



November 2007

Tollgate Project

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You may remember in June we prayed for a new ecumenical project planned for the Tollgate area of town. In April representatives of various denominations attended a meeting to share vision and pray together.

Facts about Tollgate Area.

The building of 600 new houses has already been agreed, 200 are under construction and further housing is possible. There are also areas earmarked for industry and mixed economy retail. Money has been identified for a community centre and primary school.

At the meeting the Tollgate group shared some of their dreams and visions for the area. Ideas included:

- Provision of a crèche for people using the retail park, for work, leisure or shopping.
- A “meeting place” venue run in cooperation with social services for estranged parents and children, or those needing supervised access.
- A “listening post” or mobile unit on the car park of retail centre. A place where people could drop in for a confidential chat, a listening ear, support or prayer.
- A venue for ecumenical worship, at times and in ways to suit the community – fresh expressions of church
- A counselling service
- A Christian healing centre
- A Christian Book shop and Fair-trade outlet
- A conference centre to host large

scale Christian events

- Chaplaincy to the stores

Other ideas were added:

- Find out from residents of Tollgate what they feel is needed.
- Prepare a pack for new residents that contains details of the various churches’ service times and other events
- A welcome steward who would visit a new resident (armed with cake and the pack)
- Young people’s events and activities (it seems likely that many households with secondary age children will be among the incomers as Stanway School is highly regarded).
- Street pastor scheme
- The relocation of a church, currently looking for a new home.
- Joint Alpha course

The meeting was well attended and the Tollgate Project team were encouraged to find others who shared their interpretation of God’s plan for Tollgate. However, since the meeting these plans have met with resistance and so it would be good to pray for:

- This project
- The churches involved, for united vision
- God’s purpose for the Tollgate Community
- The Tollgate Project team, for wisdom and discernment.

Prayer for our Nation

This letter from Dr. Jonathan Oloyede is being sent via prayer networks and churches to every Christian leader in our nation.

“Dear Leader, Warm Greetings

Today I write to you in great gentleness of heart and in all meekness. I would ask that you read this letter prayerfully with the same spirit in which it is written.

Great Britain, once a missionary powerhouse of the world, now stands at a crossroads. As a nation she has drifted far from the boundaries of her Father’s anchorage. A ship at the mercy of strong sea currents, adrift from her moorings.

I write to you because I have a strong conviction that God is saying that together we *can* do something about the desperately sad state of affairs. As God’s representative in your church, community or city – you can turn the tide.

The single most urgent message this letter brings is a *Call to Prayer*. I believe that God is calling His leaders irrespective of denomination, age or gender to lead His people back into His presence.

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

My conviction is that, He wants you to intensify your prayer life and then to inspire and teach His people to do the same. Many private altars are dusty, dry and desolate.

He wants you to challenge the Church of His chosen people to come back to their private altars; repair them and offer again the

sacrifices of thanksgiving, supplication and intercession. He wants daily sacrifice from all His people.

Also I perceive that God is saying; there is no lack or want of busy *Martha’s* but that the spirit of *Mary* who sat at the feet of Jesus simply to hear is becoming scarce. An endangered species. He wants us to repent and recover our Sabbath.

It is evident to me that He wants us to repent of our busyness and repair the prayer altars of our lives and of our people and congregations. He wants you and I to stay in His presence more to *listen* than to talk. Waiting for His instructions before acting; Faith must precede Intelligence and Stillness before Strategy. The Church of Britain needs to kneel before the Lord in submission so that she does not bow before the enemy in defeat.

This letter is a Call to Action. Passionate pursuits birthed in deep contemplation and meditation. Apparently, God wants you to organise regular Prayer meetings that you will facilitate yourself despite your schedule. He wants you to join other leaders and Christians in local, regional and city-wide prayer gatherings. He wants prayer included in our priority list.

He is calling all men and women, boys and girls to pray. For whole families; husbands and wives, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, to join hands in prayer everywhere. For people to gather in offices, warehouses, pubs, schools, colleges, court rooms, banks, street corners, restaurants, shops, parks, hotels, homes, houses, apartments and community centres – everywhere.

