

WELCOME TO FOCUS PRAYER DIARY

14 January – 12 May 2018

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand'

Isaiah 41:10

We begin this edition of the Focus prayer diary by looking back – praising God for all He has done over the past term. We have heard exciting stories of new life as well as many CUs taking large strides forward in their gospel-centred vision and evangelism strategies.

We are on the cusp of mission week season. Please join us in praying for CUs across the UK as they run weeks of evangelistic events tailored towards the needs and tastes of their student friends and peers, presenting them with the opportunity to hear and respond to the message of Jesus. In subsequent weeks, CUs will be focussing on follow-up, running a range of seeker courses and Bible studies for interested students. We pray that many will accept the saving grace of Christ during this period.

In addition to this, we will cast our minds forward, praying for what the future holds for CU students – particularly the new CU leaders who will be taking on leadership roles and responsibilities in March. We pray particularly that these CU leaders would be motivated by grace and generous in world mission – two of UCCF's core values – enabling them to rejoice in their salvation, serve one another and love the lost from all walks of life.

Your prayerful support of this vital gospel ministry is much valued. Thank you for your continued partnership with the work of the CUs.

With best wishes,



Nick Smith

Supporter Relations Officer

CONTENTS

Praise 14–27 January

Motivated by grace 28 January – 10 February

Mission weeks 11 February – 3 March

Follow-up 4–17 March

New leaders 18–31 March

Standing firm 1–14 April

Generous in world mission 15–28 April

Looking ahead 29 April – 12 May

ABBREVIATIONS

CICCU – Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union

CU – Christian Union

CUSW – Christian Union Staff Worker

DICCU – Durham Inter-Collegiate Christian Union

IFES – International Fellowship of Evangelical Students

JCR – Junior Common Room
KCL – King’s College London
OICCU – Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union
SOAS – School of Oriental and African Studies
SU – Student Union
UCL – University College London
UEA – University of East Anglia
UHI – University of Highlands and Islands
UWS-Paisley – University of West Scotland, Paisley campus

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*denotes name has been changed

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PRAISE

14–27 January

‘Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.’

1 Chronicles 16:8

Please join us in reflecting on a great season of student mission, giving thanks to God for all that He has done through CUs and CU leaders.

Sun 14

‘During freshers’ week, SOAS CU helped the SU by distributing yearbooks from the JCR, the social hub of their campus. This allowed the CU to interact with hundreds of new students. Praise God for their boldness and pray that this opens doors for them to share the gospel with students.’ – *Pete Downing, CUSW in Central London*

Mon 15

Edge Hill CU launched small groups in September after trialling them at the end of last year. Give thanks that the groups were consistently full throughout the first term, serving to enhance the community in a rapidly growing CU. One of the groups has regularly had an unbelieving guest come along, who is now intrigued to hear more about Christianity.

Tue 16

Praise God for Edna* who recently became a Christian. Edna has been regularly attending Roehampton CU meetings for the past year. She recently came to CU saying, ‘Something just clicked; I now understand who Jesus is and why everyone is so excited to talk about Him.’

Wed 17

‘Give thanks for Niamh*, who first met Leeds University CU last year at a lunchbar. She became interested in Christianity, met up with a CU member to ask further questions and then began

attending a church in Leeds. We recently heard that she's getting baptised in the New Year!' – *Lizzie Fry, CUSW in Bradford and Leeds*

Thu 18

Give thanks for the growth of the UCCF Science Network across the country. Thank God for student-led events that equip science students to be confident in sharing the gospel in their contexts, as well as events that proclaim Christ in the science faculties.

Fri 19

In September, Hertfordshire CU hosted their first lunchbar in a number of years, where they were looking at the evidence for the resurrection. Give thanks for the 20 unbelieving guests who attended and heard a clear gospel presentation.

Sat 20

At the beginning of the academic year, low membership meant that it was doubtful whether a CU at UWS-Paisley would still exist. Despite this, a couple of faithful students organised a stall at the freshers' fair, where they connected with many students. Praise God that since then around 20 students have been regularly attending the weekly CU meetings throughout the term.

