



June 2008

Beating out a new rhythm for Christ

Inside this issue:

Beating out a new rhythm	1
Community	2
Care for the family	3
Hope 08 town centre event	3
Feedback	4
Journey into wholeness	4

The sound was unique and yet familiar ... buskers play it and school children too, but on an April night in Colchester you could hear a resounding sound rising up in a new and unique way as it stirred the soul and spoke of Jesus - it was the sound of drummers gathering to pray, using their hands and hearts to beat out a new rhythm inspired by God's Holy Spirit.

For many years drummers have struggled to find a place in our worship music, usually consigned to the back row and the subject of many put downs for being 'too loud' or 'too upbeat', few churches have truly welcomed and encouraged drummers to do what they love, play and pray! But in biblical days it was the drummers who were first to lead God's people out, to strike the drum and stir people's hearts to pray and be courageous for God, so why not today?

teenagers aspire to be the world's fastest at it and adults just can't resist joining in. Wherever we take our drums, people are drawn to the sound, to join in and it has resulted in many new friendships spring up. Using our drums to share our faith in Christ is the most natural thing to do."

Psalm Drummers is a network of Christian drummers and percussionists in the UK and beyond that serve the church and the drumming community. The 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. If you would like to know more and join in future Psalm Drummer events, email michelle.tennens@tesco.net. www.psalmdrummers.org

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Matthew 5:14-15

Dan Abbott and Michelle Tennens, two local Christian drummers, have taken up the challenge to set a new rhythm locally in the church by bring Psalm Drumming to Colchester, to encourage drummers to use their talents to lead people in worship and outreach. Michelle commented, "Dan and I are calling drummers together to worship and pray using the instrument that we love – the drum. Big drums, small drums, hand and kit drums, every type and make of percussion instrument can be used to create a new beat that carries the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. These are instruments that quickly engage and inspire, children love it,

Colchester Psalm Drummers diary dates:

Monday 30th June – Psalm Drummers Colchester will lead the worship workshop at Kingsland Church Lexden in Colchester. Go to www.kingsland.org.uk/levites/levites.html for details.

Sunday 7th September – a Castle Park event will include Psalm Drummers Colchester.



Community

In November 2005 the prayer guide included the following quote from Sharon Stone.

'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.'

Since that time the theme of community has recurred in our prayers and bearing fruit in our town.

Rather than focussing on one particular community, we pray this month for every expression of community amongst us.

We praise God for:

- Every example of working together for others, including initiatives such as Hope 08 and the Abbeyfield Project
- Every new life in Christ
- Every act of service

- Those who are calling for the church to be involved in their community, for those who are hungry for God.

We repent of:

- Stubbornness and unwillingness to change
- Everything negative spoken or thought
- Lack of sight
- Any activity that distracts us from what God is doing

We pray for:

- Transformation
- Fruitfulness
- A commitment to those who live on the edge of society
- the church to influence everywhere
- The regeneration areas; North and East Colchester, St Botolph's, and the Garrison. Described by the Council as "renaissance" areas, we pray they would truly be places of re-birth
- Every organisation that works to strengthen community, including both statutory and voluntary organisations
- Communities that serve those with particular needs including; the women's refuge, the New Neighbours' project, the Out for

Good house, and all those working with the homeless.

- Emerging communities, like the Emmaus community that opens later in the year.
- Unintentional communities; schools, businesses and the hospitals.
- Communities still looking for breakthrough, including the Tollgate Project.

Marie

"As the sun has started to shine, Churchill Gate has really come alive and people are out on the streets, and over the field playing, it's wonderful to see the people that God has entrusted to us enjoying life. I can't wait to see them all come into a relationship with Christ! So the urgency increases, the passion remains and Churchill Gate is waiting with baited breath to see its Church rise and bring the message of salvation to its streets!! Together we trust for great things here on our community! Keep praying, fasting and seeking God with integrity. THE BEST IS YET TO COME"!!
 Dave Stevens
 Abbeyfield Community Church

Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month. Write to Teresa Lasky at 1, Lodge Court, West Berg-holt, CO6 3JL or email her at: admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk
To contribute to next month's prayer guide contact Marie Morris at: marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

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

Prayer Breakfasts: Saturday 7th June
 These breakfasts have been a source of encouragement and challenge to different churches and individual Christians in the town for the last 20+ years!. We pray for Colchester and the surrounding area in particular. They are held on the FIRST Saturday of the month. There is so much to praise God and pray for! For further information please contact: Capt Aubrey Bradford 864972 or Joan Davies 862070.
 This month's venue: The Ark Methodist Church, Gavin Way Highwoods
 Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

Company of Prophetic People (COPP) training days.
 Running in Colchester from April to July, these 4 day-long sessions will be about learning to journey together in what it means to pursue the voice of God.
 For more information go to www.3generations.eu or Colchester Prayernet website

Care for the Family

Please pray:

- Remember in your prayers families who are affected by suicide, particularly those of the Bridgend teenagers. Pray that peace may envelop them. Remember also the young people who are contemplating these drastic measures; pray for their protection.
- We receive many calls from church leaders who are torn between their loyalties to their families and their congregations. Please pray for wisdom for them, that they might find a happy balance and that their marriages would be safeguarded.
- Please pray for those who are parenting alone. Whether they've been widowed, divorced or whatever other circumstances, they each face unique difficulties and truly lonely times. Pray for friends and family who will be there for them.
- Remember in your prayers today the single people you know in your church. Often, they can feel they are forgotten and do not fit into a 'category' in their congregation. Please pray that they would know God's love today.
- We're hearing more than ever of teenagers who are under so much pressure within their families and at school. Many resort to self-harm; please pray for them. Pray also for their parents, that they may have good judgment in dealing with difficult situations.
- The issues faced by stepfamilies are so complicated, often with lots of different types of relationships between the parents and children. Please pray for a loving attitude and ease of communication between them.
- Finally, please pray for the Care for the Family staff who receive calls every day from those who are hurting. Ask that they would be blessed in their work and that God would give them the hearts to listen and the right words to say.

