

# Emma de Paula

## Prayer Letter

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## A Whole New World

It's wonderful to be back with CU students after a few months away. On the whole they are in good heart, grateful for God's faithfulness over the chaotic last few months. University and CU life has changed dramatically, like so many things, bringing lots of challenges and frustrations with it. Many of the students I've spoken to are feeling that with lots of them hearing just a week or two ago what their courses will look like across the term. Third and fourth year Galashiels students are facing very limited time in workshops and studios, a real challenge for such practical courses. Some Heriot-Watt courses will be entirely online so there will be some students not coming back to Edinburgh this year. These are huge changes to the dynamics of student life on campus as well as for the individual students adapting to their own circumstances. **Please pray for Christian students to find growing steadiness and trust in our God who never changes, as they navigate their way through this unsettling time.**

We're really grateful for a team of UCCF staff putting together a central strategy to help CUs thrive against this backdrop. Over the past couple of weeks the CUs of Gala and Heriot-Watt have been working hard at putting these plans into place locally. The biggest change is a shift from large, online gatherings to a structure based around smaller groups. The CUs are already connecting with new students through social media and will invite them to join an Impact Group or an Explore Group. Impact Groups will help Christian students build strong relationships as they study Philippians and pray together, encouraging one another to boldly witness for Jesus in their networks. They will be key in grafting new students into local churches as older students help them connect with a church family in their new city. Explore Groups will give students who are asking questions about Christianity the chance to find out more about Jesus as they read through Uncover together. Alongside this, CUs will host events mostly online with personal contact as restrictions allow. There are lots of challenges to life and witness on campus, but we hope lots of opportunities too! **Please pray that through the CUs' efforts, students at Gala and Heriot-Watt would hear about Jesus and put their faith in him this year.**

## Welcoming new students

Moving to a new city to start university is a big transition at the best of times, let alone during a global pandemic! New students are still facing lots of unknowns even though Welcome Week is next week. The social side of university looks much less fun and a much harder context to make friends in than before. Finding a church and settling into it will be much more difficult than usual. The CUs are currently thinking of lots of ways to connect with new students when they arrive but, unsurprisingly, it won't look like a normal Welcome Week. The hope is to do some larger online events with some one to one and small group meet ups as appropriate. Joining a Zoom call or meeting people you don't know in a small group might feel intimidating for many of us, particularly for new students. We're praying that students will have the courage to join the calls and meet up with CU students, and in doing so would feel a warm welcome and place where they can belong, we'd be grateful for you joining in these prayers.





## Welcoming new Relay Workers

Over the summer we said goodbye to our team of Relay Workers who spent last year encouraging and supporting the CUs of Scotland. They did a tremendous job of spurring on the CUs in mission, especially when all Staff went on furlough. Laura and Emma, who I supervised last year, have both left Edinburgh now. Laura is in Manchester starting a church apprenticeship which also involves some graphic design work. Emma is hoping to move to Germany soon where she plans to teach English. A new academic year brings a new Relay cohort and this year I'm excited to be supervising Elise (pictured on the left) who will be placed with Gala CU for her Relay year. Please pray that this would be a year that Elise grows in her knowledge, love and likeness of Christ and that she'd be a great blessing to Gala CU this year. Pray that I'd support and encourage her well, especially as we adapt to student ministry in the current circumstances.



## Support Update

As a charity, UCCF is dependent on the giving of individuals and churches to support the work. I am seeking to fully cover my salary costs, which is around £21,000, each year. To cover my costs this year, I have a further £10,000 to raise and am looking for more people to start giving. Would you consider if you're able to support me in this way?

You can start giving online now at:

[www.uccf.org.uk/give/emma-de-paula](http://www.uccf.org.uk/give/emma-de-paula)

I'm aware that financial pressures may well have increased for many of you over the past few months. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to change or end your financial support of my work because of this.

## Prayer Requests

- Pray that **new students** would connect meaningfully with the CU, quickly feel part of our mission team and be encouraged to live and speak for Jesus from the very start of their university life. Pray that they will settle well into local churches where they can be discipled and serve. Pray too that we'd be able to meet new students who aren't yet Christians and share the gospel with them.
- Pray for **returning CU students** as they adjust to university as it will be. Pray that older students would keep being part of the CU and be willing to serve new students well by walking alongside them in Impact Groups.
- Pray for those **servicing on CU committees**, for faithfulness, wisdom and energy as they lead the CU.
- Pray that **recent graduates** looking for work would find jobs soon and know steadiness in the Lord as they apply and wait. Pray for those who have started work to keep witnessing for Jesus in their new setting.
- Pray for **Elise** as she settles into life as a Relay worker and gets to know students.
- Pray for godliness and zeal for **Davi and I** as we adapt to the challenges of this term.