Helen Rimell

Imperial College Christian Union

Imperial College Union

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17th November 2018

Dear Matt Hogg,

At Imperial, our Christian Union will be joining many other London CUs in hosting a week of evangelistic events in the last week of January. We are so thankful that you have supported us in prayer and financially in the past, and we would like to ask if you are willing to continue.

We’ve spent some time reflecting on previous Events Weeks, and this year have decided on the theme of “Who is Jesus?”. We felt that our scientifically-minded friends appear to prefer events with straightforward titles that are unambiguous of our aim of talking about Jesus, and we chose this theme in light of that. We are really excited to be able to invite our friends along to events that are warm and welcoming to students of every belief background, but clearly aim to investigate the life and claims of Jesus. We are also so pleased to have the new resource of Uncover Mark, which has just been launched to CUs by UCCF. It contains intriguing and clear seeker studies as Uncover Luke and John have previously, and enhances the wonderful narrative of Mark’s gospel richly with resources of photographs, spoken word videos and music. We hope that CU members will be keen to use this resource and that following events week many will have the opportunity to follow-up with their friends, opening the gospel with them and investigating the person of Jesus.

We are delighted that Andrew Sach, a pastor at Grace Church Greenwich, has offered to speak from Mark’s gospel at our lunchtime talks during the week. We pray that as the gospel is preached faithfully and clearly, our friends would have their hearts and minds stirred up to want to investigate the claims of Jesus for themselves. It is our prayer that we would have opportunities to read this living and active word of God with our friends, and that the Spirit would be at work so that they too would come into a saving relationship with our mighty King and loving Father God.

Each year our follow-up of Events Week takes the form of a seeker bible study group for students called “Curious” to discuss and find out more about Jesus. Here is a short story from one of the students who came along 2 years ago…

‘At the start of 2017 I did not know Jesus, but a friend of mine from the CU encouraged me to read John’s gospel. At the time, I had only superficially understood who Jesus was… but I had questions and so I read one chapter of John every day until I finished it. In February, I joined the ICCU discussion group where we discussed the gospel using Uncover. I was glad to have an opportunity to ask my questions, but I was not ready to commit. As I got busier and more stressed with work, I turned to many other things than Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, God worked in my circumstances to bring me to my friend’s church. By God’s grace I decided to commit my life to Jesus Christ on April 30th, 2017 and am now a part of the CU sharing the message of Christ on our campus!’

Franz, Undergraduate Student

As students our lives are very busy, but the freedom we have with how to use our time gives us a unique opportunity to share life with our non-believing friends - to spend time with our sports teams, to go for lunch with our coursemates and to sit up late into the night with our flatmates talking about matters of life and faith. Especially here at Imperial, when so many people are so far from home, the friendships we can build at university are wonderfully deep; when you share in the highs and lows of life together, discussing the gospel does not seem out of place.

We are often reminded that the university years are also those where people are most open to reflecting on their worldview and considering those held by others. We would like to ask if you’d be willing to partner with us in taking the opportunity we have to aim to give every student at Imperial the chance to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus. There are three ways in which you can help us:

## 1) Pray

We cherish our local church family’s commitment to praying for us. We specifically ask that you would pray for us as we organise the events that we would always be seeking to bring people to Christ, bringing glory to him and loving our neighbour in everything that we do. Please also pray that we would be able to organise the events effectively, managing our time and work well, trusting in God in all things. Pray that God would help us deepen our friendships with those who do not know Jesus, that we would be distinctive in the way we live and that our friends would be interested in finding out more as Events Week approaches. Pray we would see our friends won for Jesus this year.

## 2) Give

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| --- | --- |
|  | Estimated Costs |
| Carol Service | £200 |
| 4 Lunches served at talks | £500 |
| Publicity | £250 |
| Supporting London-wide Evening Events | £200 |
| Total | **£1150** |

We’re looking to grow our own giving so that we can support and sustain our weekly outreach. Most of our monthly costs are already covered by member donations, and in the next few weeks we will be speaking to the CU to encourage members to give what they can regularly. We’re also looking to our churches for help as we plan for Events Week. If 5 churches and the CU gave £200 we would cover the cost of our Events Week fully! To find out how to give, please visit our website: iccu.co.uk/give

## 3) CUG

We would like to ask if St Alban’s would be interested in providing one or perhaps more CU guest(s) (CUGs) to come alongside the CU during this week as we seek to engage our friends with the Gospel of Jesus, and to encourage us as we do so. For a CUG that you may send, this can look different in each situation. It could involve going with a student to one of the events and chatting with them to their friends about questions they might have; it might involve going around some of the cafés with a CU student handing out flyers and trying to start conversations about the Gospel, inviting more people to events; it might look like going to a student’s house/ halls and having dinner with them and some of their friends, with the aim to have some conversation about who Jesus is. A CUG may also be asked to help logistically with an event, moving food or resources across campus as we prepare for an event, allowing students to focus on talking to their friends.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you would like to partner with us in this exciting week of reaching Imperial students with the life-changing news of Jesus Christ, we would love to hear from you and think further together about it.

Yours in Christ,

Helen Rimell

ICCU Vice-President and Treasurer

On behalf of the ICCU committee

One final request would be for prayer for our carol service on Monday 3rd December! Christian Unions from Imperial College and the Royal College of Art are hosting a carol service together at 6.20pm at a church next door to our campuses in South Kensington. Please pray that many students would accept invitations to come (through both friends and flyers) and that they would come to know of the real joy on offer in Christ. Please pray for the organisational logistics and for Andrew Sach (the same speaker as we have for Events week) as he prepares to speak about the Christmas message!