

Brookes CU prayer letter

Dear friends of the Oxford Brookes Christian Union,

Thank you so much for all your precious prayers and support. We as a CU feel so blessed by God in so many ways, and are so excited to see what He has in store this coming term. God has been so faithful and already done immeasurably more than we asked or imagined, and we pray that He would continue to work in Brookes students.

This past term has been a busy one where we have seen God bless us and use us in so many ways. At the end of last year we rejoined the Student Union which was in itself a work of God's sovereignty, and we have already seen His favour on us as a good relationship with the University has been restored. This has benefitted us already so much with access to campus, a larger pool of resources and greater publicity.

PRAISE: Thank God for His grace and His sovereignty in making a way for us.

PRAY: That we would continue to approach that relationship with the SU well and use it for God's glory, and that we may be able to show Jesus through that to other societies and the SU themselves.

At the beginning of this term we had an amazing number of Freshers join us and become members of the CU. It has been such an encouragement to see them get so stuck in and settle into their life at uni, with so many choosing to live for Jesus.

PRAISE: Praise God for each new member of CU, both Freshers and otherwise, and His love and plan for each one. Thank Him also for growing our CU as a whole and restoring it faithfully over the past few years since COVID.

PRAY: Pray that the freshers will continue to settle in well with friendships and studies, draw closer to God and get stuck into local Churches. Pray that they will live for and represent Jesus as they do all these things.

Our weekend away was a great success filled with lots of fun and some great times of getting to know God more. We had 45 people in total, with again a great number of freshers. Jake Marthinet-Glover, our previous UCCF Staff Worker, spoke in our main meetings, bringing messages about encounters with Jesus in the gospel of John. A couple of people from local Oxford Churches ran some insightful seminars on Time management and sharing the gospel with international students. Our morning prayer meetings were met with enthusiasm, and we were able to spend time waiting on God and placing the term into His hands.

PRAISE: Praise God for all His provision and blessings in the venue, speakers, resources and vehicles. Praise Him for time to get to know each other better and be equipped for sharing the good news, as well as time to praise and worship God together.

PRAY: Pray that God would continue to build on the work he did during the weekend.

Our first term of regular CU events has been busy and fruitful. In our equip meetings we went through 1 Peter, with many individuals from local Churches kindly giving up their time to unpack the Bible with us. Most weeks we have seen new faces and we have been much encouraged by these meetings. Our outreach events have included pub quizzes, Tea Toast and Trivia and games nights. We have seen not only lots of new faces but also people inviting friends and flatmates along, with numbers for several events exceeding

expectations. We have had several people in particular come with lots of questions, really seeking and interested.

PRAISE: Praise God for all the connections and help we get from local Churches, and for all the great Bible teaching we have heard. Praise God for all those who have heard the gospel this term, particularly those who have continued to come to events and ask questions.

PRAY: For continued boldness in sharing the gospel and inviting friends, and for wisdom to know how to go about that. ‘

In our upcoming term we have lots of exciting things planned, including regular outreach events, equip meetings based on a different theme to spur us on in evangelism each week, and events week. Our events week theme for 2024 is ‘Purpose’, where we hope to create space for discussion and teaching around what our purpose is, where we find it, and the pivotal role Jesus plays in that. Events will include first-contact on campus, a ceilidh, a pub quiz and more.

PRAISE: Praise God for all the work He is already doing at Brookes University, and all the work He will do. Thank Him for resources and help we have already received, and all the people within CU who are giving time and energy to planning and preparation.

PRAY: For a continued peace for those involved in the planning, and for our speakers as they prepare. Please pray also for us as we publicise events and invite people personally, that we would be bold in our invites and in our conversations. Pray for each person who will hear even a little about Jesus through this week, that their hearts would be softened and that they would receive the good news.