Sun 21

Crispin* came to Chichester University as an unbeliever. After attending the CU's *Story* mission week, he started attending church regularly and getting involved in CU events. Give thanks that he has now given his life to Christ!

Mon 22

'During the last term, a number of students from South Bank University got in touch to see if it might be possible to re-establish a CU. We've since met a couple of times and even ran a Text-a-Toastie in November. Please pray for more students to get involved and for this small group of students to be bold.' – *Jake Tasker, CUSW in South East London*

Tue 23

Give thanks for UCCF Politics Network events that are taking place in Oxford, Cambridge, London and Edinburgh. Praise God for Christian students who are working together to bring positive changes to university life through SUs and who aspire to be Christian politicians in the future.

Wed 24

'Give thanks for Heriot Watt CU who warmly welcomed a non-Christian called Richie* to their meeting during freshers' week. Richie has since been going to church and has been reading the Bible with members of the CU. Do pray that Richie would accept Christ as his saviour.' – *Scott Hamilton, CUSW in Edinburgh*

Thu 25

'Adam* attended Reading CU's main meeting after receiving a flyer. He was blown away by the story of the prodigal son, despite describing himself as an atheist. He is now a regular attendee of the CU and their follow-up course, even participating in outreach events. Please pray that Adam would meet Jesus for himself.' – *Peter Harris, CUSW in Reading and Surrey*

Fri 26

'Praise God for Roger* who came to faith through the CU's follow-up course after last year's Cardiff CU city-wide mission. Roger has been particularly proactive in inviting his friends to

outreach events this year. Praise God that mission transforms, then commissions disciples!' – *Sam Liu, CUSW in Cardiff*

Sat 27

'For a number of years, many people have been faithfully praying for the University of Chester, Warrington campus. In the past, despite a consistent presence at the freshers' fair, we have been unable to gather enough students to start a CU. However, this year we have met with five students who are all interested in getting involved. Wonderfully, we've since been reading Uncover together and are even planning outreach events. Praise God!' – *Sarah Oliver, CUSW in Liverpool and Chester*

MOTIVATED BY GRACE

28 January – 10 February

'But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'

2 Corinthians 12:9

One of UCCF's core values is to be motivated by grace for evangelism. We long to see students who rejoice in the salvation they have received through Jesus Christ. Pray that an outpouring of this joy would be seen in all that CUs do.

Sun 28

'Pray that Welsh-speaking CUs would continue to be bold and to step out of their comfort zones. Pray that they would know that they have good news to share and would see the urgency of sharing the gospel with their peers.' – *Elin Williams, CUSW in Bangor*

Mon 29

Please pray that CUs would be confident in their personal evangelism and that we would see many CU students modelling Christ to their peers and engaging their friends with the gospel through resources such as Uncover.

Tue 30

'Give thanks for Northumbria CU students who have been particularly willing to serve in outreach events. Pray that their motivation and drive would flow out of their experience of the gospel and that this would shape the message that they hold out to their friends.' – *Emma Wyatt, CUSW in Newcastle and Northumbria*

Wed 31

Give thanks for the UCCF Music Network equipping students in very competitive and driven environments. Pray that students would be compelled to work hard to honour God rather than for their own glory. Pray that they would be salt and light in the music colleges and that their friends might be prompted to ask why they are different.

Thu 1

Please pray that UHI CU students wouldn't be discouraged by being few in number amidst a widely distributed university. Pray for more CU groups to start across the different campuses in order that every student in the Highlands and Islands might hear about God's grace during their time at university.

Fri 2

Join with us in praying that the CUs wouldn't fear failure, and that the knowledge that they stand in grace would lead to a willingness to be creative and bold for the gospel. Pray that the CUs would have a deep understanding of their friends and would engage well with their worldviews.

Sat 3

'Pray that the two students comprising Wolverhampton CU would be bold in inviting friends and course mates to read Uncover with them. Pray that they would have faith that God is able to use them to save others.' – *Josh Jackson, CUSW in Birmingham*

Sun 4

Give thanks for students who came to faith last term. Please pray that they would be good soil, growing in their love and knowledge of Christ and walking in His grace.

