

# OICCU Members' and Reps' Guide to



**The OICCU Main Event**

**Week 4 – Hilary Term**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

# OICCU Members' and Reps' Guide to *This is Jesus*

Welcome to the CU Members' and Reps' Guide to *This is Jesus*. Every three years the OICCU has a Main Event on a bigger scale than normal. 2011-12 is one of these years and our Main Event is called *This is Jesus*.

*This is Jesus* will take place in 4<sup>th</sup> week of Hilary Term. We are praying that in God's hands this will be a wonderful week of sharing the good news of the Lord Jesus with students around us. We are also praying that God will use his gospel to bring many into a living relationship with Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

In this guide you will find information about the following:

- What will *This is Jesus* look like?
- How can we make the most of *This is Jesus*?
- How can we make the most of CU Guests?
- What is a rep's role in *This is Jesus*?

**Reps please especially study the section: What is a rep's role in *This is Jesus*. There is some vital information in there.**

Do also check out the website at [www.thisisjesus.org](http://www.thisisjesus.org)

If you have any questions or suggestions about *This is Jesus* contact your college Rep, or a member of the Main Event committee at the email addresses below.

Robbie Strachan – OICCU President  
robert.strachan@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Caroline Devereux – OICCU Vice-President  
caroline.devereux@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Tom Bradbury – OICCU Outreach Secretary  
thomas.bradbury@univ.ox.ac.uk

Jon Drake – Main Event Committee Chair (and author of this Guide)  
jon.drake1981@gmail.com

James Gwyn-Thomas – Main Event Fundraising Coordinator  
james.gwyn-thomas@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk

Sam Brewster – Main Event Follow-up Coordinator  
sam.brewster@wycliffe.ox.a.c.uk

## What will ***This is Jesus*** look like?

***This is Jesus*** is a week of events aiming to give every student in Oxford a chance to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. This will be one of the biggest opportunities to publicly proclaim Christ to the whole university in recent years, and we long that ***This is Jesus*** will serve the ongoing, day-to-day witness of OICCU members and college groups, and equip us to better reach those around us.

### **The Speakers:**

We're very excited to have as our main speaker **Tim Keller**, from Redeemer Presbyterian Church New York. Tim is a very experienced evangelistic speaker and is the author of many books including *The Reason for God*, *The Prodigal God*, and *King's Cross*. If you are not familiar with Tim's work it would be a good idea to read one of his books before the Main Event week.

We are thrilled to have **Mike Cain**, from Emmanuel Church Bristol, as our lunchtime speaker. Mike has spoken at a number of university mission weeks and is the author of *Real Life Jesus*.

### **Before *This is Jesus***

- OICCU Carol Services: Mike Cain, will be speaking on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- OICCU houseparty in January: equipping and encouraging us to make the most of ***This is Jesus***. Sign up online, [www.oiccu.org.uk/houseparty.htm](http://www.oiccu.org.uk/houseparty.htm)
- Weekly 'Big Issue' evangelistic talks every Friday lunchtime.
- High quality, high visibility publicity throughout the university.
- We will aim to give every student in Oxford a copy of John's Gospel.
- College groups hosting interest building evangelistic events in their colleges in week 2 or 3 of the Hilary Term.
- In the days before the ***This is Jesus*** week we will aim to have large-scale interest building events in the town and colleges – including things like street drama, bike fixing, free ice-cream etc.

### **During *This is Jesus* (Week 4 Hilary Term, 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February)**

The principle part of the 'Main Event' will be the **evening meetings** where Tim Keller will preach Jesus from the pages of John's Gospel every evening from Tuesday to Saturday. The venue will be the Town Hall, which will be attractively decorated to give it a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

During those **evening meetings** the main focus will be on the talk from John's Gospel, but there will also be refreshments, top quality music, interviews and testimonies. We are considering having a cafe area in the Town Hall after the talk for people to stay and discuss what they have heard over a drink.

