



# April 2008

## Leaders

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### Colchester Local Elections

As local elections are held on 1<sup>st</sup> May, we take the opportunity to pray for our leaders.

We thank God for:

- Every example of godly leadership
- His transforming help for all who seek Him
- Leaders who choose to serve, especially those who have served faithfully for many years

We repent of:

- The desire to “hold on” to people and possessions rather than release them
- Small thinking and lack of faith

We pray for:

- Effective leadership, that reflects God’s heart for justice in every walk of life.
- The transformation of our communities through decisive and courageous leadership
- Emerging leadership, characterised by humility and love for others
- Leadership that says ‘yes’ to God and is prepared to take risks
- Our leaders to encounter God in fresh and re-energising ways
- Effective team building
- Communication

In national and local government, in business, in schools and in families we pray for godly leadership.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

*Quote Marianne Williamson*

We continue to pray for the MPs for Colchester. Bob Russell (Colchester town) and Bernard Jenkin (Colchester North). Prayer groups are in place to support these MPs, their families and the work that they do. If you would like to be involved please contact CPn.

The next National Prayer Breakfast at Westminster is on Tuesday 24th June 2008 where MPs and constituency prayer group representatives will have chance to eat, pray and talk together.

**Prayer Breakfast**  
Saturday 7th April 2008  
Time: 8.30 am - 10 am  
Venue: St Anne’s Church  
Compton Road





## Fresh expressions

We pray for the Church in Colchester. We pray for that which God has established over the years and for the new expressions that are emerging to enable effective mission in our communities.

**Bishop John Gladwin** (Bishop of Chelmsford (responsible for Church of England in Essex):

"I want to make sure the clergy under my control are using their influence to make a positive contribution to the societies they serve. This is particularly true in Colchester—the counties fastest growing town. On new estates where few residents know their neighbours, and many have moved to the are from elsewhere, how can we make sure people are happy?

The church is up for the job of looking after them. Building community is what we need to be about. Spiritual life is important. It doesn't matter which church takes the lead, the most important thing is to have people there who can carry forward ministry. The C of E or indeed any form of organised religion may not be welcome in the lives of everyone who moves to Colchester. If however they are after some guidance, or even just someone to talk to, his aim is to make sure the church is there for them.

### Fresh Expressions.

We are increasingly learning of fresh expressions of church in Colchester and the surrounding areas, and hearing the phrase "emerging church". We are grateful to: Martin Scott

[www.3generations.eu](http://www.3generations.eu)

Michael Patton;

[www.reclaimingthemind.org](http://www.reclaimingthemind.org) and the fresh expressions website

[www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)

for the following insights as we pray for the Church in our town

and Nation:

***What is it that emerging church is doing differently?*** To serve a diverse mission context, fresh expressions of church are correspondingly varied.

A significant difference in one stream of emerging church is the targeting of a network rather than a neighbourhood for mission; some network churches identify more with where they work and socialise than where they sleep. Another stream is defined by its use of small-group as the context for church (base communities, cell church). Other streams have kept congregation size but have changed where it gathers, when it gathers and what takes place (alternative worship, café church, midweek church, youth congregations). Further still, some emerging churches are embarking on community development where any expression of their worshipping life is low-key and still evolving. Some churches will draw on more than one of these differences as appropriate.

Michael Patton: "I suggest we are in a move of God that is messy. It is about the freedom of God's people to be free to be planted in God's field. We can expect the future to be even more diverse.

There is a crisis in the Western church. But I also believe that we are in the beginnings of something that will make a similar level of impact that the reformation made in its time. This does not mean everything will be tidy, and it certainly means that only a wholehearted commitment to the Gospel will suffice, where the Lord is both Protector and Provider will suffice. BE ENCOURAGED... he did not tell us to plant church, but to make disciples; not to build church, but to seek his kingdom".

We are aware of the following "fresh expressions" in Colchester. Please pray for the emerging church, fresh

expressions, and the work of the Church in Colchester .

