

Message from the Committee

Hello and welcome to our end of term newsletter. As we approach Easter time when we reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, we have a chance to look back over the term at how God has been moving through our CU and on our campus. This has been a long term with exams, an events week, an AGM to elect a new committee, an Alpha Course and a Christianity Explored Course. These have run alongside our regular weekly activities of iCafé, Hall Groups, Text-A-Toastie, Inside Out, and Unite, and our daily 8am prayer meeting, Thirst. More details about these are given below, but please do visit our website (www.sucu.org.uk) for more information. As a new committee we would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee who have just stepped down for their hard work this last year, and also to thank team leaders who have recently passed on responsibilities.

Events Week

Between the 3rd-7th February, SUCU ran its annual Events Week. The name, 'What's your but?' aimed to get our fellow students to really think about their objections to Christianity. In the run up to the week, we jointly hosted a debate with the Atheist Society and held a quiz night to raise awareness of the week.

We were privileged to have Richard Cunningham, director of UCCF, and Lewis Green, the UCCF Relay coordinator, come to speak. Prayer was key to the week, and each day began with Thirst (our morning prayer meeting), which was very well attended. The lunchtime talks, each addressing a common objection to Christianity, such as suffering and the historical accuracy of the Bible, averaged an attendance of 200. Each evening, we provided international students with a free meal and a talk, with topics such as 'But what's different about Christianity?' and 'But I've never heard of the Bible!'

Shortly after, some more in depth talks were given in one of the student bars. These evening events gathered up to 60 people each. To finish the week, stand-up comedian Andy Kind provided us with some great laughs, shared his testimony, and pulled in a significant crowd. In all, 83 people completed a feedback form, with 21 expressing an interest to find out more. Those who attended were particularly receptive to hearing students give their personal testimonies, and a good number of people have since attended the Alpha course. We are truly grateful to God for the week, and to those who prayed for it. We continue to pray for students on our campus, and for opportunities to share the Gospel with them.

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Alpha and Christianity Explored

This term we have been running the Alpha course as a follow up to Events Week. Each week we have had about 15 non-Christians or new Christians who still have lots of questions, coming along on a Thursday evening to find out more about Jesus. The evening has started with a short talk or video on a topic, followed by a meal. Then there has been time to discuss the topic in more detail and ask any questions about it in small groups. It has been really encouraging to watch people come along every week and really want to find out more about Jesus and what being a Christian is all about. Several of the non-Christians have started going to local churches, and one girl has given her life to Jesus. Thank you for all your prayers for Alpha, God has been so good to us, He has provided for us in every way and we are really seeing Him working in people's lives, and opening their hearts to him.

Along with running the Alpha course, we have also been running a Christianity Explored course for a whole flat of non-Christians who want to find out more. They are really enjoying hearing about Jesus and investigating the reliability of the Bible and keep coming back every week.

Text A Toastie (TAT)

Text A Toastie has been running every Wednesday evening this term, and it ran every night during promo week (the week before events week). Text A Toastie is a chance for people to text in a question about Christianity, and a flavour of toastie that they would like (any two from Ham, Cheese, Pineapple and Tomato) and then we make their toastie, take it to

them, and answer their question. One of the leaders had this to say about Text A Toastie this term:

“Text A Toastie has been amazing so far this term; it's such a privilege to spend a Wednesday evening with an enthusiastic team who turn up every week because they are so excited to tell other students all about the God who loves them! Thank you to everyone who has been praying for TAT to run smoothly each week; if you would continue to do so that would be incredible.

Please also pray that many students will take the opportunity to ask any questions that they might have about the resurrection of Christ this Easter. Also please pray that God will continue to work through TAT, so that the students of Southampton may know Jesus our Saviour.”

Inside Out

Inside Out has again been running every Friday night this term, from one of the local churches on the high street. We act as a witness, sharing the love of Jesus to the clubbers as they return home from their night out, giving out water, hot drinks, and biscuits.

Praise God that He continues to bring in a huge range of people to hear His good news! Prayer points: 1) That people who come in would remember and think about what they've heard about Jesus, and perhaps come to church/TAT. 2) We have some regular visitors who come for lengthy discussions and they are sometimes antagonistic but clearly interested; we would value prayers that God would soften their hearts and draw them to him.

iCafé

iCafé is our weekly meeting for international students. It happens every Monday evening at 7:30pm in the Student Union café.

During events week iCafé ran every evening, with different speakers coming to talk each evening. We also served a full meal to each international who came that week. It was fantastic to see so many students coming back and hearing about Jesus night after night. This term it has been great to see an increase in the number of CU members coming along to help on team. It has also been really encouraging to see a growth in

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the number of international students attending each week too. Our prayer is that this ministry continues to grow, and that the international students will understand and come to have a faith in Jesus.

Hall Groups

Our Hall Groups meet every Tuesday during term in the different halls of residence. Here is what one member of a Hall Group has said about the term.

“This term in Hall Group has been so exciting and encouraging. It has been amazing to build on the friendships formed in the first term, to pray together, learn from each other, build each other up and to soak in the amazing truth that is God's love for us and for our campus through studying 2 Corinthians together. We have started doing half an hour of worship before Hall Group which has been a great time to focus our minds and to lift up our weeks and campus before God, as well as praise Him for all that we have seen Him do in our lives and those of our friends. Hall Groups are hopefully a place where we can come and feel safe together and spend vital time with other Christians in prayer, worship, games and study, as well as challenging and supporting each other to live the life that Christ has called us to live; to share the love, hope and joy of Christ in all aspects of student life.”

Dates for the Diary

Some particular highlights to look forward to!

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| 5 th May | Picnic on Common |
| 8 th May | CU Ball – Great Gatsby Theme |
| 12 th May | Lunch Time Talk |
| 14 th May | Christian Aid Quiz |

Could you support us financially?

As a CU we're in an incredibly privileged position to reach out to the students of the University of Southampton, and we're grateful to all those who support us so generously. However, there is a financial cost to almost all we do and we'd always appreciate more support of this kind. Gifts can be made via the CU's bank account (account number : 02493362, sort code: 30-97-80). Please contact Hannah Aird (treasurer@sucu.org.uk) with any giving related queries. Thank you!