On Monday to Friday **lunchtimes** Mike Cain will also be speaking in the Town Hall. He will be tackle some of the big questions people have about life and God, showing that Jesus is the answer to these questions.

In addition, there will be an event especially for **internationals** probably on the Monday night, and an evangelistic panel discussion with Tim Keller and others on the Saturday lunchtime, topic to be confirmed.

**Timetable for *This is Jesus*** (subject to change)

	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Mon 6th Feb</b>	<b>Mike Cain</b> <i>Unnecessary? Why do I need God anyway?</i>	International Event
<b>Tues 7th Feb</b>	<b>Mike Cain</b> <i>Elusive? Why doesn't God make himself clearer?</i>	<b>Tim Keller</b> John (1)
<b>Weds 8th Feb</b>	<b>Mike Cain</b> <i>Unloving? Where is God when life hurts?</i>	<b>Tim Keller</b> John (2)
<b>Thurs 9th Feb</b>	<b>Mike Cain</b> <i>Intolerant? Does religion make you judgmental?</i>	<b>Tim Keller</b> John (3)
<b>Fri 10th Feb</b>	<b>Mike Cain</b> <i>Restrictive? Does Jesus spoil your freedom?</i>	<b>Tim Keller</b> John (4)
<b>Sat 11th Feb</b>	Panel Discussion (TK et. al.)	<b>Tim Keller</b> John (5)

**After *This is Jesus***

For the rest of the Hilary Term we will run two courses for people to find out more about Jesus and what it means to follow him, one on Monday and one on Tuesday evenings. With a choice of two nights of the week, this will give people an opportunity to continue asking their questions and finding out more about Jesus.

The Friday lunchtime 'Big Issue' talks will also be an important resource for those with further questions after the 'Main Event'.

As you can see there is plenty planned. Please do pray that God graciously uses it.

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain"*

Psalm 127:1

## How can we make the most of ***This is Jesus***?

A key to ***This is Jesus*** going well will be that we all have a sense of ownership of it. This is a week of events that belongs to us all. Here are some suggestions of how we can make the most of ***This is Jesus***.

### Prayer

It is vital that we express our dependence on God in prayer for ***This is Jesus***. Grab one of the prayer bookmarks and use it to pray for friends in college. Pray with others in your college group. Let's encourage each other to pray. Colleges will have daily prayer meetings for ***This is Jesus*** in college during the week itself – do make them a priority. The following box may help you organise your prayers

**'And he spoke to them a parable, that men should always pray and not give up'**  
- Luke 18:1

#### **A PRAYER FOR YOURSELF:**

(eg, deeper love for the lost, to know God, to learn to pray)

#### **A SPECIFIC PRAYER WHILE IN OXFORD:**

(eg, to read the Bible with someone, to see someone become Christian)

#### **PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE:**

(A name, and a *specific* request for them each week. What needs to happen for them to recognise Jesus? eg: chance to chat about God, conviction after a talk)

**NAME**

**REQUEST**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.'**

- John 15:16

## **Prepare to be there**

It's a good idea to get ahead on work and to free up our diary as much as possible in week 4 of Hilary. Please do make a point of being at as many of the events as you possibly can whether you have friends with you or not. It will be very edifying for us to hear the talks – there'll be nowhere better to be. Also having a good crowd at the talks will provide a great atmosphere for friends who have been invited along by us or by others.

## **Publicity**

We are keen to use as many different forms of publicity as possible so that everyone in college knows about the ***This is Jesus*** week. This doesn't replace personal inviting, it supports it because it is much easier to invite people to events that they've heard a lot about. What can you do to publicise ***This is Jesus*** to your friends and college? Massively using facebook/twitter; changing your facebook profile picture; pinning flyers to your door, sending ***This is Jesus*** post-cards to your friends by pigeon post ...

## **Sharing the gospel before *This is Jesus***

Make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel before ***This is Jesus*** so that friends will have already considered Christ. Personal conversations, group conversations, Big Issues, Christmas Carol Services, church and college events...

