

This Summer

Given that both of my options for next year won't start until September, I have given a lot of my summer over to helping out with Church stuff (Church in the broad sense, not just my local Church in Leicester). Earlier in July I was down in Brighton for the New Frontiers leaders conference which is always a highlight of the year, and I have two other weeks of events coming up really soon.

On July 24th I'm heading to South Wales for a week of outreach on the beach. This is not something I have ever done before so I'm both very excited and quite nervous about it. Then on August 9th I am beginning a week helping out at a youth summer camp which a local Leicester Church runs. The beach mission is an all age affair, mostly aimed at families who will be on holiday, and the summer camp is for 14-18 year olds who all have some connection to Knighton Church (although not all are Christians). Please pray that above all I use these wonderful opportunities to live and speak for Jesus, and that through these summer events people would come to know and love Jesus!

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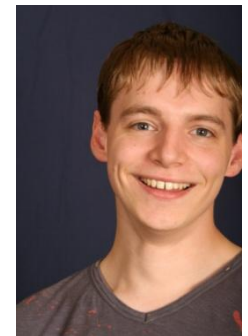


Dear supporter,

This will be my final prayer letter under the banner of UCCF, although I have decided that the principal of writing prayer letters is a pretty good one whether you are in full time Christian work or not, so if you want to continue receiving prayer letters from me then I will keep on producing them.

My time as a Relay worker concluded when the university terms ended, which was at the end of June. The last month or so was fairly quiet in terms of student work, although the year did end with a final national Relay conference as well as more time together as a regional team so I wasn't lost for things to do.

Since then I have applied for a PGCE (teacher training) course at a few different universities hoping to teach secondary school maths in the future. I have also moved house which was quite an adventure. I am living in a slightly smaller place now with one less person. My two good friends Murray and Tim moved with me from the old house, and our other housemate Andy has gone to Coventry to be closer to work. Please pray for him as he is in a new place where he doesn't know many people, especially pray that he settles in a Church quickly.



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Relay 3

As I said, the final national Relay conference happened at the start of June. The week was a lot more relaxed than the first two, giving us all plenty of time to just hang out and reflect on the years we have all had. One of the highlights of the week was the opportunity for every Relay worker (and some of the Relay staff team) to give a 3 minute presentation on their year. This was a very emotional experience, with some people having dealt with really tough situations. It was wonderful to hear how God had been working in the lives of all of the guys across the country.

The week also had a fair amount of focus on the future, especially our future having finished Relay. Mo served us really well by taking us through 1 Corinthians 12-14 focusing on how exactly we as individuals relate to the Church, especially in terms of our service and using our gifting appropriately. This was really challenging and I am still working through how to really apply everything Mo shared. Please pray that I do take all I have learnt to heart and really work it out within my local Church.

Summer Barbeque

This being exam term, not much went on in the CUs during May, but after the exams were over in June Leicester CU put on their annual summer barbeque. The event is always well received by all the students who have nothing better to do that enjoy the sun, eat lots of food and play together. This year we had a bouncy castle, some organised sporting fun, and a Christian rally driving team showing off their car!

There was an evangelistic talk which everyone sat down a very politely listened to, and afterwards many of the students had good chats about what they had heard. This was a great opportunity to express really practically our love for the students, and to share the gospel with them clearly. Please pray that our attitude and willingness to serve them had some impact, but mostly pray that the gospel they heard would change their hearts, that their eyes would be opened to the truth and their lives be transformed.

Teaching

As I said, I have applied for PGCE courses in three different universities, Leicester, Nottingham and Nottingham Trent. Teaching has always been on my radar for the future, but until recently I was putting it off in favour of getting some experience in the real working world first. However after a couple of conversations about my future in June I realised that my reasons for putting off teaching weren't really valid and I might as well get on with what I have felt drawn to for so many years. As a result of the very late decision to take on a PGCE (as well as a little disorganisation on my part) I missed the initial deadline for applications and so I'm not in the clearing process. What that means is that I have spoken to the three Universities directly and am waiting to hear back from them, with no guarantees that they will even look at my application.

If I don't get on a course this year I have a backup plan which is to look for work as a teaching assistant for a year and then reapply for 2010. I don't mind doing this at all, but obviously I would prefer to get on a PGCE course straight away! Please pray that my application would be considered by the course supervisors and that if it's God's plan for this year that I would get a place.

Church involvement

My involvement with King's Church Leicester continues to grow as time passes. I have been asked to help during the summer with preparations for our autumn Alpha course which is very exciting. I have also been asked to help run our theology training course called Word Plus over the next couple of years. These are both great opportunities for me to serve the Church and I'm really looking forward to getting stuck in even more.

I was also asked to preach back in June, which was a great privilege and came out of being asked to do the bulk of the teaching at the youth weekend away back in March. For me the biggest challenge in all of this is keeping a humble servant heart in everything I do, and constantly remembering that the only reason I can do anything at all is because of Jesus. Please pray that I would hold on to that wonderful truth as I serve in my Church.