Mon 5

'Pray that Bournemouth CU would be a united team serving out of joy and thankfulness for the gospel. Please pray that the whole CU would take responsibility for their outreach.' – *Emily Muwowo, CUSW in Bournemouth and Winchester*

Tue 6

'Please pray that we would be encouraged in the gospel and would have peace as a CU committee. Pray that as we face challenges, we would know that we are justified in Jesus.' – *Maxine du Plessis, Gloucester CU secretary*

Wed 7

'Thank God for the regular outreach events and ambitious evangelistic plans run by Southampton CU's hall groups. Please pray that the hall group leaders would continue to inspire and equip freshers to reach out to their fellow hall mates.' – *Niv Lobo, CUSW in Southampton*

Thu 8

'Please pray that students in Liverpool Hope CU would be excited for evangelism. Pray that the CU committee would be patient in encouraging them and building convictions.' – *Pete Gower, North West Assistant Team Leader*

Fri 9

As Plymouth CU enter the final day of their *Real Week* mission week, please pray that they would continue to be motivated by the grace that they have received through Christ and would be urgent in sharing this with students around them.

Sat 10

UCCF's Theology Network is led by Ash Cunningham and resourced by Associate Staff Workers (former theology students). They have a unique understanding of the struggles of studying theology as a Christian, and give their time generously to support students. Pray they would draw upon God's grace each day as they serve in this vital way.

MISSION WEEKS

11 February – 3 March

'Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.'

1 Corinthians 15:1

The spring term is the most high profile, focussed time of evangelism in the university calendar. CUs across the country will be hosting themed weeks of mission to give their fellow students the opportunity to hear the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Please join us in praying that many would encounter the risen Jesus for the first time over these next few weeks.

Sun 11

CUs across London ran a citywide mission from 22–26 January on the theme of *Story*. Pray that students would still be responding and considering the claims they heard during the week at lunchbars and evening events.

Mon 12

Today is the first day of Loughborough CU's mission week. Please pray for clear and effective gospel proclamation and that many students would meet Jesus for the first time during this week.

Tue 13

'Pray for Sheffield CU as they enter the second day of their *Care* mission week. The CU hope to convey that the love that God has for us stretches to all people and is a completely satisfying answer to any question or longing we have. Pray for these students as they present the gospel through a range of lunchbars, evening talks and lashings of ethical coffee.' – *Katie Shaw, CUSW in Sheffield*

Wed 14

Huddersfield CU begins the third day of their mission week today. Pray for them as they host a lunchbar followed by a café-style event this evening in the SU. Pray that they would hold out the gospel clearly to their friends.

Thu 15

Today is the penultimate day of the Liverpool CUs' *Story* mission week. University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores and Liverpool Hope CUs have been holding the gospel out to their peers this week. Please pray that students in Liverpool would consider and accept the true story of Christ.

Fri 16

'Please pray for Caledonian CU as they head into the final day of their mission week. Pray that their mission would effectively reach their specific context of students who typically commute to and from campus. Pray for wisdom in their engagement with their campus.' – *Simon Attwood, CUSW in Glasgow*

Sat 17

Give thanks for the University of the Creative Arts, Farnham CU, who finished their mission week yesterday. Praise God for their creativity in hosting events that appealed to arts students. Pray that students in Farnham would carefully consider the gospel claims that they have heard.

Sun 18

CICCU ran a week of mission, *Real*, from 5–9 February, pointing students to the reality of the gospel and towards God as the source of real joy, love and life. Pray that those who attended events would continue to consider the reality of life that Christ brings.

Mon 19

Surrey CU will be using a central location on campus this week to host their outreach events. Pray that this will be effective in drawing in students and would be an opportunity for many Surrey students to hear and respond to the gospel.

