



May 2008

24/10 Prayer room

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Praying continually together for God's kingdom to come

Many people across the church are coming to together with the dream of seeing many people reached by the love of Jesus Christ. This is Hope 2008. We believe prayer is crucial to enable us to be guided by God, and to see fruit for His kingdom. We are writing to invite you and your congregation to be part of a special prayer time to fuel Hope 2008 in Colchester, and inspire our work together for His kingdom.

The vision is for a 24 hour Prayer Room running continuously for 10 days at St Peter's Church, North Hill 1st – 10th May 2008, in the run up to the Global Day of Prayer 2008 on May 11th.

This vision involves continuous prayer, for 10 days. It is possible, if we work together. We need 19 church congregations to each commit to filling a 12 hour block of one hour slots.

What will the prayer room be like?

The prayer room will be available for all types of prayer to Jesus. So, a group may come and pray during one hour slot, or people may want to come on their own. People may want to pray in silence, or play music.

There will also be creative prayer activities in the prayer room.

The prayer room can be a place of mission, too. It will be open to the public during the day, so that any interested people can come in and find out about prayer and about Jesus.

Each person who is booked into a slot will have the responsibility for

looking after the prayer room. People who are in the prayer room at night should find another person to accompany them so they are not alone at night. There will be prayer room supervisors on call at all times.

How can you be involved?

- Working with your church congregation to take on 12 one hour slots in the prayer room. Ask your church leader if your church congregation can join in.
- Supporting other congregations by signing up to an individual slot, if there is difficulty covering prayer slots.

Please contact me to check which slots are still available.

Thank God that 16 church congregations have already committed to join the prayer together!

Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community
Tel: 01206 522781 or email richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1st - 10th May - 24/10 Prayer room running at St Peter's Church, North Hill

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

The Police

The Police Service needs your prayers as we celebrate the National Day of Prayer for the Police Service on 1st May 2008
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 Service is seeking to tackle.

So 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

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

- Contact your local police station and find out the name of the community police officer or community support officer for your area. Pray for that person by name.
- Regularly obtain a copy of your local newspaper and look for reports where officers have been injured on duty and pray for them.
- Using your local newspaper, list reports of local crime and pray that the police will be successful in apprehending the perpetrators.
- Listen to local radio and television news and take note of any items involving the police that need praying about.
- Log on to your local police website and navigate to the news/appeals page where you can find local items to fuel your prayers.
- Pray for God's protection on your local area that you will have peace and an absence of crime.
- Find out the name of the senior police officer in charge of your area and pray for him / her and all the staff (both police and support staff) who work under their command.
- Whenever you see a police vehicle, whether or not they are on an emergency call, pray for the crew.
- If you hear a police vehicle responding to an emergency call, pray for the safety of the officers and for the situation to which they might be responding.

ing.

- If you know of a Christian police officer in your area, pray that they will have a strong and effective witness amongst their colleagues.
- Obtain a 'Prayer Bookmark' from the Christian Police Association and use it to pray for specific needs of the Police Service.

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for ... all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour' (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Christian Police Association
 Bedford Heights
 Manton Lane
 Bedford MK41 7PH

Christians in Parliament and Christians in Government invite you to join in with an exciting **Week of Prayer for Parliament and Government**

Activities include daily prayer walking, evening prayer, prayer rooms, worship events and lots more.

Come and prayer walk

Meeting at the Wilberforce monument in Victoria Gardens, near the House of Lords at the following times

Tuesday 6th May—10:30 am

Wednesday 7th May
 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Thursday 8th May— 10:30 am

Main Prayer walk event:

Friday 9th May

Meeting 4:00 pm in the Chapel at Methodist Central Hall, near Parliament.

For more information see
www.christiansinparliament.org.uk
 or contact
parliamentandwhitehall@24-7prayer.com

Feedback and town news

Sixth Form College

Just a quick report to let you know that the debate at the Sixth Form college went really well! As soon as our speaker, Jo, stood up and started to speak it seemed as if the presence of the Lord was in the room! She was very brave and spoke very well. It stirred up a lot of emotion and a lot of students challenged her - some from quite personal experiences and observations, but she stood up and was able to give an answer to them all. She really spoke up for us all and for the Lord, and I think his name was glorified. AND I had to email a senior member of staff to excuse myself from something in order to be there, and she emailed back and said, "Where is it being held. I think I'll try and get away early too and come - as a committed Christian!" And she did! It's always brilliant to locate more, and she might be joining us for our Wednesday morning gatherings

Helen Tucker

St Helena Hospice Last month we prayed for our leaders. We now pray for St Helena's Hospice as they appoint a new chaplain.

