

# *Imperial College Christian Union Summer Newsletter 2016*

Looking back at the past academic year, we are both delighted and humbled by the grace God has shown us, which we are pleased to share with you through this newsletter. We hope that you may find reading through about the happenings of the CU in the past two terms encouraging and join us in praising God for what He has done!

## *Skeptical*

After a short break for the Christmas holidays we resumed our weekly Skeptical lunch bars, with talks focusing on topics such as the identity of Christ as more than just a great person, the sufficiency of the Bible as evidence for God, and the moral character of God as both just and good. The weekly attendance of approximately 30 was encouraging and we thank God for bringing in both new and familiar faces every week. While the provision of a complimentary lunch helped to draw people in, it was heartening to have them engaged in conversation and Q&A after the talk. Skeptic has served well as a platform for reaching out to non-Christians, and also served to encourage Christians in the resolution of difficult questions while equipping them to speak for Christ in their lives.



## *Events Week 2016*

Events week this year took place on the 8-12th of February. Throughout this week, the CU ran events daily with the aim of reaching out to staff and students on campus as much as possible. Skeptical lunch-bars occurred daily, addressing subjects such as the perceived conflict between science and Christianity, hope in a world of suffering, and the trustworthiness of the Bible. The CU hosted Alister McGrath, who gave a talk on "Why Faith Makes Sense" on one of the evenings. A sizeable number of students came for the event, which led to a fruitful evening of discussion and QnA. Some of these became familiar faces for the rest of the week, and we are glad for the opportunities to be able to listen to them and share the good news.

## *Follow-Up*

Uncover John is a book that introduces newcomers to the Gospel of John through a series of excerpts and questions, that can be read by small groups in an informal setting. Uncover has been utilized by many CU this year for follow-up in a decentralized manner. Amidst various responses we are thankful for friends who have accepted Jesus, begun coming to church or continued follow-up through channels such as Christianity Explored. Next year, we are looking to run a dedicated follow-up group weekly. God willing, the provision of a regular and supportive setting for this purpose will facilitate the follow-up process.



## *C4Q and "Call a Crème Egg"*

"Cookie For A Question" (C4Q) is aimed at promoting open conversation with staff and students on campus in a colloquial setting, where they may ask questions pertaining to Christianity at a stall set up in a common area, receiving answers from our CU members as well as a cookie to munch on. C4Q was successful in improving the CU's presence on campus while encouraging people to consider about what Christianity is about just before Events Week that followed. A similar event, "Call a Crème Egg",

was conducted in March of Spring term. Staff and students were invited to ask questions pertaining to Christianity via text, phone or in person, and CU members would then contact them in person with a response and a complimentary Crème Egg. From the most profound of conversations to the briefest of exchanges, we are thankful to God and commit them into His hands.

## Globe Café

Globe Café is welcomes all students to relax and socialize with CU members as well as each other, and serves as a comfortable setting where visitors may ask about Christianity and potentially read Uncover with us. We are immensely thankful God's providence this term — CU members have given their time generously, relationships have been developing well at the café and people have been reading Uncover together and holding enthusiastic group discussions. We have continued to see our regulars returning weekly, with one of them getting baptized. We hope to see Globe café grow next year to involve more CU members and that they will bring along more friends to be reached out to!

## Prayer Breakfasts and Fuel

It's been wonderful to pray together as a group for our CU and the world through our Prayer Breakfasts and brunches this term. The number of people attending around exam times has been great as well, showing how much people cherish prayer and are putting God first in their busy lives!

On the last Saturday of the busy exam term, we had a final "Fuel" meeting to end the year. We had a short session on finances, looking through a passage on 2 Corinthians, and committed the year to God in thanksgiving and petition. This was followed by a convivial afternoon of fellowship, sharing and banter over a barbeque where we reminisced over the past year. It was also a slightly saddening occasion as we prepared farewell cards for all the leaving seniors and encouraged them to look to Christ in faith as they made the next step in life. Although life may put time and distance between us as humans, we can have great joy in the knowledge that we are united in Christ and are never alone with Him!



### Supporting us in Prayer:

In every effort we seek to trust in God and commit to Him our work through prayer. Summarized below are the things that we will be entrusting God with this summer, and we hope that you can join us in prayer for them as well.

- Thank God for placing us in an international institution such as Imperial, and for the freedom of the CU to proclaim the Gospel to people who may have never heard it before.
- Thank God for blessing us with the financial, human, physical and spiritual resources for the successful running of events throughout the year.
- Thank God for people who have come to hear, ask, and respond to the Gospel this year and pray that God will sustain all follow-up efforts and draw them closer to Him.
- Pray for the incoming freshers, that God will grant them a passion for the Gospel and lead them to serve Him during their time in Imperial.
- Commit the planning and activities of Fresher's week to God, that the CU will have a distinctive presence that glorifies Christ in word and deed extending throughout the year, and that through our efforts God will make His name known.
- Pray that CU members may be revitalized physically, mentally and spiritually over summer and that God will sustain them in the Spirit with the passion to live and speak for Christ over the summer as well as the next academic year.

### Supporting us Financially:

We are immensely grateful to all the financial support we have received from the ICCU alumni and local churches. If you willing and able to support us in this way, please email us at [cu@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cu@ic.ac.uk) about making a donation.

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"*

-Romans 1:16-17

