

As Christmas nears and we have all gone home for the holidays, it has been a joy to think back on the last term at Imperial and praise God for all that he has done. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to!

Freshers Week

The term kicked off in early October with a number of events during Freshers Week. We had over 70 people sign up for the mailing list during fresher's fair, and enjoyed putting on two lunchbars for students to attend. The Afternoon Tea was a particular success, in which we invited international students to taste British life through traditional tea and cake in a very patriotically decorated lecture theatre! There was also a history lesson about afternoon tea from our staff worker James, and a short talk from one of the international CU members about being a Christian in London. So many people attended that we had to put out more tables! A new event we tried out this year was the 'Hangover Breakfast', in which we set up a stand outside Princes' Gardens halls the morning after Freshers Ball to serve students by giving out bacon sandwiches. It was also wonderful to welcome new Christian freshers to Imperial, and an answer to prayer to see them throwing themselves into events and being emboldened to join our mission team and help share the good news of Jesus Christ on campus.



CU member Izzie chatting with an inquisitive student at freshers fair



Left: International students gathered for afternoon tea, investigating whether the Cornish or Devonshire way of making scones is correct!

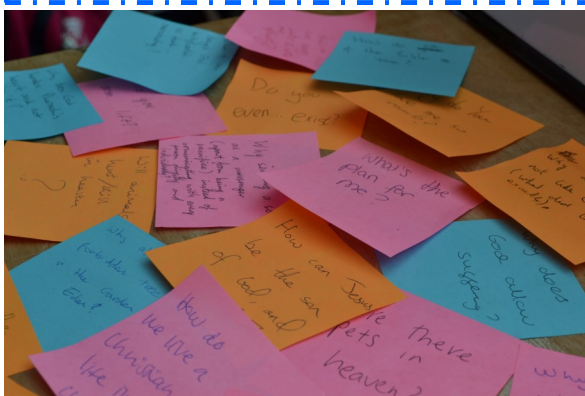
Right: CU members, sporting new orange hoodies, giving out bacon sandwiches in Princes Gardens

Skeptical

Our weekly apologetics lunchbar Skeptical has continued to flourish this term, with 30- 40 people attending each week. We've enjoyed tackling questions like 'How can Imperial students believe the Bible is reliable?', 'Can Jesus help me with my degree?' and 'How can Christians believe in hell?'. It has been encouraging to see students return week on week to explore new topics and find answers to their questions, and occasionally meet up with CU members afterwards to chat about faith more deeply.



A Skeptical lunchbar



Cookie & a Question

Twice this term we've had the opportunity to set up a table in SAF for cookie & a question, where we encourage passers by to ask us questions about God and Christianity in return for a cookie. It's always encouraging to see gospel conversations being had and the Bible being opened in the middle of campus. Examples of the questions we're asked are shown on the left.

Club Mission

We have been able to continue to serve our fellow students through club mission at the big Union parties this term. We set up a gazebo in Beit quad where we gave out free teas, coffees and biscuits to the partygoers. This is both a great way to love them practically, and also start conversations as they ask why we spend our time doing it.



New initiatives– Fuel and Globe Café

We've been fortunate enough to start two new events this year! 'Fuel' is a prayer brunch we have at the beginning and end of each term, to fire us up for evangelism as term starts, and then give us time to reflect and thank God for what has happened at the end. At our second Fuel we launched the brand new Uncover John Gospels– a UCCF resource containing the full account of John's gospel and a series of seeker Bible studies to go through with friends. CU members are encouraged to pray for three, give to three, and read with three, and it's been great to see this starting!

Globe Café is a new outreach event for international students that runs on Wednesday afternoons. We have a space available in the Chaplaincy and international students can come along to get to know each other over board games and snacks. There is also an optional Uncover study (mentioned above) afterwards, and it's been encouraging to see most people stay for the study and engage with the passage each week.

Left: CU members gathered in the Union Concert Hall before term began for the first Fuel



Right: Photos from the weekend away– out on a walk, playing balloon games, and taking part in a quiz



Weekend Away

It was a joy to head off to the Surrey countryside between 4th and 6th December, with the Christian Medical Fellowship, for our annual weekend away. Our Events Week 2016 speaker, Matt Fuller, came along to teach us from 2 Corinthians 4 and 5. We were greatly encouraged in our evangelism, through learning to stand by the true gospel and keep an eternal perspective as we speak about Jesus to our friends. We also had seminars in which we looked at how to glorify God in our work, and ways in which Imperial needs the gospel. And of course we were able to build relationships and have a lot of fun too! Highlights include wheelbarrow races with squirty cream and jelly babies, quizzes, walks in the fields, and of course the famous crumble song!



Carol Service

We ended the year in Holy Trinity Church for the annual Christians at Imperial Carol Service. It was a great blessing to partner with other societies like the Korean Christians, the Christian Medical Fellowship, and the Gospel Choir to put on a fantastic service attended by over 100 people. We sang traditional carols, heard some Bible readings, ate festive refreshments, and heard Matt Fuller give a great gospel talk from John 1. It was encouraging to see plenty of chats occurring between Christians and guests at the end, and to be able to give them all a booklet discussing the true meaning of Christmas.



Looking Forward...

Our main focus is now our annual Events Week, a week of concentrated events between 8th-14th February in which we will concentrate all of our efforts on making the gospel known at Imperial. Our theme this year is 'Braindead', and we will be tackling the assumption that Christianity is an intellectual cop out through a series of lunchtime talks and evening events. We would really value your prayer for the week, that God would provide all we need in terms of speakers, rooms and resources, and that many would attend with open hearts and come to put their faith in Christ. Plus, if you feel you could give financially to help fund the events, that would be greatly appreciated.

How to support us

As mentioned above, there are two key ways that you can be supporting our work— prayer and financial giving.

Prayer

- Thank God for all he has blessed us with this term— committed first year students who are playing an active role in CU, the continual flourishing of Skeptical, and all the other evangelistic events we have been able to put on
- Pray for better follow up of the events we run, that we would be able to build deeper relationships with the people that come along, and see more of them reading Uncover John with CU members
- Pray for Globe Café, that it would continue to grow and that through it the Lord would open the eyes of more international students and cause them to truly grasp the gospel
- Pray for Skeptical as we attempt to run it every week till the end of the year rather than ending it in February as usual. Ask that God would provide the speakers, rooms, and finances to let this go ahead, and that people would keep on coming!

Financially

We are extremely grateful for the financial support provided by ICCU alumni and local churches, and if you feel that this is a way that you may want to partner with us, please email cu@ic.ac.uk about making a donation.

ICCU thanks you for your continued prayer for, and interest in, our work of making the gospel known at Imperial. We always love to hear from ex-members, so whether you simply want to make contact again after a long time, or would like to find out more about what is going on, please feel free to drop us an email at cu@ic.ac.uk. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord' Luke 2: 10-11