I believe God has asked me to invite you on his behalf to – “Come into His presence everyday so that He can make your way prosperous

with real eternal success, divine favour and grace”.

May God visit The United Kingdom once again in mercy not judgement. May the United Church rise up in the fullness of the Spirit – infused with the breath of Heaven, the inspired Scriptures and the fellowship of the saints. May the legacy of its Christian forebears not be forsaken or forgotten. **May God bless the United Kingdom”.**

Dr Jonathan Oloyede

Senior Associate Pastor Glory House, Convener Global Day of Prayer London

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“I have written this letter in great reverence and meekness of soul. It is not a criticism of any ministry, person or stream. It is simply an instruction given to me to deliver to all Christian leaders in the UK. I write this without bias or prejudice. I have struggled with some of its contents, not wanting to offend anyone or attack God-fearing servants of God. If applicable, take it to heart. If not, please discard and simply pray for me. This is not an attack on your gallant and tremendous efforts to establish God’s kingdom in your community, sphere and in the hearts of people. It is simply a strong conviction of a message from the heart of God. ‘Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself’ Phil 2:3; Eph 4:1-6”

Dr Jonathan Oloyede

Nightstop and Soup Run



"I am doing a sponsored sleep out on **30th November** in aid of Colchester Nightstop, as part of the Chelmsford Homelessness Awareness sleepout at the cathedral.

I am looking for some prayer support and also some sponsors, if possible. I can be contacted on 01206 523629 for further details. Blessings",
Jeannette Hewes

Colchester Soup Run

As the winter months approach we turn our attention and

prayers to those who are homeless and to those that provide services to support them.

We pray for those involved in the Soup Run. Here are some prayer requests from Mark Ambrose.

" Since Rodney Sawtell retired we are in need of someone else to help with soup run leadership. I am continuing the admin side, but need someone else to help.

Please also pray for:

- The two new churches that hope to join the run next year— Stanway evangelical, and the Tiptree churches.
- Gosbeck's Christian Fellowship who are unable to continue due to the health of Denis Codd who we hold in our

prayers, a very special person to all the soup run volunteers!

- The soup run Christmas lunch at Lion Walk URC.
- All the wonderful teams who give so regularly of their time and effort for this most exciting and worthwhile service.

Many thanks" Mark Ambrose.

If you would like to be involved in the Colchester Soup Run please contact Mark Ambrose at Plume Avenue URC.

We continue to pray for the many ways the Church in Colchester ministers to the homeless, vulnerable, and socially isolated people groups in this town.

Journey Into Wholeness (JIW)

JIW prayer room report.

"Katy and I really enjoyed hosting the Journey into Wholeness prayer room at the St Pauls Centre from 28th - 30th September. We were blessed with good help setting up the prayer room and with creative ideas and with generous support from prayers. Thanks especially to Ann, Trish, Nicky, Jason, Joan, Paul and Chris. And big thanks to Katy - what a star!

My favourite prayer area was the *poustinia* created by Nicky. a very black tent for experiencing darkness and calm and closeness to God.

I especially enjoyed the evening meals. It was fabulous to see friends from different places and different church congregations getting together and sharing and praying.

Also, it was great to support Journey into Wholeness <http://www.journeyintowholeness.net/> who had a stall at the Mind Body Soul exhibition. They had good opportunities to talk to people about Jesus, inspired by a painting of Jesus being completed on the stall. They also had a chance to pray with some people". Love Richard

Here's a report from a friend who visited the prayer room; "I did get to the prayer room, and I was glad I went. I'd got a very busy weekend ahead of me and it provided a lovely oasis. I met with Audrey Castle who I haven't seen for years and we prayed together until others arrived. I love the way Christians go to so much effort to provide such a space and also it feels like we 'unite' together for a purpose."

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 3rd November 2007
Time: 8.30 am - 10 am
Venue: Mariner's Chapel, Rowhedge.

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester.

On November 18th there will be a borough wide celebration service at 8pm. This will take place at Plume Avenue United Reformed Church and the speaker will be Rev Alan Wright, Chaplain, St Helena Hospice. All welcome!

*Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month. Write to Teresa Lasky at 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt, CO6 3JL or to **contribute to next month's prayer guide** contact Marie Morris at: info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk*

Government of our town

'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'.

We pray for:

- Continued coming together of the church and those in governmental leadership in Colchester.
- The church to gain credibility continue in unity and express Jesus servant leadership.
- Church influence in every sphere – business, education, media, health etc
- The leaders of our town to encounter God!

- Christian leaders in our town as they stand in places of influence. As they network together, pray and advance the Kingdom of God.
- Those relationships already in place, For the work of Street Pastors, CYO, United Solutions and many other partnerships.

Update on Street Pastors (SP).

Please continue to pray for the establishment of SP for our town. Training has started, please pray for all those involved and for the SP management team. The proposed launch date for SP will be **8th December** at the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall. Police and Council members will be present and it is hoped that this event will get good publicity.

Prayer Hearing

Prayer Hearing .

How do we pray - and where?

How are we renewed in our enthusiasm to be disciples of Jesus where we live and work?

Join with Bishop David, Bishop of Barking to "wait on God".

Prayer Hearing. Wednesday 21st November, at the Drama Studio, Alderman Blaxill School, Paxman Avenue, Colchester. Starts 7.30pm for coffee, 8pm - 9.30pm.

Prayer Hearings are for everyone whether you draw inspiration from Walsingham, New Wine, Tolleshunt Knights or Greenbelt. They are for anyone who would like to "wait on God" in an open, exploratory way and with the encouragement of each other's company.

Hear something about the locality in which we meet. Share with one another how we pray. Spend time in listening and discernment.

For further information contact Richard Smith: 01206 522781.

Colchester Boiler Room Community.

"Some of us in Colchester Boiler Room Community have started praying a daily prayer at noon everyday, wherever we are. This has been challenging and inspiring for me.

The daily prayer is:
"Lord Jesus, help me to be true to you, kind to people, and take the Gospel to the nations."

We have produced a prayer card that is available free to anyone who would like to join this daily rhythm of prayer. Contact mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk if you'd like a prayer card. Or call Richard on 01206 522781.

For more news from Colchester Boiler Room Community visit our blog www.colchesterboilerroom.blogspot.com For regular updates, subscribe to our group email by contacting mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community

CYO, No Pressure Course

No Pressure

Tom Haward (CYO Schools worker) is finalising the material for this course which helps students look at a number of common pressures facing young people and explore the emotional and spiritual roots behind them. Volunteer helpers get involved, including sharing their own stories and experiences. We are in discussion with one school which is enthusiastic about piloting the course.

Please pray:

- for final approval from the

school and for a member of staff who would like to work with us on this.

- for good uptake by the right young people who will enjoy 'No Pressure' and work together well as a group.
- that young people's lives will be changed and empowered and that they will more aware of the difference God can make in people's lives.

Spirituality Survey

The survey is happening among all of Year 8 and Year 10 in five

schools across Colchester.

We praise God for the welcome this has received and are praying for:

- Inspiration in the development of follow up resources that will enable us to help students discover the
- Spiritual basis for 'life in all its fullness'.
- A few more people with the right skills to help with data entry (2500 forms!)

Through the generations

We so often focus our prayers for the younger generation. This week we want to pray for the elderly.

Exodus 20:12. 'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you'

We give thanks for:

- **Those that have gone before us in this town. For their prayers and faith**
- **Churches that visit and care for the elderly each week**
- **Day centres and those that serve senior citizens, providing meals, activity and social support**
- **The caring professions that provide medical, emotional and practical support to elderly people in our town**

Please pray for:

- The elderly now unable to get to church because of frailty, distance etc. That they may not be overlooked or feel forgotten.

