



Oxford Schools Chaplaincy Newsletter: Knock Knock ...

**I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.
They will come in and go out, and find pasture.**
John 10v9

As I started writing this on the 31st of October – it's the day for knocking on doors!

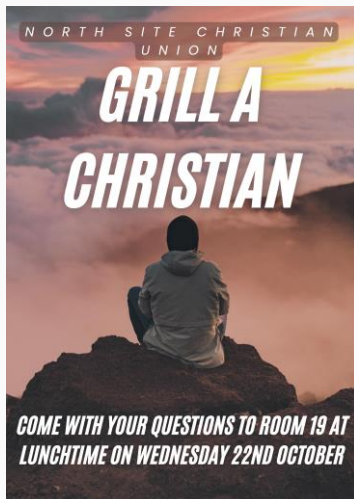
Knock Knock ... trick or treat?

Regardless of the varied responses we might have to an increasingly commercialized event in the calendar, I think it can be an apt caricature of

the teenage years - dressing up and pretending to be someone you aren't, finding belonging in groups to go out hunting for treats that will satisfy for all too short a time ... with some potential for entering into risky behaviour.

But what we are finding in schools is a generation knocking and looking not for treats, but for answers to life's big questions. Many are questioning, challenging, digging into the claims of the Christian faith and wondering, is this trick or truth?

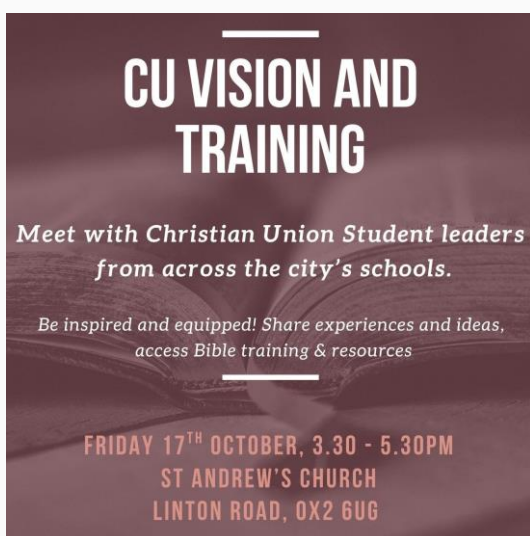
*is this
trick
or
truth
?*



We are so excited as we enter this second half of term, that Christian Union groups are re-started and thriving in the local secondary schools. Questions we've dealt with this term include, "Doesn't the Bible allow slavery?", "If God is peace, why is there so much violence in the Old Testament?", "How can God be trusted when He allows so many bad things to happen?". Praise the Lord for the 'Grill a Christian' Event at Cherwell CU that dealt with this and similar questions. Pray for more 'Grill a Christian' events!

Knock Knock ... past and present

Perhaps the less well remembered 'door knocking' but of unparalleled significance, was the scroll knocked onto a church door on 31st October 1517. Praise the Lord for the emerging student leaders of today who continue to boldly lead their peers in declaring the gospel by *faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone, Christ alone, to God's glory alone*. We had a great time at the first CU Student Leaders Training event which gathered students from across the local churches and schools.



"Thank you so much for organising and running the student leadership training day, it was such an encouragement to meet with so many other Christian Union leaders, find out how their CUs run and share what we need prayer for, as well as studying God's Word together!"

Student CU leader from local Secondary school

Knock Knock ... are you praying?

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened

Luke 11v9-10

What a powerful description of prayer Jesus gives us! Prayer is the heart of OSC's work. May I ask, are you seeking, asking, knocking on behalf of each soul in the schools of this city?

Praise the Lord for a blessed evening at the Pray for Schools event on 14th October – with over ten churches and eight of our secondary schools represented. If you missed it and want to receive the prayer booklet to fuel your prayers please contact OSC Administrator Judith, email: judith.yeo@oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org.

As we enter one of the busiest times of the year with all the opportunities that Christmas brings, will you please join us in prayer?



Please contact OSC Prayer Coordinator Kim Thornley if you'd like to receive weekly prayer updates kim.thornley@oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org.

Please join one of the school prayer groups – contact Judith Yeo to be linked up with a school. Watch this space for the upcoming spotlight on one of our school prayer groups and the soon to be released OSC Advent Prayer Calendar.

May your faithful prayers open the gospel door to many young people in our schools this coming term.

Giving to OSC

As you know, the work of OSC is completely reliant on financial donations from individuals and churches. If you already support our work, thank you! And if you have recently increased your gift to us, thank you so much too. If not, we would be so grateful if you would prayerfully consider a gift to allow our work to continue and grow. The need is now becoming urgent. Could you consider a fundraising activity? A sponsored bake or cycle ride? Making a donation to OSC as part of your will? Holding a coffee morning now for friends and neighbours? We would be very happy to come along and meet your neighbours and share what is happening in the local schools, to see if they would like to partner with us, or to meet with you if you have ideas to raise the profile of this important work.

As ever, donations can be made by bank transfer, to CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00021506 , or follow the link to our website for details of other ways to give at www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org/support

This work cannot happen without you. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Prayer points

Please do join us in giving thanks for:

- the Christian Unions as they start planning their Christmas outreach program
- teachers returning to school refreshed after the half-term break
- all the donors and volunteers who support OSC and make this work possible

Please pray for:

- Opportunity for OSC to deliver RE lessons on 'What do Christians believe about Christmas.' Pray for positive and prompt responses from RE departments.

- The funding challenge - we need to attract new, regular donors who are prepared to commit to support this work, in order to see it continue, and grow into the future. Please pray for fresh contacts for us and new supporters and friends who are willing to partner in this work.

