

## Newsletter No. 2 Summer 2011

### The Globe Café

has become well established this year with increased attendance of 12 - 25 most weeks since October, and ongoing new contacts. Local Christians have shared their interests from English cooking and stained glass making, to their experience of living in places far away such as Africa and China! If you have a hobby or interest you could introduce in a 20 minute slot please let us know!

The message of Easter was introduced at the end of last term and 10 booklets and even more gospels were taken following the talk.

Good conversations and strong friendships have developed with around 10 -15 regulars, from 7 or 8 different nationalities. Please pray for these students that God will be at work in their hearts and we will be able to share our experience of Him with them.

### Social and cultural events

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Barn Dance was held in February:

*'Thanks for a brilliant barn dance last evening. Everyone seemed to be enjoying it. We certainly did. Would be great if you could increase this event to more than one per year – it's too long to wait!'*

*'I wanted to thank you for organizing such a great Event. I have enjoyed way above my expectations, hope to have more fun with FISH in future. Thanks again'* Pakistani male postgraduate

We took small groups along to some of the monthly ceilidh nights organized by Northampton Folk Dance group, where they were made very welcome and most learned to pick up at least some of the moves!

An English Roast dinner with explanation of its origins was cooked at ACC for a group of us in March, while in April Duke St Evangelical welcomed some students to their big screen showing of the Royal Wedding!

The late Easter vacation and glorious weather meant our programme of summer outings got off to a great start - and unprecedented popularity! 26 attended our trip to Stoke Bruerne, and 35 joined us for the country walk and farmhouse cream tea near Geddington on Easter Monday, with 10 students being turned away! *'These trips are the best thing about studying here in Northampton'* Indian male

Places are already full for our next trip to Oundle, so we now have the 'problem' of finding enough drivers for each trip, though logistically we have to limit numbers to around 9 or 10 cars. If you are free to help with transport for the remaining trips **please make contact!**

**Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> 11.00 – 6.00: Walk and picnic at Olney**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June: all day trip to Dovedale**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July pm: Salcey Forest and BBQ**



## Open Evening for Churches 31<sup>st</sup> March, Abington Avenue URC

Over 40 representing 11 different churches across the town and denominations attended this evening of encouragement and inspiration. We heard exciting news of how God is growing the future leaders of His expanding church in the Far East, through groups like ours across the UK and elsewhere. Especially thrilling was to hear about progress in the international cell group led by Leah and Richard Peters of Abington Christian Centre, with testimonies of those who have come to faith in Christ. Four Chinese students from the group were baptized on Easter Sunday and another Chinese research scholar who had recently become a Christian along with several members of her family in China, was baptized the same day at Kingsthorpe Baptist.

We have been encouraged by contact with more churches, enthusiastic volunteers and very positive responses from students. A special meal and fundraising evening was held at St Peter's Weston Favell, and we have new volunteer hosts and supporters from there, St Lawrence's, Long Buckby, and The Catholic Cathedral. Short presentations are booked at Kingsthorpe Methodist and Reynard Way Evangelical. Meanwhile the work continues with pastoral visits to the chaplaincy, the Globe Café and cell groups, and new initiatives such as afternoon teas.



### Prayer Pointers

those who made a commitment to Christ and have now returned home, that they will seek out other Christians and grow in faith

the summer programme: for good weather, strengthening friendships, and opportunities to share our faith story and God's story

for more forthcoming church visits, and for interest, support and commitment

plans for the autumn and ongoing good relationships with the university

**The Multi-faith Chaplaincy** provides FISH not only with the physical space to meet on campus and to publicise our events but also an opportunity to get involved on a regular basis with the pastoral care of students where they are.

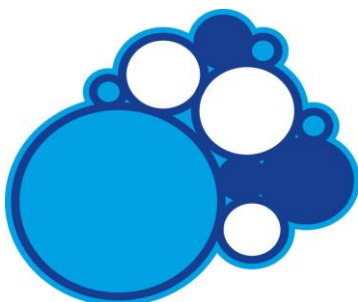
Haydon Spenceley has been covering a weekly slot as part of his internship:

*'I have been supporting the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy at UCN for the last two academic years. I have found it to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my job at St Giles. I have met so many people, who have found the chaplaincy a place of sanctuary and learning during what can be a very difficult and trying time in their lives. The opportunity to build relationships with so many students, as well as the Chaplains and staff has been a privilege I would encourage anyone else to take up. The Chaplaincy is doing fine work, providing hospitality, a place of peace, and an opportunity for dialogue across the boundaries of faith and culture which must be encouraged and supported. It is crucial that we, as Christians, shine as the lights God has made us, and step up to be friends and neighbours of the students, whether they are international or from this country, so that they might see the love of God in us, and meet Him.'*

**There are 101 ways to help with this ministry! Please get in touch:**

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FISH Northampton brings together local people from different Christian churches to offer friendship to international students and help them enjoy a positive experience of life in England. Our activities help promote multi-cultural awareness and are open to all international students regardless of race or religion.