



JESUS LANE TRUST

CAMBRIDGE

*Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.*

PSALM 126:4-5

Dear friends,

The world is changing. Fast. We are living in an age of extraordinary social and moral revolution. And so much of it underpinned by confused and flimsy thinking - not just out there in the world, but increasingly also sadly within the wider church. Against this backdrop, the student work here seems more urgent and pressing than ever as we seek to proclaim the life-giving, life-enriching, life-transforming message of the Lord Jesus. May the Lord indeed restore our fortunes!

As always the summer/autumn is a time of change in other ways. In the summer we said goodbye to a large and especially encouraging crop of graduating students. Staff wise, Michael Nicholson moved to Oak Hill college for ordination training, Clare McKinnel and Louise Gilmore also came to the end of their time with us and moved onto other things - Clare a PGCE at the university, and Louise a 'regular' job in Cambridge. Under God, each one has made a significant contribution to the work here. Alex Weston, Nic Ross and Ben Shires are staying on.

As we embark on a new academic year, we expect (as ever) frustrations and tears along the way, but we sow the seed of God's word in joyful anticipation of a future harvest. As always, thank you very much for your support. Please pray for us.

Rich



INTRODUCING NEW FACES!

JT has moved to Cambridge after 6 years in Manchester as an undergraduate student, and a ministry trainee at Holy Trinity Platt, primarily being involved in ministry amongst international students. His idea of a good evening probably involves live music or theatre. His idea of a terrible evening probably involves live musical theatre.

Lauren is originally an Essex girl who studied Anthropology at Durham University. Since she graduated in 2014 she has stayed in Durham for the past three years working as a ministry associate at Christchurch. To relax she enjoys anything arty, listening to her dad's record collection and drinking lots of coffee with friends. She's excited for the opportunity to grow in her love of Jesus whilst serving at StAG.



Growing up in China, **Ruby** came to England to study Law and became a Christian while studying for her PhD in Durham. She's worked in research, as a volunteer for Friends International and as an international worker at StAG. In her spare time Ruby enjoys watching documentary programs, visiting National Trust sites and also good food. Her sweet tooth has been satisfied a lot all these years in the UK!

spotlight on evangelism

HOW STUDENTS AT STAG HAVE BEEN REACHING OUT TO FRIENDS WITH THE GOSPEL

We asked some of our students about the opportunities they get whilst at university to tell their friends about Jesus. Here's what some of them said...

NAOMI LEFROY
1ST YEAR, CATZ

Jesus declares, ***"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"*** (Matt 5.14). A highlight of my first year has been the conversations at any time of day or night about what it means to know the omnipotent God as a personal Father. Many people here are fruitlessly searching for fulfilment through academic achievement, but the gospel offers so much more. Witnessing to friends through the ups and downs of daily life alongside the rest of the body of believers is a soul-strengthening, faith-building experience. It can be tough to make a stand, but we can talk to people without fearing judgement, secure in the knowledge that the most important being in the universe has declared us his beloved children.



JOE NIBLO
1ST YEAR, QUEENS

As probably the most visible difference between me and my non-Christian friends, church can feel a whole world away when sharing my faith. I can easily forget StAG's mission of sharing the gospel in Cambridge and begin to see church as a place only for personal development and Sunday worship, playing into its cliquy and exclusive stereotype. Therefore, it was a real blessing to be able to invite a few friends along to the LIFE week last term (the outreach week run for the whole church family). Not only was it an opportunity to share the gospel but also a chance for my friends to see the radical love the church affords to its members, our willingness to serve the gospel and our outward focus. It's been a huge encouragement to see some friends take an interest in church, and I look forward to sharing more with them this coming term.



EMMA NICHOLLS
2ND YEAR, EMMANUEL

Events in college are a great opportunity to share the gospel because they're so easy to invite friends to! Over the past year in Emma we've run events for the whole college like text-a-toastie and rounders, as well as smaller things like a dinner for some college group freshers and their friends. People are always keen to come along to something with free food or a fun activity, and because everyone who comes is from your college it's really easy to keep conversations about Jesus going. One of the challenges can be keeping the gospel central to the event - it can be tempting to publicise the 'fun part' without mentioning that there's going to be a Bible talk.



TOBY IRVINE
2ND YEAR, CHURCHILL

StAG's Arena course is such a great place to invite friends who have questions about Jesus and Christianity. Last term I was able to bring my friend along, and while he found bits of it hard, it was great for him to see how as Christians we look to the Bible as our authority, opening up further conversation about Christianity later that day. It was also a really natural way for my friend to meet other Christians, showing that following Jesus isn't just an individual activity but something we do together as a people. With the Bible open and truth explained and discussed, it is a great next step for interested students towards knowing Christ as Saviour and Lord.



VI RUSSELL
2ND YEAR, QUEENS

What have been some of the challenges of evangelism at uni?

Just as in any other context, evangelism is hard because there is opposition - so many students are apathetic, and the busyness of uni life is an easy excuse for people not to engage with the gospel, which can be really discouraging. But evangelism is also hard because of my own wrong priorities and fear of rejection. Again busyness can distract me from seeing how great the need is and how amazing the gospel is.

Have there been particular encouragements?

The most encouraging times have so often been the least expected - friends who I thought would show no interest, or someone I met and kept bumping into during events week. God is so kind in teaching me it's all his work and not mine! I've also been encouraged when God has put more than one Christian in someone's life. It shows again that he is in control of his work, and it makes such a difference to have someone else in the conversation.

How can we pray for students in their evangelism?

For us to have the right motivation. It is so easy to be driven by duty, so please pray for a real joy in sharing the gospel and a big view of God's glory. Please pray that we would see everyone around us as Jesus does, in the light of eternity, and so have a genuine love for them that is willing to risk the rejection. It is so worth it!



POINTS FOR PRAYER

We want to pray that our student ministry will be fulfilling StAG's wider mission of 'The gospel to Cambridge, gospel workers to the world'.

THE GOSPEL TO CAMBRIDGE

Praise God that we have freedom and opportunities to proclaim the gospel to students in Cambridge.

At the start of a new academic year, thank God for opportunities **Freshers' Week** gives to meet many students and share who Jesus is.

Please pray for **students** to be thinking evangelistically in their conversations and for opportunities to put on events for non-Christian friends in their colleges this term.

Give thanks for the chance to run **Arena** (our course investigating the Christian faith) as well as put on evangelistic sports dinners at StAG. Pray that many students would be bold in inviting their friends.

Praise God for the **teaching** in Daniel 1-7 at the 11.30s. Pray for a culture of students bringing friends to church and for sermons to be accessible to non-believers.

Please pray for **college groups** this term: that they would be devoted to praying for unbelieving friends.

GOSPEL WORKERS TO THE WORLD

Praise God for all those students involved in summer camps over the past few months and pray that their involvement in this ministry would give them a hunger for future gospel service.

Pray for deep biblical convictions to be laid and built upon during the **September Reading Weeks** for finalists.

We're excited to see a number of graduating students starting church **apprenticeships** across the country this month. Please pray for more to consider it this coming year.

Give thanks for the desire that many students have to live and speak for Jesus. Pray for the student staff and student team as they encourage them to continue to live for Christ.

We long to equip students through the teaching we give to go and make disciples of other students. Pray particularly for God's word to do its work at **Focus** this term as we study Luke's travel narrative and through the many topics we cover at **Student Lunch**.

Please pray that through our training courses this term (**Occasional Preachers** and the **Women's Speaking Group**), we would send out more workers to the harvest field.



The New Apprentices!

**David Clarkson, David Sydenham,
Charlie Robinson & Eden Hildreth**

>>