Tue 20

‘Pray for the Kent-based CUs as they join together for their *Story* mission week. Both Kent and Canterbury CUs will host evangelistic events on campus during the day, before gathering together centrally in the evenings. Please pray that together they would reach many with the good news of Jesus.’ – *Chris McBurney, CUSW in Canterbury*

Wed 21

Bristol CU ran a week of events back in November, inviting friends to consider the gospel in a post-truth society. Today they enter the third day of a second week of mission. Pray that the CU would draw on their November experiences to effectively present the gospel to their peers.

Thu 22

Give thanks for the many speakers who will be providing clear gospel presentations to students across Great Britain during this vital period of mission. Pray that they would keep Christ at the centre of all they do and proclaim Him faithfully.

Fri 23

Please pray for DICCU as they enter the final day of their *Human* themed week of events. Pray that students would discover that their true identity is found in God’s image and the saving grace of Christ.

Sat 24

Praise God for the many students who have heard the gospel for the first time during this season of CU outreach. Pray that we would see God working powerfully to draw students to Himself.

Sun 25

Trinity Laban CU begin their first ever week of events tomorrow on the theme *I am...* . Pray for the CU as they invite students to consider where their true identity lies and please pray that students would consider the stories of CU members who have had their lives radically changed by Christ.

Mon 26

In November, Bath CU ran a mini week of events called *Lifegoals*, looking at the earthly things we live for and how these can be truly found in the gospel. Today, they begin a second events week. Please pray for Roger Carswell as he presents the gospel to students during a series of evangelistic events.

Tue 27

Ask the Lord to help Aberystwyth CU as they share testimonies with their friends and peers during their *Story* themed events week. Pray that students would engage with the CU and consider the truth of the gospel.

Wed 28

Join with us in praying for Leeds Arts University CU today as they host their annual art exhibition at a local church in the city, inviting students from the university to contribute to the exhibition. Pray that students would see and hear of the beauty of Christ through a talk, artwork and live music at the opening night.

Thu 1

Please pray for Royal Holloway CU as they enter the fourth day of their *Freedom* events week. The CU have been hosting a series of lunchbars and evening events, including a performance of *The Mark Drama*. Pray that the Lord uses these events to make Himself known to students.

Fri 2

Lift up Lancaster CU as they finalise plans for their *Story* events week, starting this Monday. Please pray for speakers Michael Green and Bruce Gillingham as they prepare talks, and pray that CU students would be urgent and wise in sharing the good news of Christ with their friends and peers.

Sat 3

Coventry CU's mission week starts on Monday. They will be holding all their events in a marquee in the cathedral ruins. Pray for them as they organise logistics for the week, and pray that the week would be a unique opportunity for Coventry students to meet with Jesus.

FOLLOW-UP

4–17 March

'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'

Galatians 6:9

CUs will now proceed to host a range of follow-up courses and events that give their friends and peers another opportunity to carefully consider and respond to the gospel message they heard during events weeks. Do pray that students would be loving and accommodating in pursuing their friends with the good news and that we would hear many stories of new life.

Sun 4

Please pray that CUs would see relational follow-up as part of their ongoing mission and that they would prioritise follow-up just as highly as the events week itself.

Mon 5

'Pray for the Cardiff-based CUs as they seek to run a weekly Uncover John Seeker Bible Study course following their mission week. Pray that they would understand that the continued investment in friendship really matters.' – *Hayley Marchant, CUSW in Cardiff*

Tue 6

'Last year, after a training event, 25 Strathclyde CU members signed up to read through Uncover with a stranger. This year, the CU's "buddy system" has equipped the majority of first-year students to use Uncover. Pray that there would be a real understanding of the opportunity presented by this resource.' – *Simon Attwood, CUSW in Glasgow*

Wed 7

Pray for CICCUCU as they host their *Real Lives* follow-up course. The CU will be interviewing Christian students about their life stories, and then looking at Jesus in the Gospels. Please pray

that through this, many students in Cambridge would see their need for Jesus and put their trust in Him.

