



April 2010

Easter

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Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus is Lord of all the earth, He is the King of creation

On this most holy of days, the One whom men had thought to destroy has risen triumphant from the tomb!

My sisters and brothers, let us rejoice: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus has died and is risen.

On this holy day, we celebrate our New Life in the Risen Christ; through the death of Jesus, the weight of our sin has been lifted from us; through His glorious resurrection, we have become sons and daughters of God. My sisters and brothers, let us rejoice: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour.

My sisters and brothers, today we have celebrated the glorious Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the knowledge that Jesus is alive. Alleluia!

Today, we look to the future - to the new dawn of Eastertide. Let us go to live as people bathed in the light of resurrection.

Alleluia!

We remember the day when creation was made new, when God showed humanity its destiny. Let us go as people living in the knowledge that through the triumph of Jesus over death the gates of heaven are re-opened.

Alleluia!

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)

'But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest'. **Luke 24:1-9**

Prayer breakfast

Date: Saturday 3rd April

**Venue: St Anne's
Compton Road**

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

All Welcome

Easter Hope

Good Friday, 2nd April,
7.30pm

Mercury Theatre

Admission free

With Charity Pancaldi and
the Psalm Drummers

Feedback and Town News

GLOBAL DAY of PRAYER

What an amazing privilege we have to be able to link in prayer right around the world at Pentecost. Plans are well underway for Christians to unite in prayer in the 10 days from Ascension Day May 13th 2010 to Pentecost Sunday May 23rd 2010. Already 152 nations are taking part. The theme is "**Blow the Trumpet**" and the prayer themes are based around Joel chapter two. Here in the UK there will be a number of united prayer events taking place. Global Prayer London are inviting Christians to stop at 12 noon and pray the Lord's Prayer as a sign of our commitment to seeing His will be done and His kingdom come in our nation. Why not join in? The Global Day of Prayer website

www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk

is the place to find out all the information you need to know!

Colchester Boiler Room Community

Do you know the history of 'Berechurch' in Colchester?

Monks from St John's Abbey who worked in the fields did not have time to return to the monastery in the town centre for midday prayer, so a 'boarded church' or 'Berechurch' was built to enable this in the 14th century

We were delighted to discover this in December after Colchester Boiler Room Community began praying at **midday Sunday-Thursday at 170 Berechurch Road.**

Thank God that he is the 'Alpha and Omega' the beginning and the end. The 14th century

monks who prayed in the first Berechurch could not have imagined that others would continue their prayers in the 'berechurch' area for God's Kingdom to come in the 21st century. Even as John the Baptist, and saints of old have cried 'prepare the way of the Lord', we can cry the same for this generation.

Join us for **midday prayer Sunday-Thursday at 170 Berechurch Road**, or sign up for a 1 hour slot anytime between midday Saturday and midday Sunday, for a 24-1 prayer room the 1st weekend of every month.

For further info phone or 01206 570361 or e-mail

Richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

Friends International (F.I)

Praise:

- That several students are undertaking Bible studies
- A Japanese student has come to faith in Christ.

Please pray for :

- Good weather, a full coach and a great safe time at our Easter outing to Bury St Edmunds / Lavenham on Wednesday April 7th. Pray that many students will take the free Easter booklets that will be available to them at the lunch time we have together at the Baptist church in Bury.
- Enough helpers to restart Chatterbox at the English Language school on Lexden road. (For further information about helping with Chatterbox please ring Joan Davies (01026 862070)

Beacon House

"I work at Beacon House, which you may know is a Christian charity which helps homeless people. We provide showers, clothing, toiletries, laundry and many other services.

Could you please pray :-

1. Every charity struggles for funding these days, and with increasing numbers of clients we need God's provision to keep these services open.
2. A new course called "breaking the Barriers" has just begun, to help people get their lives together.
3. Many of our clients suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction, mental health problems, self harm and suicidal tendencies.

We seek to witness to them by Christian love in action, and would greatly appreciate your prayers for our continued work.

Many thanks, Yours in Christ

Audrey Macklem"

Colchester Causeway Prospects

runs regular Christian meetings for people with learning disabilities. At the moment we meet monthly on a Wednesday evening at Christchurch, Ireton Road from 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. when we have simple service of worship and teaching. Usually 12 -15 people attend. We would love to expand the work but we are very short of leaders and helpers. Please pray for more help. If anyone could come along on a regular basis and make teas and coffees, thus freeing up leader to do other work that would be great. Contact Brian Ford 01206 823877

Korban

Did You Know?