- Plume Avenue URC – café church
- St Albrights Stanway—worship on Saturdays
- St Luke's Highwoods – Messy Church (soon to start)
- St John's Ipswich Rd – Café church
- Orchard Baptist – Café church

For more information and links to an extensive range of resources [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)

*"I simply argue that the cross should be raised at the centre of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town's garbage heap; at a crossroad, so cosmopolitan they had to write of a place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died. And that is what He died for. And that is what He died about. That is where church-men ought to be and what church-men ought to be about."* (George MacLeod)

### Company of Prophetic People

**(COPP)** training days. Running in Colchester from April to July. These 4 day-long sessions will be about beginning to journey together in what it means to pursue the voice of God. The course is essentially a space for the practical training of those who are inexperienced but who carry prophetic anointing – as well as a place for the development of existing gifts. for more information go to [www.3generations.eu](http://www.3generations.eu) or Colchester Prayernet website





## Feedback and town news

**Colchester Street Pastors (SP)**  
SP have been out and about in the town centre every Friday night for over two months now. Our ministry of help, a listening ear and practical care has been making a difference to many. Others say they feel safer knowing we're around. And quite a few people we meet, members of the public, the police and door staff, are asking if we can be out on Saturday nights too.

Recently Don Henshall, Business Portfolio Holder for Colchester Borough Council, came out with us for the first part of an evening. He said: *"I really enjoyed my time with you all and can't praise you enough for your efforts on behalf of all the residents of Colchester. Please keep in touch and let me know if I can assist you in the future."*

We're really looking forward to the time when we can have teams out on Fridays and Saturdays, but to do so we need to virtually double the number of Street Pastors.

If you've been thinking about becoming a Street Pastor, please join us for the next round of training on these dates:

25th April - 8pm - 10pm at St Botolph's

9th May - 8pm - 10pm at St. Botolph's

17th May - 10am - 4pm at Mount Zion Salvation Army Centre, Ipswich Road

23rd May - 8pm - 10pm at St. Botolph's

7th June - 10am - 4pm at Mount Zion Salvation Army Centre, Ipswich Road

Coming to the training doesn't commit you to becoming a Street Pastor, but is a good way to find

out if this is for you. If you'd like to come out with us one evening as an observer, please ask. Get in touch for an application form, or let us know you're coming to the training and pick one up there.

### Prayer

One vital aspect of the ministry of Street Pastors is prayer. You can join us any Friday evening from 10:15, but it would be really helpful if you could sign up to be on the prayer rota. We meet at the base in Eld Lane Baptist Church.

Contact us by phone or email (details below).

Street Pastors, Colchester, management group

James Collitt, Revd. Alison Finch, Jim Howard, Katy Smith, Tim Abbott 07855 902827

colchester@streetpastors.org.uk  
www.colchesterstreetpastors.org.uk

### Garrison

Last month we prayed for those members of the Garrison who are about to be posted to Afghanistan. One prayer request was for their personal hygiene, a challenge in the hot and dusty climate with very limited bathing facilities. Asda on Turner Rise has a collection box for toiletries that can be given to the troops as an expression of our support. Open Door and Night Stop also appreciate gifts of this kind.

### Comings and Goings

We pray for Revd Parker (St Anne's, Greenstead) as she moves to a new parish in Stafford, and for St Anne's as they await the appointment of a new minister.

We pray for Revd Ray Gibbs (St Michael's Myland), formerly part-time minister there, and now priest-in-charge.

### 24/7 prayer room - Turkey

Thanks so much for all your encouragement and prayers. We have really felt supported in our trip, and we have seen answers to your prayers. We have been welcomed very well by many friends here. We have been helping run two prayer rooms.

In both prayer rooms there were many prayer requests gathered from the Turkish church.

