

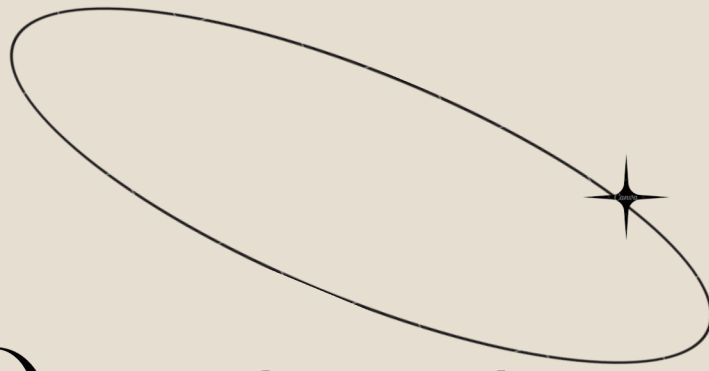
2022/2023

UYCU Prayer

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:2–3





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Introduction

This booklet is a resource to help you stay informed about the work the CU is doing on the Uni of York's campus, and how you can be praying for us. Since our last prayer booklet, we have been back to full, regular in-person meetings alongside evangelistic events for both home and international students. God has been wonderful in his provision this term and we have been able to see a return to an in-person events week as well as the resumption of normal weekly CU activities.

We have often shared with our committee the words on the front of this booklet from Paul's letter to the Colossians. There are many amazing things in these verses but there are two that have helped us as we lead the CU.





Firstly, Paul asks for others to pray for him as he tells people about Jesus. Paul, a man who was respected and admired in the early church for all his mission work still asks the church at Colossae to pray for him, to pray that he will speak clearly. He asks for God's help to 'open the door' so that Christ's glory can be proclaimed. As a CU, we need God's help on a campus that can be hostile to him.

Secondly, he goes on in verse 5 to say, 'Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity'. This is so apt for us as students, the opportunities God provides for talking about Jesus are never what you expect, whether it's sat in the seminar room waiting for the tutor or on the sports field as you are having a water break, the opportunities God gives us to share his message are amazing and Paul encourages us to make the most of each and every opportunity. It is why we as a CU exist, to help one another make the most of every opportunity and to corporately proclaim Christ as Lord and Saviour.

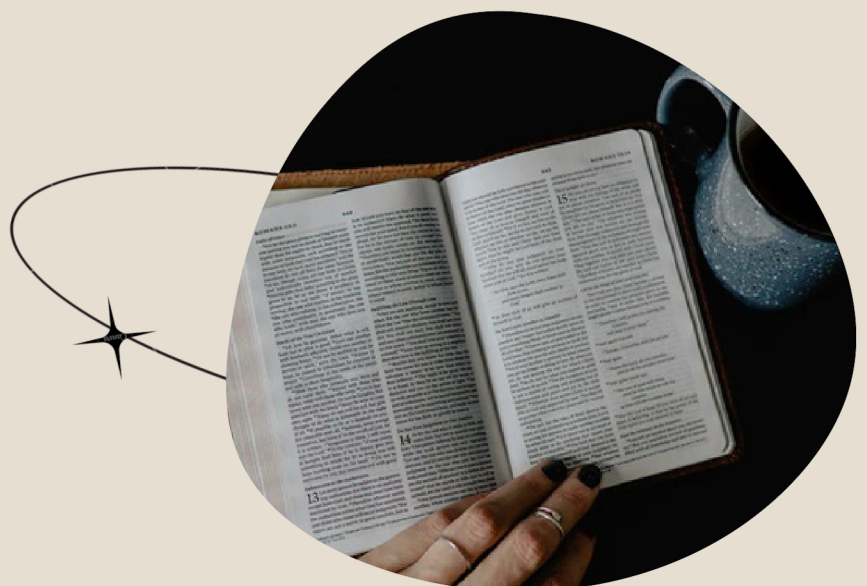


In order to do this, we need the help of God and so prayer is vital to the life of the CU and these verses have been such an encouragement to us.