Thu 8

'Please pray that Bath Spa CU would draw on the lessons learned from other similar-sized CUs as they seek to create a follow-up programme to complement their events week. Ask that the Lord would bring many in Bath to saving faith as a result of the CU's follow up.' – *Andrew Berry, CUSW in Bath*

Fri 9

Please pray for St George's CU as they run a series of Uncover drop-in sessions. Pray that CU members would be bold in inviting their friends along to be a part of the groups and that they would see fruit.

Sat 10

Give thanks for UCCF's partnership with local churches and please pray that they would be ready for new Christians and seekers to attend their services following CU mission. Pray that CU students would be eager to invite their friends to church.

Sun 11

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland CU ran a series of talks on Luke's Gospel in the weeks prior to their events week. Please pray that students would continue to explore the claims of Jesus and for them to find new life in Christ.

Mon 12

Aberystwyth CU have planned a series of weekly follow-up events in a local café allowing for a cosy, relaxed atmosphere in which students can ask honest questions. Pray that this would prove an effective location for seekers to explore the claims of the gospel further.

Tue 13

As part of their mission week follow-up, Keele CU plan to host four 'stations', walking seekers through different parts of the gospel story. Please pray that students would be willing to engage with the truth of the gospel through this and that the CU would see fruit.

Wed 14

'Pray for Portsmouth CU as they host *The Search* seeker course as part of their mission week follow-up. This is an informal café-style discussion evening with a short talk, making use of the Uncover material. Pray that many would come to believe in the Jesus that John points us to, so that they might have life in His name!' – *Fearghal Kelly, CUSW in Portsmouth and Chichester*

Thu 15

'Following their *Journey* events week, York St John CU are dedicating their last two Central CU gatherings of the term to follow-up. Inviting students to consider "Living for Jesus for the first time" and "Living for Jesus as part of His Church". Please pray that we would see seekers seizing this opportunity.' – *Seb Rab, CUSW in York*

Fri 16

Beginning the week after their *Story* mission week, St Andrews CU have been hosting their *Explore* follow-up course. The CU saw strong numbers at a similar course they ran after freshers' week at the beginning of the year. Pray that the CU would see similar numbers of seekers again and that they would point them to Jesus.

Sat 17

Pray for the many students across Great Britain who have heard the gospel through a CU this term. Pray that they would be won over by the radical message that Jesus offers and that we would hear many stories of new life in Him.

NEW LEADERS

18–31 March

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'

2 Corinthians 5:17

The close of the spring term brings a change in personnel for CUs. Please join us in praying for the new students stepping into committee roles and positions of responsibility within their CU mission teams.

Sun 18

Chester CU are now in their second year of running a *Globe Café* for international students. Please pray for the new leaders who took over running this shortly after Christmas. Pray that this vital ministry would continue and flourish.

Mon 19

Pray for all students who have attended UCCF Regional Forums (training weekends for new CU leaders) having taken on new leadership roles. Pray that the teaching they received will have equipped and encouraged them to serve their campuses well.

Tue 20

'Praise God for the new CU leadership team at Salford CU. Pray that these new leaders would be open to training and would lead out of their love for God.' – *Sam Pilgrim, CUSW in Manchester*

Wed 21

'Pray that God would provide Leeds Trinity CU with students to take over leadership who understand the vision to reach their campus with the gospel, and who are able to communicate this to the rest of the CU.' – *Lizzie Fry, CUSW in Bradford and Leeds*

Thu 22

Staffordshire CU's new committee comprises predominantly first-year students. Praise God for this influx of enthusiastic leaders. Please pray that they would have wisdom from God in running events to reach their campus with the gospel.

Fri 23

'Many CUs have UCCF Leadership Network events throughout the year organised by a CU rep for the Network. These equip students to live and speak for Jesus in subjects in which there is particular opposition to Christianity. Please pray for new leaders to be identified and equipped to serve.' – *Connie Keep, Leadership Network Coordinator*

Sat 24

Bucks New CU handed over their leadership at the beginning of January. Praise God for the willingness of the new committee to reach their university with the good news and pray that they would inspire the rest of the CU in outreach.