We give thanks for:

- The provision of the venues
- The church congregations working together here, including a church leaders meeting in the prayer room on Wednesday
- Good team working amongst the Colchester team
- Good response and interest in the prayer rooms
- A policeman visiting the prayer room, and encouraging us, saying he's "here to protect you"
- Holy Spirit visions and words of prophecy that are already starting to flow

Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community

*Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month. Write to Teresa Lasky at 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt, CO6 3JL or email her at:*

*admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk or NEW*

*teresa@colchesterprayernet.co.uk*

**To contribute to next month's prayer guide contact Marie Morris at:**

*info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk or NEW*

*marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk*





## Hope 08

As you are aware this year sees the united church initiative known as "Hope 08". Many people are already thinking about how they can pray for, and bless their local communities. We have become aware of the following ways they can do this within Colchester.

### Ten days of prayer (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May)

Church congregations have been working together to run 24-7 Prayer Rooms in Colchester area since 2000. These Prayer Rooms continue to be a place of inspiration, refreshment and encounter.

Colchester Boiler Room Community would like to co-ordinate a 24-10 Prayer Room at a town centre location 1st – 10th May 2008, in the run up to the Global Day of Prayer 2008.

The vision is that this prayer room will run continuously night and day, and that different congregations can take 12 one hour slots, keeping the prayer room running. The prayer room will be open during the day, so that any interested people can come in and find out about prayer to Jesus.

By running this Prayer Room together we can encourage:- prayer for Hope 2008, church congregations working together, inspiration for fresh actions during Hope 2008, and a place of mission.

24-7 Prayer Rooms could also be part of Hope 2008 action in your local community. Colchester Boiler Room Community would like to serve you by helping you to run a 24-7 prayer room in your area.

### How can you be involved?

- Help us find an accessible venue for the 24-10 Prayer

Room.

- Ask your congregation to commit to taking responsibility for a 12 hour slot in the prayer room, and come and pray in the Prayer Room yourself.
- Plan a 24-7 Prayer Room as part of your action for Hope 2008. All you need is a venue available for a whole week, and willingness to pray and act.

For more information contact [richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk](mailto:richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk) or ring 522781  
*Richard Smith*

### Global Day of Prayer (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May)

Last year 204 countries around the world took part in the Global Day of Prayer. We would like to encourage congregations throughout the borough to take part by using the prayer at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Leaders can download the prayer here <http://www.globaldayofprayer.com/1day.php>. If leaders contact me to let me know they are using it we will be able to compile a list of how many places are taking part. [marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk](mailto:marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk)

### Hope 08

We recognise that congregations are already engaged in activities that bless their communities. To register these with Hope 08, or to get ideas, please go to [www.hope08.com](http://www.hope08.com).

James Collitt (St John's Ipswich Rd) and Lindsey Heslegrave (Eld Lane Baptist Church) are planning a town centre event in partnership with other congregations on Saturday 30th August. James Collitt writes:

#### "What Motivates Me

Since becoming a Christian about 3 years ago, my life has been transformed by the power and truth of Jesus. I believe God has put on my heart a burning desire to share with people the gospel message and to see people come to Christ.

Having been involved in the set up of Street pastors, I have seen first hand what can be done when churches work together and unite. I see Hope 08 as a fantastic opportunity for Churches to work together to demonstrate God's Love in practical ways in our community for our community and to share the Good news of Jesus Christ.

### The Vision and Hope for 2009

It's my Hope that this isn't going to be some one off event, but instead a springboard for future events. We can perhaps make this an annual event for Hope 09 and beyond. When we work together in Christ anything is possible – I pray you'll catch the vision. Amen."

### Vision for Hope 08 Joint church Event

To host an all day event in the town centre. *Proposed date, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August.*

For more information contact [james\\_collitt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:james_collitt@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 07977 510880  
*James Collitt*

We are also hoping and praying for some further prayer activities that unite Christians and are linked to acts of kindness. Could you please let us know of other Hope08 events and activities that you know of, and we will keep you posted as these develop.