## **College Events**

The success of the large events in the Town Hall will depend in large part on what happens on a smaller scale in our colleges and friendship groups. Let's have loads of different interest building and evangelistic events in the first three weeks of Hilary. Ideas that have worked well include:

- Grill a Christian
- Ice-Cream parlour tour with a short talk on three misconceptions about Christianity (It's all about rules; Christians are hypocrites; All religions lead to God) in the final ice-cream parlour
- Games Nights
- Quiz Nights
- Dialogue Suppers (meal with a short gospel presentation in the middle to get discussion going)
- Text an edible item
- "Christianity Uncorked" events in the bar/ pub / someone's room, with a short presentation on typical questions about God/Christianity (e.g. how can God be good with so much evil and suffering in the world? Don't all religions lead to God) with a discussion afterward.

The aim of these events is to present the gospel in such a way that it'll leave people with an interest to come and hear more in the talks in the Town Hall.

It would be great to have college events put on by the whole college group and also many smaller ones put on by individuals or small groups for their friends.

If your College Guests live in or near Oxford they may be able to speak at and help with college events before ***This is Jesus***, if not there are other speakers available locally.

## **Gospel Giveaway**

We plan to print some special copies of John's Gospel for ***This is Jesus*** and between us to personally present one to every undergraduate in Oxford. This may sound daunting but with God's help it can be a marvellous way to get God's word into the hands of those in our colleges and to invite people to the ***This is Jesus*** talks.

Think through what the best way of giving a copy of John's Gospel to your friends and contacts might be.

- (1) Be warm and positive. We are giving people God's word which is 'more precious than gold' (Psalm 19:10). It's nothing to be ashamed of – it's the best gift we could offer.
- (2) Give people a reason to read it. If we just say, "Here's a John's Gospel", people may think it's a weird religious book and leave it. So it's better to say something like, "We are having this week of events ***This is Jesus*** because we think he is the most significant person ever to live. Have you ever read a historical biography of his life? This is John's Gospel, one of the eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life. Why not read the first chapter and see what you think."
- (3) Follow up on the gift. Come back to people a couple of days later and ask them if they've read any of the John's Gospel. Either way, invite them along to some of the ***This is Jesus*** events.

## **Effective Inviting**

Think through which friends and groups you'd like to invite to which events and what the best way to invite them along is. For the evening events, it can be excellent to invite people for a meal, snacks or drink beforehand, perhaps in your room, to make a bit of an occasion of it. But think through what will work best for your friends. If we invite people early in the week then hopefully they will return to talks later in the week.

## **Follow up**

Chat to friends after they have been to a talk. Encourage them along to another talk in the week. And encourage them to sign up for one of the follow-up courses. Also think is there a conversation to be had with them or a book that you could buy or lend them. We hope that there will be many friends who choose to come to several talks during the week and then along to the follow-up course.

## **International Students**

We are keen that international students feel very welcome at all the ***This is Jesus*** events. To this end we are hosting an International Event on the Monday night to introduce the rest of the week to international students. Do you know international students you could bring to this event? Or could you befriend an international student in the run up to ***This is Jesus***? Wondering how to do this - Cafe 360 on a Friday night is a great place to start!

## **College Guests**

College Guests will be around to help and support us during the week. See the next section of this Guide for more info about their role!

## How can we make the most of CU Guests?

For the big triennial Main Events like ***This is Jesus*** the OICCU invites CU Guests to come and stay with us in our colleges and help us make the most of the Main Event. Each college will have a male and a female Guest.

The Guests are not coming to take over our college groups! The reps and OICCU members remain the key players and initiative-takers under God. The Guests are simply Christians with a bit more experience in evangelism than most of us, who are kindly giving up a whole week to be available to help us. They are a great resource!