Sun 25

'Pray that the new KCL Guy's CU leaders would step-up and be creative in their CU mission. Pray for boldness as they seek to run outreach events that particularly appeal to the students on their campus and that Christ would be made known through their efforts.' – *Jake Tasker, CUSW in South East London*

Mon 26

'UEA CU hand over leadership roles and responsibilities at Easter. Pray for the second-year students who are currently serving on teams to step into leadership roles and for first-year students to fill in non-committee team leader roles.' – *Nathan Jarvis, CUSW in Norwich and Essex*

Tue 27

Pray for both Southampton and Southampton Solent CUs as they head off for a weekend away with CUSW Niv Lobo. Pray that this weekend would be foundational in equipping them to serve their campuses with the truth of the gospel.

Wed 28

'Praise God for a large group of students joining Teesside CU this year and give thanks that many dynamic and vision-led students will still be around next year. Pray for wise and servant-hearted students to take on leadership roles for the coming year.' – *JP Wright, CUSW in Durham and Teesside*

Thu 29

Worcester CU have added a specific evangelism coordinator role to their committee this year. Pray that this student would be excited by the opportunity that the role provides and would be committed to creating opportunities for campus gospel proclamation.

Fri 30

'Pray for Dundee CU as they seek to create a new committee comprising students from a range of different church backgrounds. Pray that these students would represent their CU well and would be Christ-centred in all that they do.' – *David High, CUSW in Dundee*

Sat 31

As students from across Great Britain take on new CU leadership roles, pray that they would draw on the truth of the gospel – knowing that it is in Christ through whom they are justified. Pray that they would come to Him and seek His wisdom and rest.

STANDING FIRM

1–14 April

'Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.'

Psalm 119:89–91

The Easter break offers well-earned time off for university students. As students head home, please pray that they would stand firm in the knowledge of Christ. Join us too in praying for the many unbelieving students who have heard the gospel through Easter-themed outreach events.

Sun 1

Give glory to God as Jesus is risen!

Mon 2

Each year, Plymouth Marjon CU host an Easter egg hunt accompanied by a talk on the Easter story. Pray that the unbelieving students who attended the event this year will continue to consider Christ's resurrection over this Easter period.

Tue 3

There are lots of spiritual ideas in the arts world. Praise God for Easter-themed Arts Network events, and pray that Arts Network students would be bold in taking opportunities to speak about Jesus' resurrection during the Easter break.

Wed 4

In recent weeks, many CUs have hosted outreach events, exploring the evidence for the resurrection. Pray that this evidence would be foundational in pointing students towards the truth of the gospel.

Thu 5

The Easter break provides an opportunity for CU leaders to have a break from the intensity of university life. Pray for a restful period for the students, that they would return refreshed after a break. Please pray that despite routines changing they would keep walking with the Lord.

Fri 6

Over the past term many CUs across the country have hosted a performance of *The Mark Drama* – a dramatized recital of Mark's Gospel. Pray that unbelievers who have heard the gospel for the first time through this production would respond to Christ's saving grace.

Sat 7

Today is the first day of Word Alive, a national conference for the whole Church founded in partnership with UCCF. Do pray for an effective week of teaching and training as around 700 CU students come together with the wider Church to be resourced and empowered to reach the world.

Sun 8

Each Leadership Network (Arts, Music, Politics, Theology and Science) will host seminars at Word Alive. The Theology Network track is designed to encourage theology students that they are studying primarily for the glory of God, and the benefit of the Church. Pray that they will be thrilled by the vision and equipped to live it out at university.

Mon 9

The Easter break is a great opportunity for CU students to witness to their friends at home. Please pray that evangelism would not be something that students save for university, but that students would be expectantly witnessing to their friends and family at home too.

Tue 10

Please pray that the CU leaders at UCL, would recognise their personal walk with God as of first importance. Pray too that the Lord would equip these students to be a mission team on campus.

Wed 11

The Easter break is often used by students to finish projects and assignments and to revise for exams. Pray that Christian students would be centred on Christ and working for Him in this time of heavy workloads, and that through their work they would be a witness to their friends.