Colchester Institute

Thank you for all your prayers for the Great Debate at Colchester Institute. The event itself went well, with no punch-ups or verbal abuse! I was encouraged as I realised that this was the first CU event that I had attended where non-Christians voluntarily took part. Admittedly we didn't advertise it as a CU event but neither did they run out the door when we said that it was. Conversation was interesting and intellectual and, although neither side "won" the argument, both sides stood their ground making a good debate.

The CU were very encouraged by the event and are keen to do more in future so please continue to pray for us.

Thank you. *Natasha*

Bob Russell MP has called for schools to come together to

tackle problems of low achievement and falling rolls. He has proposed the Roman River Federation, with Alderman Blaxill, Thomas Lord Audley (TLA) and Stanway schools joining forces under the permanent leadership of Jonathan Tippett. Both schools struggle to fill places and both have recently been branded failing by Ofsted.

In Parliament, Mr Russell praised "the inspirational leadership" of Mr Tippett, who is currently executive head teacher at all three schools. Mr Russell said federation "is the right way forward to save the three schools concerned".

Please continue to pray for the town's educational institutions.

Good Friday Outreach - Town Centre

It went really well, we ended up giving out about 400 Easter eggs for free! We had a Christian busker and a group of us singing, from a few churches. It seemed to create a positive reaction from passers by and I'm hoping to do it again next year. *James Collitt*

Hand in Hand

We are a Christian development agency working through project partners in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Brazil and Ecuador supporting marginalised children and families through education, health care and self sufficiency through financial and practical means.

Our work includes the daily welfare of orphaned or abandoned children from street, slum or rural areas; we help provide education in various ways from pre-primary through to University – by providing school fees, uniforms or classrooms and help projects develop toward self-sufficiency

through organised farming or income generating projects.

Hand in Hand also supports several theologically based training institutions in east Africa where students can train for ministry or for business degrees within a Christian ethic and in their own culture and traditions, rather than more expensively abroad.

Our prayer needs at the moment include:

- The widening of our supporter base through churches and schools across Essex
- Funds to extend our work in Brazil through an after-school

project for slum kids

- Funds to help grandparents now burdened with their orphaned grandchildren (through HIV/AIDS) into self sufficiency

If you would like to know more about our work please contact Adam Blowes on 01245 421177 or adam.blowes@hihand.org who will be happy to meet you or your church members at a convenient time.

More details of our projects can be seen on our web site www.hiand.org

Global day of prayer

On 11th May we unite with millions of Christians across the world to pray the following:

“Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, together with believers all over the world, we gather today to glorify Your Name. You are the Creator of heaven and earth. There is no one like You, holy and righteous in all Your ways. We submit to Your authority as the King of the universe. We pray with one voice to enthroned You in our hearts and to honour You before the world.

Lord God, You alone are worthy of our praise and adoration.

Our Father in heaven, thank You for loving the world so greatly. You gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be reconciled to You. We are grateful to call You Father and to be called Your children. Nothing can separate us from Your love.

Thank You Father, for adopting us into Your family because of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord Jesus Christ, You alone are worthy to open the scrolls of history, for You were slain and have redeemed us to the Father by Your blood. We confess that You are Head of the Church and Lord of all heaven and earth.

May people from every tribe and language become Your followers so that Your blessing brings transformation among all peoples. Let Your kingdom be established in every nation of the world so that governments will rule with righteousness and justice.

And may Your Name be great, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Jesus Christ, You are the Saviour of the world and the Lord of all.

Father of mercy and grace, we

acknowledge that we have sinned and that our world is gripped by the power of sin. Our hearts are grieved by injustice, hatred and violence. We are shamed by oppression, racism and bloodshed in our land. We mourn all loss of life in murder, war and terrorism. Our homes are broken and our churches are divided by rebellion and pride. Our lives are polluted by selfishness, greed, idolatry and sexual sin. We have grieved Your heart and brought shame to Your Name.

Have mercy on us as we repent with all our hearts.

