



April 2009

Easter

Inside this issue:

Easter	1
Café Church	2
Global day of prayer	2
News	3
Prayer forum	4

Rejoice, heavenly choirs of angels.
Rejoice, all creation around God's throne.

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation.

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
Radiant in the brightness of your King.

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever.

This is our Passover feast when Christ,
the true Lamb, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes
of all believers.

This is the night when you, Lord our God,
first saved our ancestors in the faith;
you delivered the people of Israel
from their slavery
and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christ broke
the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night truly blessed, when
heaven is wedded to earth,
and all creation is reconciled with God.

Therefore, Father, in the joy of this
night, receive our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving.

Let us sing with joy, joining the
mighty chorus of all God's people!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Source: reformedworship.org

Christ is Risen: The world below lies
desolate

Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are
fallen

Christ is Risen: The angels of God
are rejoicing

Christ is Risen: The tombs of the
dead are empty

Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and
ever

St. Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

Hope Easter

**Good Friday Walk of Witness,
11:45** - All welcome, the walk starts
at Salvation Army (Butt Road) This
is an annual event and organised by
Churches Together in Central Col-
chester. The walk will finish about
12:30pm outside the War Memorial.

**12:30-14:00 - Giving out leaflets
and lunch.**

**14:00-16:00 - Hope Easter event at
Lion Walk car park**, consisting of
surveys around the town, free Easter
eggs, Easter presentations and
music.

Contact James Collitt for details.
hopeincolchester@hotmail.co.uk
079775710880

The Boiler Room Community are
also planning a prayer event for this
day, so look out for them too.

19:30- Mercury Theatre event.

The angel said to
the women,
"Do not be afraid,
for I know that you
are looking for
Jesus, who was
crucified.
He is not here; he
has risen, just as he
said. "
Matthew 28: 5-6

Café Church

We have been praying for fresh expressions of church and the establishment of spiritual communities in Colchester. We are excited to see Café Church in Colchester.

The expression of Café Church locally is a joint venture between DNA networks and Colchester Baptist Church, though more congregations are welcome.

Café Church is a national initiative between a Christian organisation and Costa Coffee and other coffee shops. Local churches hold a café style event in their Costa Coffee during a time when it would normally be shut. The evening could be based on a topic such

as parenting, fairtrade or the economy.

The Café Church evening is open to anyone, with a format that might include "expert witnesses", a short film and discussion on the evening's subject. Those who attend can come and go as they wish during the evening.

In December we held a pilot evening at the Costa Coffee in Culver Square, and were really pleased with what we learned. We plan to hold monthly evenings from May onwards. Costa Coffee in Lion Walk have also said they would like to hold Café Church there.

There are many possible developments including holding Café Church at both venues, and/or

more often than once a month. It could also spin off into other areas such as film evenings, Alpha courses etc.

We are looking for people with a vision for this, who would pray regularly for Café Church or who would join in as part of the team to help facilitate it..

If you would like to pray for Café Church why not do so over a cup of coffee, alone or with a friend, at home or in one of the town's coffee shops.

Chrissy Campos, Alison Finch, Naomi Jones and Lynsey Heslegrave
<http://www.cafechurch.net/>
 Chrissy.Campos@gmail.com
 07826119779

Global Day of Prayer

This year the Global day prayer will take place on **Sunday 31st May**. Already 176 nations have signed up to take part. In Colchester we are encouraging congregations to take part by using the prayer provided as part of their worship that day.

The prayer will be printed in full in next month's prayer guide. In the meantime, please let us know if your congregation is taking part by contacting Marie at Colchester Prayernet.
www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk

24/10 Prayer

As part of the Hope in Colchester movement, Colchester Boiler Room Community are again organising a 24 hour 10 day prayer room in the lead up to the

Global Day of Prayer. Last year 20 congregations covered more than 9 days of continuous prayer! And we saw some amazing answers to prayer through the Hope 2008 activities, Street Pastor activities, prayer rooms starting in schools...and more.

The prayer room will start on **Thursday 21st May** and run continually until **Saturday 30th May**.

We will invite church congregations from across the town to support the prayer room by taking on a 12 hour slot each.

We hope to make the prayer room an inspiring and welcoming place of prayer for believers, and for people who don't believe yet. The prayer room could also be a

launch pad for acts of mission and serving the poor. We are looking for a shop venue for the prayer room.

Please pray for:

- the right venue to open to us
- good communication amongst the body of the church as we work together to fill the prayer slots
- Holy Spirit inspiration for setting up the prayer room and everyone who comes into the prayer room.

Please also let us if you know of a shop venue we could use!

Thank you.

Richard Smith
 Colchester Boiler Room Community
 01206 522781
richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

News

Secondary Schools

As we continue to pray for all our schools, we praise God for the improvements at Alderman Blaxill School, now out of "special measures".

Friends International (FI)

Praise God that:

- One of the members of the FI team received this recently from a Muslim student who came to faith in Christ 2 years ago. "I just recognised that you were the ones that planted Jesus' name and the love for Him in my heart. I understand that I committed myself in N a year later but now I know that I had already been in a long journey towards Him."
- We have had a good Spring term with a good number of students attending Bible studies, the International café and table tennis at the University of Essex.
- There is a new opportunity at the Lexden English Language centre to help students once a week after Easter with their conversation English (from 7.30- 9:00p.m), possibly on a Tuesday evening. If you are in fellowship with a local church and feel that you can help with this new initiative please ring (862070) or e-mail Joan Davies joandavie@gmail.com
- Improved health for some members of the FI team. Pray that Michael and Caroline will be able to have a restful break at the end of March.

