



CLA FRESHERS

Newsletter

Welcome Message

Outstanding Success



A long time ago, I gained admission into University; I was excited, expectant and a bit anxious about meeting new people, working harder and of course living my life to the full. Are you also new on campus? Congratulations! I suppose you may be thinking of how to survive in your new environment; how to make new friends, enjoy freedom away from home, and have outstanding success in your academic pursuit.

Many years ago, an extraordinary book (the Bible) reported a true story of four young people who were taken to a city called Babylon to study and work for the King. The book of Daniel 1:17 (NLT) says - God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. Subsequently after their training, the King of that city, highly esteemed them and rated them to be ten times better than others in their category. Do you know you can also have outstanding knowledge, understanding and success in all ramifications? These four young people distinguished themselves; they were bold, disciplined, righteous and reverently worshipped God. No wonder God blessed them abundantly. I invite you to also stand for the truth as you start a new life on campus: flee from all appearance of evil (sin) - cheating, lying, sex before marriage, drunkenness, drugs, riotous living and all manner of wrong-doing. For the Bible says: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NLT)

Accept God's free gift - His son Jesus who lived a righteous life and paid the penalty for all human sin by dying on the cross. Believe in God's love and turn from all thoughts and actions which God disapproves of. Then He will help you to excel and bless you with all-round success like He did for the four diligent youths who lived in Babylon.

Please say this prayer:

Dear God, I surrender myself to you as I start a new academic year. I am sorry for all my past wrong-doings. Forgive me and help me to live a good life, stand for the truth, work hard and have outstanding success academically, morally, spiritually and in all areas of my life, in Jesus' name. Amen.

- Pastor Foyeke Tolani (Resident Pastor)



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5 Things I Wish I Knew Before Coming to Oxford as an International Student

By Emmanuel Uzim (Uni. of Oxford, 22/23)

Coming to Oxford as an international postgraduate student was exciting, intimidating and, in many ways, surreal.

For many of us coming from Nigeria, the name Oxford carries a certain weight. It represents achievement, opportunity and the hope that this next chapter will open new doors. But looking back, some of the most important lessons were not in my lectures or course handbook.

If I could speak to a new international student arriving in Oxford this year, these are a few things I would tell them.

1. You do not have to keep proving that you deserve to be here

Oxford can make comparison very easy. You meet people with impressive careers, qualifications and experiences, and suddenly begin questioning your own. Do not.

You were admitted for a reason. You bring your own knowledge, perspective and life experience into the room too. Let Oxford stretch you, but do not let it make you underestimate yourself.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”
— Maya Angelou

2. Start thinking about your career early

Do not wait until your dissertation is almost finished before asking, “What happens next?”

Use the careers service. Attend employer events. Speak to alumni. Improve your CV and LinkedIn profile. Understand how UK recruitment works and, if you hope to stay after your studies, learn about sponsorship and visa requirements early.

Your degree can open doors, but you still have to position yourself to walk through them.

3. Give yourself time to adjust

Moving from Nigeria to the UK involves many small cultural adjustments: the weather, accents, communication styles, social etiquette and even how people build friendships.

Some things will make sense immediately. Others will take time. Be patient with yourself. Adapting does not mean losing who you are. You can learn how things work here while still holding on to the parts of home that matter to you.

4. Budget carefully

Oxford is beautiful, but it can also be expensive.

Rent, groceries, transport and social activities can add up very quickly. Budget, use student discounts, cook when you can and do not feel pressured to say yes to every outing. And for my fellow Nigerians, at some point you may need to stop converting every purchase into Naira for your peace of mind.

5. Make time to actually live in Oxford

This season will pass faster than you think.

Take pictures. Explore the city. Enjoy the walks home after class, the random conversations, the sunny afternoons, the friendships and even the difficult days.

One day, the streets that once felt unfamiliar will feel normal, and suddenly your time in Oxford will be almost over. So come with ambition, but also come with curiosity.

Study hard. Meet people. Build community. Start thinking about your career early. Ask questions. Apply for things even when you are unsure. Call home. Explore. And every now and then, stop and look around.

You are here. Live it with EXCELLENCE.

Upcoming Events



Youth Sundays

Join the Youth of Christ's Love Assembly **every last Sunday of the month** for a time of spiritual growth and fellowship



Newcomers' Luncheon

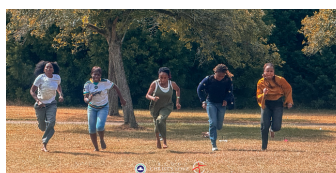
Join us for a warm, lively luncheon on **15 November 2026** as we celebrate our newest members with great food, easy conversation, and the perfect chance to make new friends.



Youth Christmas Event

Come together on **12 December 2026** for a Youth Christmas Event that brings young people into a festive celebration filled with connection, joy, and Christmas cheer.

Picture splash



CHECKLIST OF TOP PLACES TO VISIT IN OXFORD

(Tick each checkbox as you make progress)

- ☐ Ashmolean Museum
- ☐ South Park – Oxford Skyline
- ☐ Radcliffe Camera + Bridge of Sighs
- ☐ Blenheim Palace
- ☐ Oxford Botanic Garden
- ☐ Westgate Oxford
- ☐ Punting on the River Cherwell
- ☐ Oxford Covered Market
- ☐ Christ Church and Meadows
- ☐ Natural History Museum + Pitt Rivers Museum



Puzzle

Which Bible figure can you identify?

Z	A	C	H
T	O	L	A
U	J	J	Y
M	A	O	H
K	A	N	B
S	R	R	I
U	U	D	K
W	T	B	A
E	H	U	D

Hints

1. Father of Jemimah; 2. A Gospel writer; 3. A Moabite woman; 4. Son of Puah; 5. A left-handed man

Picture list

- Youth Luncheon 2025
- Family Day Out 2026



The 5Fs of our Church

Regular Events

SUNDAYS (WORSHIP SERVICE) || 10.15AM - 12.30PM

WEDNESDAYS (ONLINE PRAYER MEETING) || 7.00PM - 8.00PM

FRIDAYS (ONLINE BIBLE STUDY) || 7.30PM - 9.00PM

LAST FRIDAYS (NIGHT PRAYERS) || 9.00PM-11.30PM

VENUE: 1ST FLOOR, COWLEY WORKERS SOCIAL CLUB (CWSC), 4A, BETWEEN TOWNS ROAD, COWLEY, OXFORD OX4 3LZ

ZOOM ONLINE MEETING ID: 447 901 3820 || PASSWORD: 983052

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLS CONTACT: PASTOR PATRICK 07502454004 OR 07813709676 || ADMIN@OXRCCG.ORG.UK