



**What makes a great
Christian Union?**



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Does it have to be BIG to be successful?

You may be flying solo at the moment – or you may have a bunch of friends who share a vision for a Christian group where you study...

We've helped support many CUs across the years in Colleges and Sixth Forms up and down the Country. There've been big ones, small ones, busy ones, simple ones – ones with permission to do loads and some who aren't able to book a room!

Do you know what we've realised?

Christian Unions come in all shapes and sizes... and greatness can look surprising.

Here's some (cheesy but on point) examples to show you what we mean:





The 'Buzzing' CU!

This CU can be anything from 6-20 strong! It's known around College that there's a CU and they pop up advertising special events around Christmas and Easter. They meet once a week in a College room and the Chaplain is really supportive! Every now and then they get permission for visiting speakers to speak at an event or a grill a Christian... there's unity and momentum!





The 'small but mighty' CU

Most weeks the CU is 3-5 students strong – rolling timetables make it tricky for everyone to meet but those that can make it come along. They've got about 40 minutes so they use a UFG (Festive Bible Study which they don't have to prep) or similar. College is so big and they feel tiny – but they were bold and gave away wrapped up Gospels with candy canes around College last Christmas! CU helps them to keep Jesus-centred amidst peer and exam pressure and spurs them on as they love and witness to their friends!

The 'pop-up' CU!

This CU is unable to meet regularly. They still want to reach the students around them so they come together around Christmas and Easter time to do a mission event (with permission from the College!). They meet for a few weeks before to plan and they seek support from their local Churches – who pray and help provide what they need!



The 'strategic' CU!

Two Christian students wanted to set up a CU at their Sixth Form College. They asked permission but they weren't allowed to meet as a formal group or book a room. Knowing Jesus is AMAZING and isn't to be pigeon holed... these two meet once a week outside of College to pray for each other's friends. They are honest about the struggle to live for Jesus at College and encourage each other to 'set their eyes on Him' so that they can be a light where they study. They love their mates – and they want to see friends transformed by the power of Jesus!

The Hero Prayer Warrior!

One student in the Midlands tried to set up a CU – she advertised around Churches. She advertised around College. No other believers came forward. So, once a week for the rest of the year – she brought a jam jar full of names into the little multi-faith prayer room at College. Just her and a local student worker lifted up each of those names to her Father in Heaven and prayed for God's help as they tried to live for Jesus and speak of Him there. Wow.

What makes a great Christian Union?

Whatever shape, size, permission or none – a great Christian Union is one that is looking upwards and outwards.

Whoever you are, whatever you have – give it to the One who can do immeasurably more.

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.' Eph 3:20

Whatever situation you're in, whether it's you alone or you and many, it is some adventure to say "Here I am" to the God who can fuel you up and send you out on His mission. The Festive team would love to stand with you, pray with you and help you make it happen!

Contact: info@festive.org.uk as we would love to pray for you and support you as you seek to start a CU!