As a committee we are so encouraged to see lots of activity across both our campuses from college groups and CU Central to outreach events such as Freedom Festival and Dial a Doughnut!

We hope this short letter encourages you to join with us in prayer and, as ever, thank you for your generous support; prayerfully, practically and financially.

George and Izzy (Co-Presidents and Prayer Coordinators)





College Groups

Below we have some prayer points from our college leaders as they look towards a new term and welcoming in new students to their colleges.

Alcuin– Joanna and Ebun

- Praise God for the relationships that have been built through Alcuin college CU meetings.
- Prayer for lots of new people to arrive and be keen to get involved.
- Prayer for a welcoming atmosphere on a Tuesday night and that second, third and fourth years can reconnect with university life and help new people in CU.

Hes East– Jonny, Naomi and Sophia

- Thankful for the commitment of many in Hes East CU who turn up each week and who are so encouraging to the college leaders.
- Thankful for the sense of community that grew towards the end of last term between the different colleges on Hes East.
- Prayer that as Hes East campus grows, people on East will feel more willing to get involved with new things.
- Prayer that lots of new freshers will want to come on a Tuesday and will want to stay to learn more about Jesus.



Derwent– Aofie, Philippa and Will

- Praise God for sorting room bookings so that Derwent CU can meet in the junior common room, a great central space in the college.
- Prayer that returners would settle back in quickly and that people would want to regularly go to Derwent CU.
- Prayer for the incoming freshers' that they come to Derwent CU and keep coming back.

Vanbrugh– Naomi, Lyndon and Alice

- Praise God for the amazing things that he has done in Vanbrugh with a successful Dial-a-Doughnut event which saw lots of people asking questions about Christianity they had never asked before!
- Praise God for the amazing people who left Vanbrugh CU at the end of last year and pray that Vanbrugh CU will be able to welcome in lots of new freshers this September.

Halifax– Alice, Eloise and Josiah

- Praise for the amazing jacket potato evenings done last term.
- Prayer that the freshers' event 'Chilli and Chat' goes well and that they can book the common room of Halifax which has a kitchen area.
- Prayer that each Christian fresher would feel confident and comfortable to bring their non-Christian housemates along.



James– Josiah, Alistair and Isabel

- Praise God for the amazing contribution of those leaving James CU over their time there.
- Prayer that second, third and fourth years will be able to manage their time to keep coming to James CU.
- Prayer that people can feel brave to invite their flatmates along to James CU as we seek to continue our mission focus.

Wentworth

- Praise God for Noel and the amazing commitment she has shown to leading Wentworth CU.
- Prayer that more postgraduates will want to be involved in Wentworth CU





Evangelism Events— Freedom Festival!

On the bank holiday weekend after exams, York witnessed its first ever Freedom Festival. Our new evangelism coordinator Eli decided to try something new. Merging live music with small ‘TED-talk’ inspired talks on the gospel and the true freedom we can find in Christ, the Freedom Festival was born.

And what a day it was. The tepee on Hes East was buzzing with activity. Eli said afterwards ‘We expected people to drift in and out across the day as it was a long event but so many stuck around. I lost count after 100! People were so curious about what we were doing which led to fantastic opportunities to talk about faith.’

The cake stand and non-alcoholic bar provided lots of opportunities for relationship building and first contact, allowing people to be welcomed with a cracking home-made mocktail and a slice of cake.





During this event, we reckon approximately 30 people who didn't know Jesus came and heard something of the gospel. It was truly amazing and praise God who brought those people into the tepee and made it all happen.

We have learnt a lot from this event and plan to use what we have learnt in events going forward but wanted to share this with you as an encouragement of the amazing things God is doing on our campuses, bringing people closer to him.



Committee




George– Co-President:

- Praise God for the amazing things he has done in the CU this past year.
- Pray that I will be able to manage my time to continue playing university rugby, be Co-President and complete the final year of my degree.
- Pray that I will manage to organise myself and remember who is in control.