- Ways of reaching elderly who haven't had anything to do with church for years, if at all. Often the hardest group of all to interest.
- Those senior citizens in our churches. That they may be motivated for outreach to their age group and not see evangelism as simply bringing in young people.
- Those who are housebound or in permanent residential care, or nursing homes unable to receive comfort and strengthening through fellowship and communion
- Those afraid and alone, those disillusioned and grieving.
- Those who have responsibility and influence in decision making. That they remember the older people and ensure adequate provision for them
- That God's peace and comfort would be with those who are nearing death or grieving the loss of loved ones.

Prayer walking

In the coming year we would like to see the streets of Colchester prayer walked.

We would like to hear from you, as we are aware that many congregations regularly prayer walk their locality.

In an attempt to record where Colchester has been prayer walked, and locate areas that have not been prayed for in this way, we need your help please either:

- Letting us know where you or your congregation are prayer walking
- Getting in touch if you would like to prayer walk your part of the town

Contact Teresa :

01206 242235 or email
admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

Thank you.

Colchester Business Community. BID

Over recent months we have been praying for the Colchester Business Community. Believing we should pray into every aspect of town life, government, arts and media, health, education, police we pray for those involved in the Business Improvement District (BID) launched this month.

What is a BID ?

An arrangement by which local businesses plan how to improve their own trading environment. Businesses identify projects or services which will add value and agree on the level of funds which they will pay to make it happen.

Colchester businesses have said that they want **an influential voice in what happens in their town and that they want to see actions that make a real difference.**

The Colchester BID area will become cleaner, safer, more attractive and much better promoted, so that there will be clear benefits for businesses, residents and visitors.

The BID proposal is put together with the understanding that the money contributed by businesses is hard-earned and that they want to see results.

This will be a business-led initiative – all businesses in the BID area are invited to be proactively involved. Ipswich, Bedford and Great Yarmouth already have BIDs. Colchester is the first town centre BID in Essex.

Business Special Constables will be recruited from BID area businesses, trained by Colchester Police and will spend some of their weekday time in and around those businesses. At other times they will patrol during evenings and weekends, clearly increasing the visible and effective police

presence on our streets.

Additional uniformed PCSOs (Police Community Support

Officers) will be dedicated to the BID area. Their role will enhance street management and enforcement of the law.

COLBAC. There will be further development of COLBAC (Colchester Business Against Crime). This will increase the existing Exclusion Zone, making Colchester town centre a safer place to shop and visit.

COLBAC membership will also be extended to pubs, clubs and restaurants, this will help to improve people's perception about night-time safety and enhance the leisure experience in the town centre.

Colchester Street Rangers.

Colchester BID will set up a team of Street Rangers, who will be welcome ambassadors for visitors. They will also act as extra eyes and ears on our streets, working with businesses and statutory agencies to reduce the fear of crime and improve commercial viability for BID businesses.

The Street Rangers will provide visitors with maps and other information to help them access BID area shops and services. They will escort visitors and employees to car parks as necessary to ensure that visitors have a pleasant experience in Colchester.

Following on from the success of the new late-night bus route, the BID will develop an additional free late-night route at weekends. This will help to move revellers safely-away from the town centre late at night and encourage a vibrant evening economy.

Other promotions. Colchester BID will organise promotions to:

1. Subsidise the cost of parking for shoppers in the BID area, encouraging more people to visit Colchester, more often.

2. Lobby for new Park & Ride services and help to promote it when in place.

Additional services to work towards:

- The late night bus service could also be developed to provide improved evening bus links from the train stations, and a free late night Christmas shopping service.

- Promotion of car sharing into town.

Colchester businesses will vote on the BID proposal this month, November 2007. Conducted by Colchester Borough Council, the result will be announced by 28th November 2007, and published on the BID website.

www.colchesterbid.co.uk

Seeking Gods Blessing for Colchester.

The next lunch-time meeting for leaders is on 28th November at St Botolphs starting at 12 noon - 2.30pm. These are great times of fellowship and prayer together. The speaker on this occasion will be Revd Chris Walton from Christian Ecology Link. Please continue to pray for unity within Colchester leadership.

Smile Mega Kids Club

Friday 2nd November at Kingsland Church Lexden. Contact Ella Havell. Tel 01206 735925
www.smilepuppetministry.org.uk

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