Thu 12

'Pray that OICCU leaders would guard their walk with Christ and that they wouldn't feel burdened by responsibilities. Pray that they would serve out of an overflow of their hearts rather than wanting to prove themselves, and that they would delight in the gospel themselves each day.' – *Sarah Pickett, CUSW in Oxford and Buckingham*

Fri 13

'Please pray that the Harper Adams CU committee's own work and faith would not suffer as a result of the busyness of CU leadership. Pray that they would support each other and know the sufficiency of Christ.' – *Alison Stewart, Harper Adams CU president*

Sat 14

The students at Nottingham Trent University have made an increasing effort to unite CU students from the City and Clifton campuses into an overarching Nottingham Trent CU this year. Pray for their monthly 'Trent vision' meetings to be a catalyst in Trent CU becoming a university-wide society.

GENEROUS IN WORLD MISSION

15–28 April

'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'

Matthew 28:19

Christ's saving grace is sufficient for all. As such, another of UCCF's core values is a generosity in world mission. The university setting is often the first and only direct contact that international students have with the gospel message. Please pray for fruit as CUs develop relationships with and hold out the gospel to the international students on campus.

Sun 15

Leeds Uni and Leeds Beckett CUs join together with local churches each week to run their global café known as *Living Room*. Both CUs have been hugely encouraged by the numbers of international students attending this year, many of whom want to hear more about the claims of the gospel. Do pray for new life from this going forward.

Mon 16

'KCL Strand campus CU have been running their *Globe Café* on Monday nights throughout the year. Please pray for deepening friendships and that more of the guests would be interested to stay until the end for a more in-depth Bible study.' – *Clare Lucas, CUSW in Central London*

Tue 17

Winchester CU run an outreach café each Thursday evening for both British and international students. Please pray it would be a place of great welcome and friendship for international students and that they would respond to the Bible verses that are shared each week.

Wed 18

Exeter CU also run a weekly *Globe Café* for international students. Pray for fruit from those who have been considering the claims of the gospel over the year so far and pray that the CU would be sensitive in the ways they continue to approach these students.

Thu 19

Loughborough and Leicester De Montfort CUs relaunched their international cafés this year. Pray that CU students would want to get involved with these cafés and would be intentional in befriending international students and witnessing to them.

Fri 20

'*Fireplace* is a weekly international event at Swansea CU. Praise God that so far three Chinese students are reading *Uncover* with Swansea CU members. Pray that these students would come to know the Lord Jesus.' – *Meg Conway, CUSW in South Wales*

Sat 21

At Forum (UCCF's annual training conference for CU leaders) a Serbian student attended the Arts Network track and was inspired to live for Jesus in the art community back home. Pray for this student and others, where there are few Christians in their field, to stand firm, and be salt and light.

Sun 22

Liverpool CU run a weekly *Globe Café* attracting around 40–50 international students. Please pray that the team who lead this would generously befriend international students. Pray especially for those who stay on for the Bible study, that the Lord would graciously show Himself to them.

Mon 23

Glasgow CU run a weekly event for international students, which involves a themes dinner. Please give thanks that they have seen many, many international students getting involved with their events and joining in with the life of the CU as a result of this outreach.

Tue 24

Oxford Brookes CU have set up a buddy system this year, pairing CU members with international students. Pray for the relationships built over the year as part of this process and that CU members would have genuine love for their international student counterparts.

Wed 25

Birmingham CU run an *English Club* every Thursday afternoon for international students. Praise God for all the students who have attended this year and heard the good news of Jesus. Pray that they would seriously consider the life that Christ can provide them.

Thu 26

Lampeter University has seen an increase in its number of international students this year. Pray for courage as the CU seek to step out in faith and cater for their international community. Please pray that they would be bold and sensitive in sharing the good news of Jesus.

Fri 27

When the Durham University, Queen's campus closes it will become Durham's International Study Centre. To prepare, DICCU, Queen's CU and local churches are coming together to set up a *Globe Café* there this term. Please pray that these plans would facilitate effective international outreach there in the new academic year.