God of mercy, forgive our sins. Pour out Your grace and heal our land.

Spirit of the living God, apart from You, we can do nothing. Transform Your Church into the image of Jesus Christ. Release Your power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn. Pour Your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry and to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in Your care. Give us wisdom and insight for the complex problems we face today. Help us to use the resources of the earth for the well-being of all.

Holy Spirit, we need Your comfort and guidance. Transform our hearts.

Lord Jesus Christ, because You were dead, but are now risen, and the Father has given You a Name above all names, You will defeat all powers of evil. Tear down strongholds and ideologies that resist the knowledge of God. Remove the veil of darkness that covers the peoples. Restrain the evil that promotes violence and death. Bring deliverance from demonic oppression. Break the hold of slavery, tyranny and disease. Fill us with courage to preach Your word

fearlessly, and to intercede for the lost faithfully.

Almighty God, deliver us from evil.

King of Glory, come and finish Your work in our cities, our peoples and our nations.

We lift our voices in unison with believers from Africa and Asia, from the Middle East and Europe, from North and South America, and from Australia and the Pacific Islands—together we cry:

Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up ancient doors so that the King of glory may come in!

As Your deeds increase throughout the earth, and as Your blessings abound to all the nations, they will seek You, asking, “Who is this King of glory?”

Together we will answer:

He is the Lord Almighty!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Come fill the earth with Your glory as the waters cover the sea.

The Spirit and the Bride say:

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!”

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 3rd May

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

Venue: St Mary's, New Church Road, West Bergholt

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 or Colchester Prayernet website

Colchester Church

As we look at God's Church in Colchester is it wonderful to see His people united in prayer and action. We focus our prayer this week on the Church in our town.

Thanks giving for:

- Every way in which the church is strong and active in mission: social concern, work with the homeless, mentally ill, the counseling services, those working to support the family, the elderly and the disabled,.
- Outreach to young people: youth groups, CYO, holiday clubs, schools work, SMILE Puppets, school assemblies, JAS clubs, Christian Unions, Youth Alpha etc.
- Church leadership. We want to acknowledge the faithful service of the church leaders. Also thank God for leaders in the Council, hospital and business sector.
- Unity—for opportunities to work together. Pray for strong unity amongst leadership. Thank God for unity at grass-roots. Pray for humility and openness in all of us for the sake of those we are trying to reach.
- United prayer, for the many

years of united prayer in this place. The foundation of prayer laid by those before us. Every answered prayer.

- The encouragement we have received from God to continue working together—for the many Church ministries now firmly established. For 'Street Pastors', and united events like 'Hope 08'.
- Salvation. Thank God for all those who have become aware of God in a new way during the last few months. May they have a deepening understanding of who He is.
- Alpha—ongoing in the town. The many that have come to faith through it.
- Mission. For the work with international Students at the University. For the work of Friends International. For the transformational Business Network
- Those that work with the soldiers and families at the Garrison. Pray that God may comfort those living in uncertainty and fear.

Please pray that:

- God will continue to cause us to be salt and light. To shine brighter and lead people to the Truth.

- We remain faithful in prayer, true to pray the will of God.
- That we are bold in prayer and in action until we see this town transformed
- God will move us on to see His Church revived, prayerful, active in our faith.
- We will see His Kingdom advance through His church in this place.
- As we look we will see only One Church, One Body working together and serving each other faithfully.
- We will not grow weary but will learn to wait on the Lord, renew our strength, knowing that He uses the weak things to confound the wise. Willingly doing things His way.
- That His Kingdom come, His will be done - here as it is in Heaven.
- We see a mighty harvest of souls.
- We will unite in the simple truth of loving Jesus and wanting to reach others with His transforming love.
- That God's name will be glorified in Colchester!

Friends International

A brief update from Friends International (F.I). Praise God for:

- A very happy Easter outing with 50 students
- A positive response from the showing of the Jesus film.

Please pray for:

- Michael and Caroline White as they are away until the 13th May visiting their daughter in China for 3 weeks.
- The team as they continue the work of tea and talking every

Thursday and table tennis on a Friday.

- New Christians that they will grow in the Lord.
- The team as they make arrangements for the summer programme for students and a summer house party.
- Some students who are counting the cost of following Jesus.

Many thanks for praying with us! God bless Joan Davies.

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