The primary role of the Guests is to encourage and support us during ***This is Jesus***. So please do book them up for cups of tea and coffee and make the most of their time to talk over how the Main Event is going for you, pick their brains for advice, and pray together for your friends.

Also we hope that the Guests will have a useful role in talking to our friends. So please do introduce them to friends. If you are inviting a group to one of the talks, do invite the Guest to come too. And do introduce friends with questions to the Guests who may be able to help answer them.

The Guests will also be available to speak at events in our colleges, whether that is events for the whole college group, or just a little get together of your friends with very short talk or chance for friends to ask some questions of you and the Guest. Guests who live in Oxford may be available for events in weeks 1-3 of the Hilary Term. Others may only be available for events during ***This is Jesus***. Have a think what events the Guests may be able to help you with and then discuss it with them (Reps have the Guests' contact details).

### ***Top tips for using your CU Guests:***

- Invite the Guest to meet with you for a tea or coffee early in the week to chat and pray together about how to make the most of the mission week and how they may be able to help you.
- Introduce them to your friends as someone who has come to help out with the ***This is Jesus*** week of events. (this gives your CU Guest permission to be up front and bold in sharing the gospel)
- If they are available at supper time, take them along to a meal in hall with you and introduce them to non-Christians (don't just sit with the CU!).
- If you are going to the bar in the evening after the talk take them along (again to meet non-Christians not to hang out with the CU!).
- Treat them as your friends i.e. if you'd just hang out with some non-Christians for a cuppa in the afternoon, bring your CU Guest along. If you'd go to the pub, bring your CU Guest along etc...
- If friends are asking questions about Christianity, rope in a CU Guest to help you answer.

# What is the Reps' role in *This is Jesus*?

## 1. Informing and Enthusing College Group Members

- Don't assume that people will know what it's about – we need to explain.
- Remember first years will not have seen a CU mission week before but we want them to know what to expect so they can make the most of *This is Jesus*.
- Perhaps have slots in college group meetings between now and this is Jesus looking at things like: the talk programme for *This is Jesus*; how to invite effectively; how to follow-up when people come.

## 2. Encouraging

- Encourage people to persevere in prayer
- Encourage people to be sharing the gospel before *This is Jesus*
- Encourage people to keep going when evangelism is hard
- Encourage everyone in our college CUs to come along to as many of the main meetings as possible, with or without friends. It'll be very edifying for people to hear the talks and it creates a great atmosphere at the events.

## 3. Things to organise in college

Here are some things that as reps you should make sure get organised. In all of our planning and co-ordinating, we want to do all we can to involve different people in our CU - asking for their ideas, wisdom and prayers.

**Daily College Prayer Meetings:** Please do make *This is Jesus* a focus for your college prayer meetings this term and encourage the members of your CU to get behind it all in prayer. During *This is Jesus* it'd be great to organise daily college prayer meetings. It's great to get together to pray for each other's friends and for what's going on each day. 30-45 minutes before lectures should be about right.

**Publicity:** As mentioned above we are keen to use as many different forms of publicity as possible so that everyone in our colleges knows about the *This is Jesus* week. Posters etc will be produced centrally and distributed to the colleges. But do co-ordinate the college group in working together to publicise *This is Jesus* in your college – there may be particular things that your CU can do in your college.

**College Events:** Do think about what interest building and evangelistic event or events your college group would like to host in the run up to *This is Jesus*. Some of these events will primarily aim to create awareness of the Main Event, others will have space for a more substantial gospel talk and will build awareness in the person of Jesus that way. We are hoping that most of these events will happen in the two weeks before *This is Jesus* (i.e. in weeks 2 and 3 of the Hilary Term) so that during the Main Event week itself we are free to bring people along to the events in the Town Hall. College Guests (especially those who live in Oxford) may be available to speak at events before the Main Event. If your College Guest is only around during *This is Jesus* and you'd like them to speak at an event in college then you can of course slip one in during the Main Event week, Monday night might be the best time.

