



Special Edition

Praying for Ipswich

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We have taken the unusual step of producing this special edition in response to the events in Ipswich over the past month.

Between 2nd and 12th December the dead bodies of five young women, aged between 19 and 29, were found within 10 miles of Ipswich. They worked as prostitutes and all were drug-users.

We praise God that police have been able to arrest two men in connection with this crime. We pray for justice to be done.

In a separate incident one man was murdered and two others injured at a stabbing incident near the Zest nightclub, also in Ipswich.

There remains a real need to continue to pray for Ipswich.

“Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This has been a terrible time for us in Ipswich, and we know that so many of you have been praying for us, and we really appreciate this. These events have touched everyone in the community. Obviously the whole area has been hit by a media frenzy this week.

If you wish to pray for us during your Sunday services this week, we would ask you to pray for the following, for:

- Suffolk Police who are doing a superb job under huge pressure.
- Policemen and Policewomen and their families. The Police are working from early morning to nearly midnight every day. Pray especially for Christian police officers and their witness at this time. Pray that they will soon be able to

charge whoever has committed these murders.

- The families of the victims, in their grief and loss. Pray that the light and hope of the Lord Jesus will be their comfort this Christmas time.
- The young women who 'work' the streets of Ipswich, as they do in towns and cities across the country. Pray that they will find a way out of addiction and prostitution.
- Christian young people who go into town with their friends in the evenings that they may be challenged by these events to live a holy life, and to turn away from drugs and alcohol.
- The 'Town Pastors' scheme, where a number of Christians have been going into Ipswich to reach out to clubbers and prostitutes with the gospel. They have been asked to patrol with the Police in the 'red light' district.
- All of us as Ipswich Churches, that we may each preach with pastoral sensitivity and courage at this crucial time, and make known the message of light in the coming of our Lord Jesus

Thank you for your prayers”.

Ipswich church ministers: Stuart Balmer - Pastor, Whitton Baptist Church, Graham Eldridge - Elder, Zoar Baptist Church, Malcolm MacGregor - Pastor, Cauldwell Hall Road Baptist Church, Jim Sayers - Pastor, Kesgrave Baptist Church Steve Wyncoll - Pastor, Waldringfield Baptist Church

My eyes will flow unceasingly, without relief, until the Lord looks down from the heaven and sees.

What I see brings grief to my soul because of all the women of my city...

Lamentations 3:49-51

Prayer Pointers

We praise God for the:

- Hope and new life that Jesus offers
- Strong united church in Ipswich
- Immense amount of work the police have done and for the recent arrests of two men in connection with the murders of the prostitutes.
- Strength He has given to the church, in particular the Town Pastors, and the favour He has given them with the police and local Council.

We pray for:

- All those living in fear, that they would know that Jesus can bring freedom and a new start
- A sense that God can inter-

vene in lives, that hope would replace despair

- Forgiveness and cleansing for all
- All who mourn the loss of those they have lost, especially those who are victims of violent crime
- The three churches in the red light district and their leaders: Nick Atkins at St Matthew's (Church of England); Simon Harris (Burlington Baptist) and Harold Afflu (Ipswich International - Elim) as they work together in this situation.
- Rev Paul Daltry and Liz Beaton would really appreciate your prayers for extra strength and energy as they respond to the media, liaise with the police and local Council, and lead the team of Town Pastors

- The police whose resources are severely stretched at the moment; for supernatural wisdom and insight.

Various relatives of the murdered prostitutes are Christians and members of local congregations; please pray for them.

Please also pray that:

- God, through this would give us, as he has promised, the 'treasures of darkness'.
- Zest nightclub, shut down at present would remain permanently closed (God told the Ipswich churches two or three years ago that this was one of the strongholds of the city that had to go).

"Thanks again for your support, prayers and encouragement - it means so much to us here". Liz Beaton, Ipswich Prayer Watch

Break the Traffic

It is estimated that nearly 2,000 people are trafficked each day. This is a global issue and one that demands a global response. This website has been launched specifically to enable people to express their views against this £4billion trade.

To add your voice to the groundswell of support, upload your photo and encourage others you know to join the protest.

People trafficking involves the movement of women, children and men into forced labour and sex slavery. Violence, threats, and other forms of coercion are used to force the victims of the traffickers to work against their will.

This includes controlling freedom of movement, where and when they will work and what pay, if any, they will receive.

It is estimated that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Of these victims, 80% are female, and up to 50% are children and hundreds of thousands are used in prostitution each year. On top of this is the vast "in country" trafficking and exploitation.

The UK government estimate that at least 1,420 women are trafficked to the UK each year for sexual exploitation, although many claim this figure is only a fraction of those trafficked.

An action plan to address this has just been launched by the UK Government and laws are being reviewed. Please make sure we make the most of this window of opportunity by getting involved and publicising this site.

For further information on "Break the Traffic" please e-mail info@breakthetraffic.com

Taken from "Break the Traffic" website

To contact Teresa Lasky please write to 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt. (01206 242235) or email: admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

To contribute to next month's prayer guide contact Marie Morris at: info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

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