

Refine

14-18 Youth Ministry at Christchurch, St. Albans

Hello Refiners and Refiner's parents! This update is to let you know about changes taking place within Refine this year...!

Light the blue touch-paper...!

Refine ignites like a stratosphere-bound super-sonic missile of hot-rockin' love on Sunday 10/09, 7.15pm–9.15pm at The Shack! It will be so *cool* to see you there, especially as there's *lots* to update you on... and as we wave 'goodbye' to Joe >tears<, catch up on some really exciting stuff that's been happening over summer >whoa!< and finally as we welcome new Refiners who are coming to Refine for the first time >yay!< (we promise we'll look after you!).

The mission...!

...is still the same as when we first started: *"To encourage, nurture, mentor and empower the youth of Christ Church to be confident in their own faith and able to share Jesus with others"* ...and to have fun! We'd love it if everyone could find a place where they experience God in a real and personal way.

It's still 'organic'...!

We're always learning so Refine is rarely the same two years running (thank goodness we hear you cry!) and it changes term on term, year on year, as we receive feedback to the end of year questionnaires and as we learn to try and best suit the needs of those who attend. If we sometimes get things wrong we're really sorry. Refine has never just been the Sunday evening meetings but also consists of mid-week groups. Our aims – to meet with and disciple the young people of Christ Church and promote Christian community through teaching and small groups – still remain our focus... but how we're going about meeting these aims is changing. The year is all about new small groups, which will have a greater input from your Refine leaders. These will run along the '4W' lines – 'welcome', 'worship', 'word' and 'witness' – and this term they'll meet a total of eight times, usually on Sunday evenings. We'll also all get together as one large group on Sunday evenings a minimum of three times this term too *plus* there's a chance for us all to meet at events and socials which are also scheduled into this term's timetable – so hopefully we won't have a chance to miss out on meeting up together regularly! This term's theme will be 'Identity': *who are we?; what defines us?; why do we do what we do?; what are we aiming for...?* All fab stuff! So why these changes? We've read your questionnaires (thank you!) and listened to what you said. We've thought, discussed and prayed things through: we feel the focus needs to be on leader-led small groups, giving the peer-led cell groups a break for a while. Simple as! But if you still want to meet mid-week to pray or chat 'outside of Refine' then that's cool too! Whichever parts of Refine you feel led to attend we want you to know that we very much value each one of you.

>brrrrgh<, >shiver<...!

December's not far away and that can mean only one thing... the Sleep Out! (OK, admittedly December can also mean other things too, like... er... Christmas for example.) This year the Sleep Out takes place on Friday 01/12, 9.00pm–7.00am at the Cathedral, and aims to increase awareness of homelessness and raise money for charities such as 'Open Door', an emergency night shelter and day centre in St. Albans. So, sign up on the notice board near the office, get those warm clothes out, find an (empty!) cardboard box and most importantly start collecting sponsorships! Anyone who'd like to come to the Sleep Out this year will need to complete Refine's permission form (if under 18) which will need to be signed by a parent / guardian and returned to us by Sunday 19/11. We can take some of your friends but for this event only if we already know them and numbers may be limited. You'll also all need to complete the Sleep Out registration form and bring it on the night – see the Refine website '*Happenings*' section for information and links to forms. Remember, as the Sleep Out organisers say: *'no tents, footballs, stereos or alcohol'* (...and they're not just speaking to the leaders!)

Timetable...!

Please don't forget to keep track of what's happening by keeping your Refine term timetable close to hand. We recommend sleeping with it under your pillow and checking it every morning... you could think of it as your very own little paper-based tamagotchi which you could pretend to feed or play games with? No? Alrighty then! The term timetable is also available on the Refine website '*Happenings*' section – please check it every now and again just in case there are changes.

Pray for us...!

Praying works! We'd be really grateful if you would be kind enough to keep us all in your prayers – thank you!

Further info...?

- Check out the Refine website! Add it to your 'favourites'! View the term timetable! Download permission forms! Browse cool links! Laugh at wacky photos! Play the highly amusing caption competition! Leave a prayer! Chat! *Whatever...!*
- If you have any questions or if you'd like any further information on any aspect of Refine *please* contact any one of us.
- If you'd like to see any previous update letters please contact us or see the Refine website '*Central*' section.

We love you! Thanks for reading this newsletter! *Please* encourage your parents to read it too ...although you might want to scrub the more random parts first...! God bless, The Refine Leadership Team.

Refine - www.christchurch-stalbans.org.uk/refine

The Refine Leadership Team are: Paul H, Gillian & Oliver D, Becky & Mark U, Susie & Séan R... and Tara.