Sat 28

'Keele CU hosted a mini international freshers' week and were later given funds by Student Services to run a tea party for international students. They have since partnered with the IFES movements in Slovenia and Cyprus too. Please pray that the taster would be an encouragement for the CU and that they would see that there is a huge international mission field.' – *Liv Rigby, CUSW in Staffordshire*

LOOKING AHEAD

29 April – 12 May

'Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.'
Ecclesiastes 12:13

The run-up to the close of the academic year brings deadlines and exams for students as well as an opportunity to reflect and consider future outreach. Please join us in praying for students during this particularly stressful period and as we look forward to all that the summer and new academic year will bring.

Sun 29

'Please pray that Luton CU would end the year with leaders who wish to make Jesus known and who are united in the gospel.' – *Mike Hood, CUSW in Cambridge, Bedford and Luton*

Mon 30

Falmouth CU will run interactive seminar events on Christian beliefs and CU leadership during the post-exam period. Pray for enthusiastic speakers who are willing to serve the CU in this capacity and for CU members to be willing to learn. Please pray this serves to grow the work of the CU.

Tue 1

Pray that Salford CU students would remain visible and active through the exam season. Pray for the new CU leaders to lead in grace and model living and speaking for Jesus.

Wed 2

Please pray that CU leaders would be courageous and would not simply plan easy and logistically safe events for the new academic year. Please pray that the CUs would be willing to do the hard work of thinking through how the gospel really is good news for their campus and fellow students.

Thu 3

Praise God for the students who have signed up for UCCF summer teams to serve a fellow IFES movement. Pray for the preparation process for these teams as they finalise plans for outreach in an international context and pray that these students would draw on their experiences in the new academic year.

Fri 4

Give thanks for the many gospel partners amongst the faculty and staff in British universities. Please pray that Staff Workers can identify and build relationships with Christian academics who will be able to resource and support local CUs.

Sat 5

The exam period is a very stressful one for music students. With recitals to prepare for, they will spend many hours in practice rooms. Pray that the CU members will have the courage to be

distinctive in the way they approach this, giving up rehearsal time, even when it is costly, in order to go to church or spend daily time with God.

Sun 6

Pray that CU students would keep their eyes fixed on Jesus amidst deadlines and exams. Please pray that they would not give up on meeting together and that they would be caring for one another, spurring each other on to do the Lord's work.

Mon 7

Manchester Metropolitan University, Crewe Campus is closing at the end of next year. Please pray that God would work through their CU leaders in what will be a small year group to still bring students there to experience new life in Him.

Tue 8

Please pray for CU leaders to sign up to Forum, UCCF's training conference for CU leaders in September. Pray that as a result of the training they receive there, CUs would be even more effective in sharing the good news of the gospel on campus.

Wed 9

Next academic year will see two new Staff Workers beginning across East Anglia, including a new post covering the Essex area. Praise God for His provision towards this need – including the many CU students who are giving to the new post in Essex – and pray that more students would hear and respond to the gospel through their work.

Thu 10

'Please pray for the Glasgow committee as they plan the year ahead. During a four-day planning retreat they will plan all of their training and outreach for the year. Please pray that the Lord would guide their plans and that they would reach many students on campus as a result.'
– *Suzy Russell, CUSW in Glasgow*

Fri 11

Please pray for CU students to continue to prioritise gospel outreach during the busyness and stresses of exams. Pray they would shine as lights through distinctive attitudes and living, and that their course mates would see the hope that they have through their witness.

Sat 12

Give thanks that the Lord is good and is using the CUs to grow His Kingdom. Please pray that all those who have heard the gospel and have been investigating the claims of Jesus wouldn't fall off the radar as this academic year comes to a close, but that CU members would continue to invest in those relationships. Pray that students would make decisions for Christ before they go home for the summer and that they would find new life in Him.

- Visit www.uccf.org.uk/pray to download a PDF version of this prayer diary, or to sign up to receive the fortnightly prayer points by email.
- Find UCCF's daily prayer points on the PrayerMate app.
- For the most recent news and prayer points from the CUs, visit the UCCF website or find UCCF on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.