It is thought that up to 50,000 young people across the UK each year are in crisis and have become homeless. Many thousands more are 'hidden homeless,' who are not visible to the authorities, but who live in poor housing conditions, stay in abusive households, or who 'sofa-surf' - stay with friends to avoid going home. There are many reasons why young people become homeless –

- family conflict and abuse,
- poverty and unemployment,
- lack of space and privacy, leaving care.

Of these, family conflict is the most common factor. Research estimates that 1 in 20 young people will be homeless at some stage, before they reach the age of 25.

Korban exists to give practical support to young people aged 16 – 19 in Colchester who find themselves homeless for whatever reason. The work falls into three main categories:-

Safe Stay, where young people in crisis can stay with a Christian family for short time until their housing needs are met. Currently 3 young people are staying as part of this scheme. More volunteers are always needed. Each young person is given a gift of toiletries, so donations for this are always welcome.

Supported housing.

Bethany Place currently has space for 5 girls and is always full. There are 2 bedrooms designed for short stay and 3 for longer term. Recent generous donations mean that

workers can give greater support to the service users. Currently there is only one bathroom and shower which staff and service users share. An additional bathroom as well as separate facilities for staff are planned.

Once a week, Katy Smith from Colchester Boiler Room Community visits the house. She prepares a meal, usually with the girls assisting, and everyone eats together. This isn't just a menu planning and budgeting exercise, because Katy leads a discussion based around the "examen" principle of St Ignatius. All are challenged to think about the consolations and desolations of the day – the "best and worst" bits – and to bring them before God. For some girls this is the highlight of their week and there is real evidence of spiritual growth and hunger in several people.

Jeannette recently had a picture, confirmed by several others, that is leading her to explore having a regular quiet area in the house.

Korban also plans to start a boys' house once the work at Bethany Place is more consolidated.

Move on flat – there is also a 2 bedroomed flat for those who are ready to move on from Bethany Place but not yet ready for full independence.

Floating support – Currently around 5 young people are supported, with needs ranging from friendship to more formal advocacy.

Funding – Funding is always an issue, though we give thanks that the work has been able to expand and grow. Jeannette spends a lot of time applying for funds, and has recently had a lengthy interview with the Children in Need organisation, with the goal of them

providing some funding. Please pray for regular and predictable funds to come in, to enable effective planning and provision.

Staffing

Jessica, the former project worker, has left. Two part-time workers, Maz and Sally, have been able to increase their hours. Jeannette continues to oversee the project and also hosts one girl as part of Safe Stay. Jeannette has completed Level 2 Child Protection training and has been asked to deliver Train the Trainers sessions. Maz and Jeannette are also studying their NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care. All the staff have just completed a two-day intensive mental health course.

Prayer

Gill Green, the prayer co-ordinator, has around 34 regular prayer partners from as far afield as France, Canada and America. She emails regular updates. Those nearer to home in Colchester meet about 4 times a year to pray for the work of Korban. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Gill via Korban at manager@korban.org.uk or 01206 514897

Have you a burden to pray for Colchester? Join us every Wednesday from 6a.m.- 7.30a.m. Further details from Russell Rose Tel: 01206 561642

To contact Teresa Lasky:
teresa@lasky.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.

New building

Kingsland Church Lexden

'I wonder if we'll ever get used to this' Bernie was smiling, leaning on the servery and looking out over Kings café, the reception area for the new Kingsland church above Aldi. It was 2 months since opening and a group of young teens had just spilled out of a youth club in the Daniel Room, they were chatting with some older teens who were laughing and eating cake together in the café area. A young adults discipleship group

were in the Esther room, a worship band were practicing in the shekinah space, a school PTA meeting was happening at the other end of the cafe and a few parents had called in to wait for the young people.

Earlier that day a dance group, a church Tots group, an over 50s keep fit, a couple of prayer gatherings, a ladies singing group and a 'house' group had all been met in the rooms and used the café. Already our new church premises are busy.

Please pray for the various events and activities, but mostly for those who just drop in. Some are looking for a decent coffee and a place to sit, some looking for a lunch or a church, some don't know what they are looking for, some are just interested in the building and some aren't looking for anything but please pray they will find, in this beautiful space, 'Jesus who constantly looks for us'

Neil Loxley

Town News

Alpha at Colchester MCTC.

We continue to pray for the Alpha courses running at the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC), featured in the latest Alpha News. Around 70% of the 'Servicemen Under Sentence' at Colchester MCTC attend Alpha on a weekly basis.

Paul and Karen Carr are now running their fifth course alongside Padre Michael Stevenson. The course attracts up to 90 servicemen each week.

Servicemen Under Sentence come from all areas of the forces, including the Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Air Force.

Charlie Lacey, Alpha for Forces Relationship Manager said, "Many servicemen, especially those who find themselves in MCTC, have extremely complicated and turbulent personal lives.

