 years ago that the ladies of Colchester need to hear about His grace and mercy. I believe that this could make a huge impact on ladies in Colchester and just long with all my heart that lots of ladies will come and receive from the Lord". *Pauline*



Feedback answered prayer

Colchester Area Community Church. "Just to say thank you to all who prayed for us last month for our visit to the Philippines. We are now safely home and catching up! following a good time of ministry on Cebu island and a restful holiday en-route on the way home. We felt we were able to make a positive contribution into the life and outreach of the church in Toledo city, including a well received conference for church leaders from the area and the opportunity to preach to 200 who have been awaiting trials for many months in the local prison. You cannot imagine the basic cramped conditions and we were able to take in some simple gifts of soap and tooth brushes, etc to make their lives a little better, as well as preaching via interpretation.

Thanks again for supporting us in prayer." Kindest regards,
Roy & Dorothy Wheeler

Essex County Standard

"Fatal road crashes in Colchester have halved", despite the area being named as one of the worst places for being involved in a serious traffic incident. The number of people being seriously injured has also dramatically reduced. The figures were revealed by road policing officers after the area was ranked third worst in the county for serious collisions. More than 100 fewer collisions have been recorded in the borough over the last three years.

From CYO

"At our team prayer time on Thursday morning we each shared news of specific young people we've met through our various ministries over the last week or so. What amazed us all is how many young people we've met who have decided to become Christians or are showing a real personal interest in what it might mean to become a Christian. There is no doubt that something

has changed, opportunities and interest are greater than we've experienced before and, there seems to be a real fruitfulness in every aspect of the different ministries going on under the banner of CYO.

From where we're looking, this really does seem to be the year of the Lord's favour"

Tim Abbott
Director, CYO

Alpha courses. Please continue to pray for Alpha courses starting at the beginning of May. St John's Church Ipswich Rd and Kingsland Church Tiptree both have Alpha courses running at the moment.

New Colchester Mayor. We pray for Ray Gamble and his wife Jenny in their new roles as Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester from 16th May 2007. The Civic Service (detailed in box, page 2) will be on 27th May. We pray for them as they serve our town in this way.

Crime rate down. We thank God for continued reduction in crime rates in Colchester. The Essex County Standard news reports a drop of 6% over the last year. Let's continue to pray!

St Luke's Church, Highwoods

"In October our vicar Peter Cook and his wife Ineke left on their exciting adventure of serving the Lord in Bangkok. We very much wanted our period of interregnum to be a season of prayer both for ourselves to be prepared for God's future plans for us and to pray about the appointment of our new vicar. In January we had a week of prayer prior to advertising for our new vicar.

Inspired by the boiler room, I had been praying that one day we might have a prayer room. But we don't have a building! This prayer was answered by some of our young people making

the Vicarage garage into a prayer room to use during the week of prayer.

On the day of the interview we had our little prayer room open and over 20 people came at different times to cover the day in prayer. It was very encouraging to me as prayer leader that this happened but what was even more encouraging was that several people reported back to me afterwards about what an good time they had praying in the prayer room! We were able to pass on to those involved in the vicar selection words the Lord had given as people prayed.

It was announced in our Easter Sunday service that our new minister is Jeremy Noles. He will be coming with his wife Gill and 2 daughters from Southend and is due to start working here in September.

We have been very conscious of God's hand being on all this. Our prayer room is only temporary as the present vicarage is going to be sold. Maybe the Lord will provide us with a new prayer room!

We're confident that our new leader is chosen by God and we're looking forward to God's future plans for us. I think God has used our times of prayer to draw His children closer to Him!"

Gillian Hobbs

Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month.

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.