



## Imperial College Christian Union – Christmas Newsletter 2014

As Christmas approaches and we look back at the autumn term, we've been struck by how much the Lord has been doing at Imperial so far during this academic year. We hope you will enjoy hearing about what we've been up to and join us in thanksgiving and praise to God for making all of what we do possible!

### Fresher's Week 2014

During Fresher's Week, we ran a number of events to reach out to the thousands of new students who arrived on campus in October. We had about one hundred people sign up to our mailing list at the Freshers Fair and in general had very good attendance at our events throughout the week.

We held an afternoon tea party for international students with bunting, cake stands, teapots and delicious cakes which were homemade by CU members. There was a brief talk from our UCCF staff worker, James Watts, about the traditions surrounding British afternoon tea and a gospel centred talk from CU member Angus about arriving at university for the first time

as an international student. Feedback for this event was great and two girls signed up to read Uncover John (6 studies on John's gospel including historical context and questions to reflect on) with a CU member.

The turn out to our other events, including two apologetics lunch bars and a meal for internationals, was very encouraging. New first year students who have joined the CU got stuck in to things right away. We're so thankful for them, and that they've all settled at great churches which encourage them to live and speak for Jesus at Imperial

**A packed out Union Dining Hall at the Freshers Week tea party!**







We received a mention in Imperial's student-run newspaper, *Felix*, for the work we did handing out teas, coffees and biscuits to new students at the Freshers Week parties and helping those who had had a bit too much to drink to get home safely. From left to right we have Peter, ICCU president Jake and Ndi helping out at The Mingle—the first freshers event of the year!

## ICCU/CMF Weekend Away 2014

In November we escaped to Kent for a couple of days for our annual weekend away with the Christian Medical Fellowship. We spent a lovely weekend at Downe Scout Centre where we were joined by our Events Week 2015 speaker, Sye Pethick. Sye lead us in a great study on the

book of Jonah where we looked at the ways we can try to compartmentalise God in our lives, the meaning and depth of grace and how there is nobody that the Lord can't reach if He has set them

apart. Through the main talks and seminars we were able to think about what it means to live up to our mission statement, *'Giving every student at Imperial the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus,'* and practically how we practically do that.

It was a great weekend, full of time spent in fellowship, praying and worshipping together, getting to know each other better, playing some suitably ridiculous

games and eating delicious food, prepared for us by two ICCU alumni, Ben and Dingeman (for whom we're very grateful!).



Photos from top to bottom: enjoying a tea and cake break, a lovely country walk (towards the pub!), getting ready to throw cheese puffs at the shaving cream-covered faces of some brave volunteers during games on the first night and one of the worship teams who provided us with fantastic music throughout the weekend.

# Skeptical and Cookie for a Question

We're thanking God so much for the way that our Friday lunchtime apologetics talk has grown this term! We regularly have upwards of 30 people attending each week and questions and conversations last well in to the hour of free time that we have once the talk is over.

This term we've covered topics such as 'What Does God Think of Capitalism?', 'Are Christians Credible Scientists?' and 'Why are Christians so Annoying?' We've been lucky enough to have speakers from diverse backgrounds to come and speak to us, including church workers, members of staff from UCCF and even a couple of research scientists.

We continue to be thankful to everyone who

gives up their time and money to help Skeptical be a success, particularly Christ Church Mayfair who pay for the free lunch we offer each week at the talk.

Another successful event this year has been Cookie for a Question, where we set up a table in the Junior Common Room and people can ask us questions about Christianity and God in exchange for the answer and a free cookie. This has sparked some great chats and even inspired a couple of our first years to run a similar event for their friends in their kitchen at halls! We're so thankful for how God has used these events so far this year and commit them to Him in the hope that they will continue to grow next year.



## Christmas at Imperial

This Christmas we held our annual carol service at Holy Trinity Church which is right next door to the Student Union at Imperial. Our Events Week 2015 Speaker, Sye, joined us again and gave a great talk about whether we are willing to accept Jesus as Lord this Christmas. We had music provided by the Hill-song society and members of the ICCU, including Ben

on piano and Peter and Anthony on brass, as well as a beautiful solo by Royal Academy of Music student, Denise Wang. There were classic Bible readings to accompany the talk and the service was lead by ICCU veteran, Tom Ravalde. We were able to give everyone who attended the service a free copy of Mark's Gospel and plenty of festive refreshments. During the refreshments afterwards, lots of exciting and encouraging conversations were had with non-Christians who attended and one attendee even took spare copies of Mark away to give to friends! We couldn't be happier with how things went and are thankful to Holy Trinity for letting us use this beautiful venue.





## Looking Ahead...

Our next big event will be our annual Events Week which this year is taking place from 9th-13th February 2015. This is a concentrated week of events where we focus all of our efforts on sharing the Gospel message with students and staff at Imperial. We're planning to hold an apologetics lunch bar every day bar one during the week, as well as three evening events—a live lounge which will be a Gospel-centred acoustic night with live music and food, a film event where we'll show clips of a popular film accompanied by a Gospel talk and a Grill-a-Christian, panel-style event where people can ask questions openly.

We'll also be holding a follow-up course for people who have attended events week and are interested in learning more about Christianity, with a view to examining the evidence so that they can decide whether or not to put their faith in Jesus. We'll be using the '*Uncover John*' resources which are produced by UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship) as the material for the follow up course. *Uncover John* places emphasis on examining the evidence for the life and claims of Jesus and coming to an informed conclusion. We're hopeful that this will be successful and we're looking forward to what the Lord will do with events week in 2015.

## How Can You Support Us?

### Through Prayer

One of the most important things that you can do to support us over the next year is praying for us. Here are some prayer points:

- Thank Him for the amazing growth we have seen at Skeptical and all the great conversations that are being had.
- Lift up Events Week 2015 to Him and pray that our events would glorify Him and lead people to know Him better.
- Thank Him for all the new students at Imperial this year, particularly ICCU freshers who are so passionate about making Jesus known to their friends.
- Pray that God will be moving at Imperial to win souls back to Him, that all ICCU members would have a heart of compassion and long to see lost children running back to the arms of their heavenly Father.

### Financially

We're grateful for the contributions of ICCU alumni and local churches who support us financially. If you would like to partner with us as we start planning Events Weeks by making a financial donation to the ICCU, or would just like to receive more updates, please send us an email at [cu@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cu@ic.ac.uk).

The ICCU wishes you a merry Christmas, filled with blessings, and thanks you for joining us in thanksgiving as we look back at what He has done this year at Imperial.

***For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders and His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6***