Izzy– Co-President:

- Prayer for balancing the workload of 4th year with Co-President and other aspects of life
- Pray that I will grow deeper in my faith and for wisdom in leading the CU and making decisions.
- Pray that I can keep trusting the Lord in where he wants to lead us on campus
- Prayer for energy and excitement for the whole committee and the whole CU moving into next year, particularly over freshers season!

Laura– Secretary:

- Prayer for wisdom in balancing CU with the rest of life, that I would lean on God and do it His strength, not my own and be able to serve joyfully.
 - Prayer for weekend away – for wisdom in the planning and that the weekend will be a joyful and equipping weekend where we grow as a community
- 



Rupert– Treasurer:

- Thank God for financially providing over the last year, allowing for so many great CU events to have happened!
- Pray that we continue to receive support for the coming year.
- Prayer for people to be encouraged to serve in teams over the next year.

Gemma– College Coordinator:

- Prayer that the college leaders will know the love and joy of Jesus for themselves, and that everything they do would be an outpouring of that.
- Prayer that the Fresher's would settle in well in their new colleges. That they would make friends that will love, serve and build them up throughout their time at University.
- Prayer that good working relationships between college CU groups and college committees would be protected.
- Prayer that opportunities to serve each of the colleges in their own unique ways would arise so that people may see the love of Jesus in a tangible and practical way in their community
- That God would be glorified through everything





Helena– Publicity and Outreach coordinator:

- Prayer for wisdom and energy in balancing CU and other commitments in a very busy year
- Prayer for more opportunities to spread God's word and reach new students through social media.
- Prayer for good team work within the publicity team and that they would be excited to serve.

Freya– International Outreach Coordinator:

- Prayer for international students as they travel to the UK and settle, that we offer God's love and welcome
- Prayer for opportunities for the gospel to reach international students, for open and curious hearts, and lives saved by Christ
- Prayer for the international team and those who help out at meals and events; for our openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our obedience to God's will for our work, and time spent in prayer and fellowship as a CU
- Prayer that we can work closely with local churches to guide international students toward a congregation where they can grow and be loved

Eli– Evangelism events Coordinator:

- Thanks for the amazing encouragements we have had from events this past year.
- Prayer for wisdom in how budgets for events are spent.
- Prayer for fruitful connections and relationships to be built that allow for the gospel to spread.
- Prayer that students can have open hearts and can know they have a home in Christ.





Events Week

Our February events week planning is well underway. Enthused and encouraged by last year's fantastic events week organised by Sam and Gabby's team, Ellie and James have leapt into it with the same enthusiasm! Here are some praises and prayer points from them:

Praises

- We have booked Greg's place! Such an amazing, central place on campus to have a marquee.
- We have a lunchtime speaker and an evening speaker booked!
- Theme idea is coming together (although we cannot spoil it just yet!)

Prayer

Organising a marquee. There are a number of different aspects to this that require prayer.

- Firstly, that we can get the right size marquee, get it put up in Greg's place and get all our equipment in it.
- Secondly, that we can gather the funds for a marquee. This is an amazing opportunity having Greg's place and we desperately want to be able to put up a marquee for this events week because of the large amount of passing traffic through Greg's place.
- Thirdly, that we as people planning the week can remember that God will provide. That we won't worry too much and remember that God is the one who will make it happen if it's his will.





- Prayer for a clear focus on evangelism and bravery among CU members that empowered by the Holy spirit they can invite their friends to these events.
- Prayer that talk topics and prep will be clear and centred on Jesus.
- Prayer that people will come and be curious.
- Prayer for the stress levels of everyone involved in running it so that they can enjoy the week telling their fellow students about Jesus.





Thank you for your prayers!

If you would like to give financially to UYCU, please donate via the YUSU website. Go to [yusu.org/activities/view/Christian Union](https://yusu.org/activities/view/Christian%20Union) and click on 'Memberships & Products' to donate or contact our treasurer Rupert Mathers to find out more information.