**Gospel Giveaway:** Think through with your college groups the best way to give gospels to everyone in your college (or as many as possible). There are some pointers on this in the section above. As mentioned above this many seem like a daunting task, but with God's help it will be a great way to get God's word into the hands of those in our colleges and to invite people to the ***This is Jesus*** talks.

#### **4. Arrangements to make for CU Guests**

The CU Guests should be a great support and encouragement during ***This is Jesus***. But as Reps you will need to make some arrangements for the CU Guests.

**Accommodation:** We need to book college guest rooms for CU Guests who do not live in Oxford. Please check with your Guests and if necessary book rooms as soon as possible. It may be wise to enlist the help of the Chaplain in booking guest rooms - you know the best approach in your college. All expenses will be paid by the OICCU, send the bills to Evie Jackson at St John's College (evelyn.jackson@sjc.ox.ac.uk). If your CU Guest doesn't need overnight accommodation, they will still need a base in college during the day. Could someone in the CU make their room available as a daytime base for the CU Guest?

**Informing Chaplains:** The College Chaplains have already been contacted about the 'Main Event' and to let them know that there will be CU Guests in each college. However, it's important in maintaining good relations with the Chaplains that you yourselves speak to them asap to let them know that we are expecting the Guests, ask them if that is okay, and offer to arrange a meeting between them and the Guests at the start of the week. The Chaplain may be open to inviting the CU guest to preach in chapel on the Sunday before the 'Main Event' starts. If your college doesn't have a Chaplain please inform the relevant college authorities to ensure they know what's going on. Jon Drake, the mission committee chair, has been liaising with secretary of the Chaplains association, so if you have any questions about liaising with your Chaplain do contact him (jon.drake1981@gmail.com).

**CU Guest Timetable:** At the end of this guide you will find a 'timetable' which will give you an idea of when your CU Guests will be available. In the weeks before ***This is Jesus*** work with other members of the College CU to think who'd like to meet up with the Guests when. The Guests are here to support the CU members, so it would be great to arrange lots of meetings between CU members and Guests in the first 2 or 3 days so that the Guests can get to know people. The Guests are also here to meet our friends, so it would be great if CU members could book in to take Guests to dinner in hall on different nights to meet friends and also to other social occasions. You'll find ideas of the kind of things you could do in the previous section '*How can we make the most of CU Guests?*' The Guests should be a big support not a burden, but it will help them do that if you encourage CU members to fill up their timetable as outlined here.

Thank you in advance for all the hard work that this involves and if there's anything that we as a committee can do to make your job any easier then do please let us know.

### CU Guest's timetable for the week:

<b><u>Rough Times</u></b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:30-11:00</b>	<b>11:00-1:00</b>	<b>1:00-2:00 ish</b>	<b>2:00-3:00</b>	<b>3:00-4:00</b>	<b>4:00-5:00</b>	<b>5:00-6:00</b>	<b>6:00-8:00</b>	<b>8:00-9:00 ish</b>	<b>9:00-Late</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	CU Guests Arrive										
<b>Monday</b>	College Prayer Meeting	CU Guests Central Meeting		Lunchtime Talks at Town Hall						International Event	
<b>Tuesday</b>	College Prayer Meeting	CU Guests Central Meeting		Lunchtime Talks at Town Hall						Evening Meetings at Town Hall	
<b>Wednesday</b>	College Prayer Meeting	CU Guests Central Meeting		Lunchtime Talks at Town Hall						Evening Meetings at Town Hall	
<b>Thursday</b>	College Prayer Meeting	CU Guests Central Meeting		Lunchtime Talks at Town Hall						Evening Meetings at Town Hall	
<b>Friday</b>	College Prayer Meeting	CU Guests Central Meeting		Lunchtime Talks at Town Hall						Evening Meetings at Town Hall	
<b>Saturday</b>	College Prayer Meeting	CU Guests Central Meeting		Panel Discussion at the Town Hall						Evening Meetings at Town Hall	