

Invitation to the Annual Assembly



Congregational
Federation

Friday 10th May &

Saturday 11th May 2024

University of Essex, Colchester



Dear All,

I would like to invite you to this year's May Assembly, a time when we can come together face to face and enjoy fellowship as the Congregational Federation! I am delighted that the Eastern Area will be hosting us this year in the University of Essex just outside Colchester and Wivenhoe. We will have events in both the town centre of Colchester and Wivenhoe Congregational Church but the Assembly itself will be in the University of Essex, the Business Studies Building two miles from Colchester town centre. We will also be streaming the Assembly live so if you are unable to make it in person you can still be part of the day.

Our weekend starts with an event on Friday afternoon and finishes with worship on the Sunday afternoon.

The main event of course is on Saturday when doors open at 9.30am with refreshments and we will start at 10am with live worship till formal proceedings start at 10.30am. The University of Essex has three sites, and we are in the Colchester Business Suite. The Assembly will be held in a large lecture theatre but the venue we have is spacious with lots of light and green plants. There is a big free car park, and it is 15 minutes by taxi from Colchester train station. Elisabeth Sweeney Smith will be inducted as President, presenting her theme "*Hear the word of the Lord*".

Luzia Watt our Church Support Worker will also host a Children and Youth Assembly so please encourage any children and young people to attend.

In this document is all the information you need but please contact me if you have any questions

I look forward to seeing you there

Yvonne Campbell

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Friday 10th May 2pm – 4pm, A Gathering for those in Ministries, Wivenhoe Congregational Church, 101 High Street, CO7 9AB

This is a time of fellowship for all but especially those in ministries or church leadership role. It will be lead by a national initiative that will encourage you and resource you in the role you have. At the time of writing the speaker is TBC.

Friday 10th May 7pm – 9pm, Fringe event, A tour of Colchester

We have a local historian who will take us to historic buildings associated with CH Spurgeon. A coach will leave St Peter's Street Premier Inn at 7pm and return at 9pm. If you want to meet us at the first venue, we will arrive at Artillery Street Church at 7.05pm and then we will visit Eld Lane Baptist church and at 8pm Colchester Baptist church where refreshments will be served after a talk.

Saturday 11th May - The University of Essex, Colchester Site, Business School, CO4 3SQ

9.30am – 10.25am – Tea and Coffee and biscuits will be served,

10am – Open worship will start the day.

10.30am Formal proceedings will begin

1pm – 2pm - Lunch time with tea and coffee available

4pm - Tea and Coffee will be served



There is a full hour for lunch to chat and catch up with friends old and new. You can pre-order a packed lunch bag for £10 or you can bring your own lunch. There is one newsagent shop opposite. All dietary needs will be catered for if you pre-order so just state on the form enclosed. There will also be a range of information stands to browse around.

Directions.

Visit the website for more detailed instructions <https://www.essex.ac.uk/visit-us/plan-your-visit/travel-to-colchester>

By rail – the nearest station is Colchester and is 15 minutes in a taxi.

By car – When you arrive in Colchester follow the road signs to the university (off the A133) **SAT NAV CO7 9HT**

Parking – This is a big free car park available outside the Business School.

Lunch is £10 which includes a sandwich, drink, cake, crisps and fruit - Please see attached order form and state any dietary requirements

Children's work and Youth work - We ask you to pre-register, if possible, for numbers and safeguarding.

Live Streaming – Will be run by Crystal Productions

Photography – Rydal Photography will take photos during the day but if you do not want to be included in any photography, please let the welcome desk know when you arrive.

Saturday evening, 7-9pm

Hosted by Wivenhoe Congregational Church, High Street, Wivenhoe, CO7 9AB

We invite you to Wivenhoe Congregational Church. Starting at 7pm with a hot meal followed by an evening of entertainment based on 60s and 70s music led by Justin Lunniss. Fancy dress is optional.

It will be a chance to relax and be entertained.

Sunday 12th May

10.30am - service at Tollesbury Congregational Church, CM9 8QD – The President Elisabeth Sweeney Smith will lead the service.

11am – Service at Wivenhoe Congregational Church – Past President Oliver Kinchin will lead.

2pm –3pm There will be a Messy Church Fresh Expression of church service from Wivenhoe Congregational Church led By Debbie Lea-Taylor which you are all invited to join.



Colchester Hotels

Staff and Guests are staying in: -

Premier Inn Town centre Castle, St Peter's Street, CO1 1EW

Other Hotels include: -

Premier Inn(A12), Ipswich Rod, CO4 9WP, 2star

Greyfriars High Street, High Street, Colchester, Colchester CO1 1UG 4 star

Lake House Wivenhoe Trail, Colchester CO4 3SG 4 star

Holiday Inn, Abbots Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester CO6 3QL 3 star