To find out more about Care for the Family
www.careforthefamily.org.uk

Hope 08 Town Centre Event

At the end of April representatives from 21 congregations and organisations met together to discuss the town centre Hope 08 event to be held on Saturday 30th August.

We hope the event will include the following ingredients:

- Morning commissioning service.
- Promoters/Inviters: This comprises volunteers in the town handing out leaflets about the day, the BBQ and the evening event.
- BBQ: Eld Lane Baptist Church from about 12:00-14:00. We will need churches to lend tables, chairs and possibly drum BBQ's.
- BBQ Costs: We think about £150-200 would cover the food. Individuals can contribute if they feel led.
- Table Hosts/Entertainment
- A prayer/healing area.
- Prayer Room
- Training: Anyone involved in questionnaires or direct interaction with the public is to have some relevant training.
- Questionnaires
- Media: We plan to involve the media and also hope to make our own DVD about the day.
- Volunteers: The minimum age is 14 and anyone aged between 14-18 should have parental permission/supervision and/or be attached to their church/youth worker. All volunteers should have a recommendation from their church leader.
- Organisation: Joelle King has agreed to head up the admin for this day.
- Town Tasks: We are liaising with the council and the police to see what we are able to do.
- Youth involvement: Car washing is one possibility.
- Scouting Mission: We would like to approach shops/estate agents who will be open on Saturday and see if they would like their windows cleaned on the day.
- Art: The idea of a Christian artist was also raised. This would be a great way to engage with the public.
- End of Day event: Eld Lane Baptist Church, from about 16:00. This means shoppers are still about and people haven't gone home.

www.hope08.com
www.hopeforcolchester.blogspot.com

www.cpo-online.org.uk/default.aspx
 (for Hope T-shirts etc)

James_collitt@hotmail.co.uk
 07977 510880

Feedback and town news

Following last month's **local council elections**, we continue to pray for our leaders. We pray for people to lead with faith and courage. We especially pray for Anne Turrell, the new leader of the Council, and for the new Mayor, Peter Crowe, and Mayoress, Margaret Fairley-Crowe.

We pray for all those who use the **A12**. The road carries in the region of 50,000 vehicles a day, and 1 in 4 road accidents in Essex is on the A12. We also pray for those involved in an inquiry into how to make the road safer.

An inquest will be held in June into the death of Daniel Mullinger, from Heathlands School West Bergholt, who died last July whilst on a school trip. We continue to pray for all those affected by this accident.

The media reports delays in the building of the new **visual arts facility** [firstsite:newsite](http://firstsite.newsite). We pray for this building to be all that God intended.

Four sites in Colchester are to be used as training facilities for the **2012 Olympic games**. Leisure World, Colchester Garrison, the University of Essex and SD School of Martial Arts have all been approved as training centres. There will be more about the Olympics in the July prayer

guide.

'Sharers in the Promise will be produced at St Botolph's Church, Colchester, on Saturday 29th November 2008, with the support of *Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester*. It's a production for Colchester by the Christians of Colchester. There are opportunities for people of all ages to be involved. Singers are needed to form the main choir. It helps if you read music, but it's not essential. There'll be an introductory workshop on Sat 27th Sept, 2 - 5pm, then rehearsals. If you would like to sing in the choir, please email sharerschoir@cantusfirmus.org.uk, stating your name and contact details, age if under 18, and whether you sing Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass (or not sure), and whether you read music'. *Richard Hubbard*

More than 200 people from 18 church congregations took slots in the **24/10 prayer room**. Together we sustained 220 hours of prayer over 10 days. One visitor says "I took 3 elderly friends to the Tuesday slot and one was very moved by the experience and really met with God there."

'Our fun day at **St John's** Ipswich Road was a great success, thanks to a bright sunny day and lots of people joining together to help. It is estimated that in excess of 500

people visited the event, looking round the various stalls (many run by community groups who use the hall), queuing patiently for a hog roast and being entertained by a Christian clown, puppets and a live worship band. The invitation to receive prayer was taken up by some visitors to the church stand. *Joelle King*

We continue to pray for **CYO** and especially for the proposed prayer rooms in schools. More on this in next month's prayer guide.

Friends International Praise God

- that Michael and Caroline White escaped being at the epi centre of the earthquake in China.
- that a Chinese student has recently come to faith in Christ and wishes to be baptised.

Please pray for

- all the Chinese students at the Essex University and other places who have relatives in that area.
- The Friends International houseparty that is on 18th - 20th June that it will be FULL and that God will speak to each person who attends. *Joan Davies*

Journey into Wholeness (JIW)

Dear Friends,

1. Praise for successful re-organizing of our committee, for Jane Mason's contribution to the life of JIW, and for Chris Locke joining us.
2. Pray for real opportunities to share the vision of JIW (at churches' small group meetings).

3. Praise for the recent enquiries for stalls or ministry at various church events this year.

4. Pray for a positive response to the Press Release letter promoting Bev's *Maze of Deception* book.

5. Pray for wisdom regarding the proposed National Conference.

6. Pray for wisdom in planning our stall (and seminar or music/dance) at the 2009 MBS Exhibition.

7. Praise for the loyal support from the Boiler Room Community, the Colchester PrayerNet, the Methodist Healing Team and our monthly prayer meetings at Mount Zion Salvation Army Centre.

Shalom my friends.

Howard Gardiner