Alpha is having a significant impact on the lives of many of these men and women, most of whom face a great deal of uncertainty".

The Sixth Form College.

'We are very excited that George Verwer is coming to speak at the college, on Wednesday 28th April at 1:30-2:30pm. It's a great opportunity for us all in college. Please pray for the Christian Union students as they invite their friends, and pray that many students would come to hear him and that God would move in their lives.

Also, please do pray for Jon & Rosanna Mulvey and myself as we lead the Christian Union. We have a wonderful group of about 11 or 12 students who are able to come regularly. In the autumn term we took them through an Alpha course, and this term we are focusing on various life issues and on evangelism. It is a privilege and a joy to see these students growing in their love for the Lord and in their fellowship together. Please pray for them as they face the demands of their courses, peer group pressure and as they seek to make a stand for God in the college.

Also, do pray for the Christian staff at the college as we seek to

carry God's presence and his Word into all that we do. There are 5 or 6 of us who meet weekly to pray. It is a great encouragement to all of us.

Also, Kat Collar, our College Chaplain, is a great addition to what is going on in college. She has settled in really well and is making some great contacts and having important conversations with students around college. Please also pray for Rachel Kerry who will continue the work of the College Chaplain from April to July while Kat is away doing ministry in Cyprus for the summer term.

Thank you for your prayers'.

Helen Tucker

New ministers.

We pray for Dexter Slatter as he leads Old Heath Congregational Church and welcome Revd Geoffrey Felton, the new leader of Plume Avenue URC, to our town.

CYO

Open Evening Prayers

About 120 people joined us for our Open Evening on Monday 8th March. As part of our worship we invited people to offer their written prayers. At our team meeting the following Thursday we spent time praying these prayers, and our own prayers which were inspired by them. This month we'd like to invite you to take a little time to pray with us and with all of those who voiced their prayers in this way.

- That the work of the sixth form college chaplain will grow and bear much fruit in the lives of our young people
- Thank you Lord for CYO and the amazing things they are doing. Engage and inspire others to be involved and to give the resources that they need to reach out in your name and for your glory.
- I pray that Sanctum will have an impact on the young people of the UK and that many Christian teachers will catch the vision and run with it.
- Thanks for all that goes on taking Jesus to the children/young people in schools and the staff too! Please multiply the work so that more can be taken into the schools, so more will be encouraged to live the Christian faith.
- Desperate that young people see and experience and know God. I pray for young people to hear about God, to know that he is real and he is good and he loves them and that they will give their lives to Him.
- For the Christian Unions that more children will have an opportunity to hear about Jesus and to be able to share their problems
- More inter-church youth events please!
- For Sanctum in reducing isolation for Christian students
- That the young people build confidence to attend CU
- Pray for a 15 year old daughter and friends to join the CU at the Gilbert school.
- For young people to take ownership of their faith, their relationship with Christ.
- For all the CYO workers in schools that they may show God's love for the young people they meet.
- For the Thomas Lord Audley school - that there would be more input from CYO - and for a Christian Union to be started! Also that Sanctum would go down well!! Zeph 3:17 is my prayer for you all.
- Lord, I pray that you empower the CYO team and keep the doors to schools opening
- More and more so that more and more young people in schools can experience the love of Christ. We pray that Sanctum really touches people's lives.
- That God would use us and place us where he wants. To change young people's lives through showing them Jesus.
- For school assemblies to be short, snappy, sincere.
- Thank you that many lives are reached and continue to be reached with the love of God through all the work done by CYO.

- Amy - Alderman Blaxill to have time to spend with individual students, especially those with complex emotional needs.
- Send your Holy Spirit into the young people of our schools - bring revival in our times.
- That more young people may begin to ask 'big' questions and that they might find the truth in Jesus.

Colchester Barnabas Ministry presents Revd George Hargreaves, leader of the UK Christian Party.

"Righteousness exalts a Nation" is on Saturday 13th March 2010 at 7:30pm at Prettygate Baptist Church. For more information contact Adrian or Debbie Bland 01206 869559. Entry free

The Followers Golf Society in association with Colchester Barnabas Ministry.

We hope to launch a golf society which meets a couple of times a year where you can invite a non-church-going golfing friend. We will play golf, share a meal and then have a Christian guest speaker. We are setting up an initial event on **Thursday June 17th** at Colchester Golf Club to test the level of interest for an event like this. Terry Tennens from International Justice Mission (IJM) will be the after dinner speaker. If you would like to come along to this inaugural event and be part of something new and adventurous for the kingdom, please contact Revd John Davis 01206 752964 for an application form. Cost for golf and meal £45.