

St Luke's Charity for September Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship

This charity was born out of one student's vision for mission one hundred years ago when in 1919 Norman Grubb was a young student at Cambridge University. He wrote, *"I had one overwhelming urge - to get around to all the rooms of the men in my College and witness to them."* God gave him a vision too that every university and college in Britain and the world should have an evangelical and witnessing Christian Union. Little did Grubb then realise that this was the start of what has since grown to become the world-wide 'Christian Union' Fellowship, now in hundreds and probably thousands of colleges worldwide. The vision of UCCF: *The Christian Unions* in Britain is the same today.

For over 75 years UCCF: *The Christian Unions* encompassing students, staff and supporters, has sought to live and speak for Jesus whilst at university. The changing face of student life sees many students affected by debt, mental health problems, loneliness and pressure. There are now even fewer students who have any church background, biblical knowledge or a Christian faith. Some are hostile to the church but are surprisingly open to thinking about Jesus. Today's student world is a fantastic opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with a spiritually hungry generation.

Claire Dent who came to St Luke's last September has given us a current update: *Like many in the UK, UCCF staff were furloughed in April, ending in August in time for the annual student leader conference. Although strange, overall it has been a huge blessing to avoid the zoom calls and spend time resting. Thankfully the students have carried on meeting online as a CU. With summer comes planning for the new students to arrive in the Autumn. As with so many of us, planning in this situation is hard. Please join me in praying to God for wisdom as we navigate how to welcome freshers to university well. It was such a joy coming last summer to meet you all and share about working alongside students.*

Please donate generously, either by writing the Charity's name on an envelope when in church or directly to UCCF via their website www.uccf.org.uk or by post to The Treasurer, UCCF: The Christian Unions, Blue Boar House, 5 Blue Boar Street, Oxford OX1 4EE. More information can be obtained from Anne Bourne the St Luke's Champion for UCCF.