

News and prayer points for Christian Unions

Becca Lewis and Imogen Dyer

As the days get shorter and the air chillier, students across the world are packing their lives up and heading to university. For many freshers, this is the first time they're living independently; they have total control over what they spend, where they go and who they are with. Students tend to be open to new experiences as they 're-invent' themselves into the person they couldn't be back at home. Or it can be an isolating and lonely time, where friends and family aren't there to support and comfort in times of stress and fear.

As Christians, we are called to go out into our communities and make the name of Jesus known, while giving the opportunity for people to respond to the Good News. This is what we as Christian Unions do at our universities: Becca Lewis at The University of Reading, and Imogen Dyer at Kingston University London.

In the last week of August, we both attended Forum National: a week of camping; drawing close to the Lord; and equipping CU leaders to be a strong team for Freshers' Week and the year ahead.

During Freshers' Week we plan to hold several events such as stands at our Freshers' Fayres; stalls around our campuses giving out free food and drinks; and evening events like quiz nights. This week is about building relationships with new students and encouraging them to come to future events.

We'll also continue running our weekly meetings: Reading's meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7pm and the meetings at Kingston are at 6:30pm on Tuesdays. Both CUs will run series during these meetings. For example, the theme for Kingston CU's meetings this term is 'Counter Culture'.

Alongside these meetings, our CUs are holding various events up until Christmas. For the first month of term, Reading has an outreach event each week leading up to the Christian Union Regional Weekend Away.

This term will end with various Christmas events at both universities and, after a well-needed holiday, will be followed by our Events Weeks in January

and February (though these haven't been completely planned out yet!)

As we both get ready to head back to our universities, we would be grateful if you could pray over us and our committees, especially:

- Building friendships with freshers;
- Energy and unity within our Christian Unions for the year ahead;
- That God will provide the funds and the people we need to run our events;
- That Jesus' light will be seen through the work of Christian Unions up and down the country.

Thank you for all your prayers so far: knowing that we have such incredible support back at home is a great comfort!

God bless,

Becca and Imogen

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:15-16