

ISSUE # 12 (DECEMBER) 2023 | VOL. 82



Thank you to everyone who has supported our work this year. It has been incredibly busy and exciting. As a team we are proud of everything that has been achieved and we pray that GCM continues to grow and help those in need next year.

I have some news to share. After 6 years of being here at GCM it is time for me to move on. From March 1st I shall be working as the Head of Major Gifts at London City Mission. This is a really exciting opportunity for me to use the experiences I have garnered here and take them to this new role.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the trustees, staff and volunteers here at GCM who have enabled me to have the freedom to make my role such a terrific opportunity in changing the way that GCM operates. God has a plan as always, please pray for the Trustees now as GCM prepares the way for the next Manager. Please also pray for me so that the next few months can be made as easy as possible in order for the transition to be smooth.

December has been a month of fundraising through a range of Christmas events. It started with a bang with our carol concert at the Cathedral. What a wonderful evening it was! The nave was packed out and we had a lovely time celebrating with our guests, choirs and soloists.

We also had a brilliant evening with Tom Elliott and Bean Baker at Kingfisher Church.

Each year we are asked by the Eastgate Shopping Centre to arrange for carols to be sung on the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas Day. This year we have had The Gloucester and District Christian Choir, Churchdown Male Voice Choir, Gloucester Brass Band, The Heart of Gloucester Choir, Friends Ukenited and The City of Gloucester Community Choir performing. It has been brilliant and just adds a bit of joy to shoppers as they wander through town. In total our Christmas events have so far raised over £3900

We have once again had a team of students in from Churchdown School 6th Form for the past 5 weeks. We love working with schools and are grateful especially to Meadowside Primary, Ribston Hall, Hardwicke and Shurdington C of E Primaries for their recent superb donations.

Below are pictures of people who have made us proud for different reasons. Tanya comes in to our training centre on a weekly basis and is currently doing cooking sessions to prep food for Retreat. Sarah came in to Revive with some donations. She had had a Hannukah party but instead of people bringing gifts she asked everyone to bring donations instead.

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Thank you to all of the churches, schools and companies who have supported our Undies Under Tree Campaign and our general food and clothes appeals. Honestly we have once again been inundated and are so grateful that so many people join in and try to help out.

Thanks also to the staff from HSBC who spent a day with us and huge thank to our volunteers Louise W and Gee who helped Sarah with cooking the Christmas lunch. Thank you to Julia and Hans Rausing for giving a donation to pay for all of our Christmas provision and also to Tesco, Morrisons and Ade Jones for their kind gifts.

We also need to thank Katie from CGL who came in to train our staff and some volunteers in how to administer Naloxone and to give us resources.

We have had Undies Trees on display in St Mary de Crypt Church and St Laurence's Stroud as well as main tree in the Eastgate Shopping Centre.

Thank you again for your support this year. Very special thanks to all of our brilliant volunteers. 2024 will once again bring changes and GCM continuing our work but we need your continued prayers and support.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas filled with joy and peace.

Kevin Howie General Manager



Our Christmas lunch was served out of St Mary's Congregational church. It is always such a great time together. Kevin started by giving a brief word, spending a short time in reflection and thinking about those people who were no longer with us before saying Grace and lunch being served. After lunch everyone was given a treat to take away with them.

Thank you especially to Sarah, Louise W and Gee for making such a wonderful lunch. Thanks also to the volunteers, Trustees and staff who help run the lunch service every week.

Thank you to the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, Tesco and Morrisons for giving donations to make the Christmas lunch so special.



FROM ALL AT GLOUCESTER CITY MISSION:

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

May this festive period bring you joy, peace and hope



## The GCM Team

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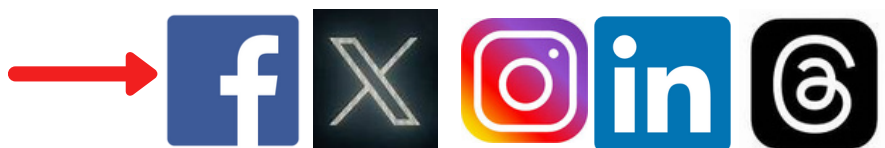
Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Assistant Supervisor

Connor Clarke - Revive Coffee House Staff

Mike Curtis - Chaplain

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