Pray for:

- Easter outing to Sudbury and Kersey on Thursday April 9th, for good weather, safety and meaningful friendships to be formed.
- The organisation of the sum-

mer programme and June houseparty. That we will continue to know God's wisdom in everything we do.

Thank you to those who support the work of Friends International prayerfully and financially.

Turkey

Richard and Katy Smith, from Colchester Boiler Room Community, are leading a 6 person team to Turkey from **27th March - 6th April 2009**. They have been invited to work with the church in a city there to set up a 24-7 Prayer Room. Please pray for God's provision and leading for the prayer room, and for the Holy Spirit for the team and people who come to the prayer room, and for protection and perseverance for Turkish believers and seekers in the face of persecution. For more info visit www.colchesterboilerroom.blogspot.com

CYO

The CYO open evening in March considered four questions around the mission life of CYO and our town. We hope to publish a summary of this discussion in a future Prayer Guide.

"At our recent Trustees meeting, Howard Gardner decided to retire as a Trustee of CYO. We shall all miss him, considerably.

For a period in excess of three decades, Howard has worked tirelessly and with passion, often "behind the scenes" in the promotion of the work of Christ amongst young people. He has very much helped to shape what CYO is today and what it and its predecessor organisations were. He has had a **huge** impact and input into all this and on behalf of our Pa-

tron, Bishop Christopher, our Director Tim and staff and the Trustees, I am very pleased through this column to acknowledge and honour this and to say, "a Great Big Thank You, Howard".

As you might expect, he is not disappearing from the scene though and will continue to immerse himself in other Christian activities with which he is involved. May God continue to Bless you, Howard, in all your continued work in the Lord".

Roger Ennal

Chair of Trustees

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester (SGBfC). We will be talking, praying and considering festivals and future outreach events for 2011 at a planning meeting on **Wednesday 29th April 2009**.

Venue: Community Stadium,
Time: arrive 7.45 pm.

Please continue to pray as the Church in Colchester seeks to express God's love through united prayer and action.

ALL WELCOME

Check out our new website at www.colchesterprayernet.co.uk

To contact Teresa Lasky:
admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

Phone: 01206 242235

For Marie Morris:

marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

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

Prayer Forum

The Prayer forum is an umbrella for prayer networks throughout the UK, of which CPn is a member. Its' vision is to enable a more strategic approach to prayer in this nation by communicating across the many prayer networks already established.

Let's continue to press on! Global Update:

News from The Joshua Project, a collaborative missions effort that focuses on un-reached people groups, reports that an average of 160,000 a day hear the message of redemption in Christ for the first time.

Every hour, 3,000 more people decide to follow Jesus Christ.

In 1800, those who had never heard the Gospel were almost 75% of the globe's population. Today the percentage of those who have not heard is 28% which is a major move forward. However that means about 1.5 billion people have not heard the Gospel message even one time!

Fifteen years ago there were about 100 prayer networks around the world. Today there are 4,000 networks involving an estimated 25,000,000 intercessors. Source: Joshua Project www.joelnews.org (no 677)

Season of Prayer & Fasting

We know that many people gathered to pray in smaller and larger meetings all over our nations on Saturday 28th February at the start of this season of prayer and fasting to continue through until Pentecost. The steering group is meeting on 27 March. Let's pray for the cry to our Lord and Saviour to rise across our nations

and wisdom for the Group in discerning the way ahead. www.candministries.org.uk

Praying for the nation at 12 Noon. A simple way to stop and pray for the needs of our nations: [Noon Ministries](http://www.noonministries.org.uk) uses the prayer adopted by the BBC during WW2 www.noonministries.org.uk

[24-7 prayer](http://www.24-7prayer.com) have united around the Lords' Prayer since 2007. www.24-7prayer.com

The [London Global Day of Prayer](http://www.gdoplondon.com) movement has now adopted saying the Lord's Prayer. www.gdoplondon.com

Praying for the situation in Northern Ireland

Our Prayer Forum contacts encourage us: to be thankful for all the signs coming from the people of the land 'we are not going back' and the response as thousands gathered in peace rallies around the province; and to pray for all our brothers and sisters who continue to pray, work and speak out for peace and reconciliation; for the rising generation not to be drawn back into division; for the spirit of forgiveness and love to permeate every area of society.

Praying for G20 Summit: London 2 April 2009

Following the meeting in March of the finance ministers from the 20 leading economies in the world, the heads of these nations gather to formulate a blueprint for the new global economy amidst the current state of the global economy. Micah Challenge is calling Christians worldwide to rise up and join together in prayer,

download the prayer guide 'Rise Up'. www.micahchallenge.org.uk/g20

National days of prayer

London: 11th July 2009 - March of Repentance which will end with a rally meeting in Trafalgar Square. www.repentuk.com

NEC Birmingham: 17th October 2009 "The Presence" organised by World Prayer Centre:

Inviting all to gather to pray and proclaim: The Glory of the Gospel, The Glory of the Cross and The Glory of His Presence.

Book on-line from 1st April 2009 at www.worldprayer.org.uk.

April Prayer Breakfast

Date: Saturday 4th April

Venue: St Mary's Church, Church Lane, West Bergholt.

Time: 8:30am—10:00 am

Praying for your MP.

Prayer groups are in place to support the MP from your constituency.

To pray for Bob Russell contact Richard Smith:

richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

If your constituency is North Colchester and you would like to pray for Bernard Jenkin contact Teresa Lasky:

admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

This is part of a Westminster initiative organised by Christians in Parliament.