**1st - 10th May** - 24/10 Prayer room running in town centre venue

**11th May** - Global day of prayer

**30th August** - Hope for our town centre

More events happening throughout the year. To register yours go to [www.hope08.com](http://www.hope08.com).

To let others in Colchester know about your event contact Marie Morris





## CYO and Friends International

We continue to be amazed at the spiritual hunger and real interest in Christianity shown by so many of the young people we meet. Please pray with us in the following areas.

### Schools

We praise God for the many opportunities we have in the Gilbert School.

We thank God for our work with the RE department at Sir Charles Lucas School. We are praying for a breakthrough for Collective to get involved in other areas of the school life.

The visit of GSUS Live was a great help in developing a relationship with Stanway School. Pray for getting lessons organised here.

Please pray for our work in Thomas Lord Audley. We're also praying that God will open a new door here for Collective.

We're thankful to God for a new season of lessons at St. Benedict's and the likelihood of a mission with Collective in September.

### Collective

Please pray for health for the team. Ally still has problems with her shoulder after it dislocated during rehearsal in Manchester in January. Vicki is now recovered from her appendix operation.

### Office premises

We have identified a possible new home for CYO and Collective in partnership with another organisation which would offer the right facilities in a good location. Please pray for a speedy conclusion to these negotiations.

### Finance

We are praying for an increase in the number of people who support CYO financially as we plan for our ministry beyond 2009. We want to say a big thank you to all those who give to CYO - thanks to you there are young people who have

become Christians or started to think seriously about the Christian faith for the first time. But we need to double the number of people giving regularly - that's just another 60 people! Could you be one of them? Or do you know someone who might consider supporting CYO?

### CYO Celebration

Please note that this year's CYO Celebration will now be on **Saturday 1st November** at St. John's Church. Please get the date in your diary now, we'll have more news as we firm up the details.

### Friends International

Praise for:

- A Japanese girl is being baptised on Easter Sunday and a young fellow from the middle east who we contacted 3 years ago at the university of Essex is also being baptised in a northern town in England. He had been disowned by his family and has lost a good job. He is so thrilled to know Jesus as his Saviour. but the cost has been great.

- A growing number of students and their wives are attending a Bible study.

Gathering of Christian groups on campus recently to have a meal together and a time of sharing and prayer.

Pray for:

- An outing to Bury and Lave ham on 29th March.
- The showing of the Jesus film on Thursday 3rd April

Michael and Caroline as they go to China from April 21st - 9th May 08 and for the right people to help in various activities in their absence.

Thank you for praying!

God bless, from Joan Davies

**Psalm Drummers** is a network of Christian drummers and percussionists that serve the church and the drumming community by hosting events, workshops and offering inspirational teaching resources.

Our core values are rooted in the Christian Faith and God's Word, the Bible. The Psalm Drummer vision is to stir up prayer, praise and worship and lead people to Christ through drumming. It is a call to drummers everywhere to drum out a new beat that carries the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

Psalm Drummers encourage a life lived in time with the heartbeat of God, and in the worship of Jesus Christ. For more info: [www.psalmdrummers.org](http://www.psalmdrummers.org)

Now is the time to **explore the vision in Essex**. Dan Abbott and Michelle Tennens are Christian drummers in Essex who are calling drummers to worship. We have invited Terl Bryant, founder and director of Psalm Drummers and a professional drummer, to share the vision of **Psalm Drummers in Colchester**. Come and catch the vision.

**MONDAY 21ST APRIL, 7.30pm**  
**St. Leonard's Church hall,**  
Church Lane - CO3 4BH

**Drumming for fun!** Bring an instrument - floor tom and cymbal, hand drums, and join in!

- Find out about the vision of Psalm Drummers
- Join in the drum circle prayer and worship

There is no restriction of age or ability. Everyone welcome.

Michelle Tennens + Dan Abbott  
[michelle.tennens@tesco.net](mailto:michelle.tennens@tesco.net)  
[the.abbotts@ntlworld.com](mailto:the.abbotts@ntlworld.com)

