



ISSUE # 2 2021 | VOL. 49

Thank you for picking up this newsletter to find out a bit about what has been happening recently at Gloucester City Mission.

In the next column is our GCM Roadmap to reopening our services fully. We have remained active throughout this whole pandemic and have consistently followed Government Guidance throughout this past year. You may remember that since the start of the pandemic we have been holding the following reading close to our hearts.

Romans 13:1-2 says: "Obey the government, for God is the One who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the law of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow."

Thankfully we have been able to continue to work closely with P3 and the local police to keep sharing information and support for clients.

On March 9th the GCM staff and trustees are having our annual vision setting session.

Thank you to all who gave a £1 donation to our Share the Love social media campaign, it raised a total of £2390.

We have been trying to continue to share love during lent by giving clients a small chocolate treat along with encouraging postcards. Teams have been continuing to pray with clients as always.

GCM's Roadmap Summary

(this is subject to change if Government restrictions are changed)

Continue with outreach 3 days a week until lockdown is lifted reverting to 6 days a week in April

March 31st Restart Takeaway Lunch from St Marys Congregational Church

From 13th April Restore will open for clients to come to get clothes and equipment

From May 19th Revive reopens

From May 18th Alpha Course starts for clients

Kevin Howie, GCM Manager

YOU CAN BUY A WHOLE RANGE OF T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES IN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND SIZES AND ALL PROFITS GO TO OUR WORK IN OUR ONLINE SHOP

WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON SOME NEW DESIGNS WHICH WILL BE READY TO ORDER FROM 15TH MARCH, HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEW DESIGNS, ESPECIALLY IF YOU LIKE FOOTBALL, RUGBY OR CRICKET.

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK/SHOP

THESE EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE ONLY PRODUCED DIGITALLY, PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY/CHURCH/WORK COLLEAGUES ETC

Outreach Encounters

Two of the clients who we have been working very closely with over this past year spent most of this past year or so living rough in Westgate Park, but a few months ago they were given a caravan to live in. This has enabled them to live the off the grid lifestyle that they choose to live but it gives them more shelter and greater security. Our staff teams regularly visit them and they frequently come into town to find our teams. On a recent visit to their caravan the staff were really pleased to see this fantastic cross that they had put on their door.

Recently I bumped into another of our long term clients. She has been using GCM for many years and was really excited to tell me that she had a job working as a cleaner in Southgate House on the next floor up to where we now have an office. She is currently furloughed but was proud to say that she will be starting back again very soon.



Homeless Link Thoughts About the Current Homeless Situation

The following article was written by Rick Henderson, CEO of Homeless Link and published in 'Inside Housing' on 25th February. For reference the official rough sleeper figure for Gloucester from the snapshot mentioned below is 11.

The government's annual rough sleeping snapshot is always met with keen interest and scrutiny, but the data for 2020, exceptional year that it was in many ways, will necessarily be a source of even more insight than usual. It is imperative at this point that government, the homelessness sector and health and other partners review the evidence, take stock of what we have achieved and acknowledge how much further we have to go. After a year of extraordinary action, we must make sure the next steps we take are the right ones if we are to fulfil the government's ambition to end rough sleeping by 2024.

According to the statistics, a total of 2,688 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in England on a 'single night' in autumn 2020, representing a 37% decrease from the 2019 figure of 4,266.

As the organisation responsible for managing and verifying the data collection process, it has been useful to learn from different local authorities how they perceive the situation on the ground. However, we cannot call this a 'typical night' this year, and this is where things get interesting.

While it is unfortunate that it took exceptional circumstances – a global pandemic – to prompt the focused action and investment required, it proves what can be accomplished with joint effort across government and between sectors. As we've long known, much of the expertise and will is there already, but the resources are often lacking.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that thousands of people are still forced to sleep on our streets. This, and the fact that the number is 52% higher than it was a decade ago, remains unacceptable. It is also worth caveating here that the severe weather emergency protocol was actually in place in some local areas at the time of data collection, artificially lowering the numbers.

[Click here for full article](#)

Please click here to find direct links to give a donation to our work



GLOUCESTER CITY MISSION

WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE

GCM HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS IN OUR CITY SINCE 2003 PROVIDING FOOD, DRINKS, CLOTHES, TRAINING, SUPPORT, ADVICE AND PRAYER

.....

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

PLEASE DONATE

Online

www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/gloscitymission
or via Paypal, Facebook, Stewardship
and Instagram

To make a text donation, text gloscitymission followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70085 (ie 'GLOSCITYMISSION 5' to 70085 to donate £5).

This costs £5 plus a std rate msg, you can opt to give any whole amount up to £20.

.....

Maybe you could sign up to give a monthly gift.

.....

We also accept cash donations or we can accept card donations at Revive Coffee House.

Please make cheques payable to Gloucester City Mission, we also accept CAF cheques



Prayer List

As well as praying for GCM's clients, volunteers and staff please also hold these groups in your prayers. To add someone to the prayer list please email GCMprayer1@gmail.com

- All at GCM as we continue to respond to and meet the challenges that are being faced;
- Clients in emergency hotels and those who have found themselves back on the street;
- Our Outreach teams;
- All those who have lost someone to Covid19;
- All frontline and key workers;
- School staff and leaders as schools begin to fully reopen;
- The GCM staff and trustees;
- All the church leaders across the city, especially Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert.



We are often contacted by churches or individuals who have come across someone rough sleeping in or near their grounds. If this happens please use the Street Link App or website.

It is really quick and easy and alerts the Council and the P3 Outreach team about the person. More often than not the rough sleeper is already known however this isn't always the case. It is quick, free and easy to use and will be the quickest way for that person to be offered support.

The GCM Team

Kevin Howie - Manager kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk

Neil Parmenter- Operations Manager neil@gloscitymission.org.uk

Sue Dalton - Administrator admin@gloscitymission.org.uk

Paula Keeper - Project Worker (Outreach) paula@gloscitymission.org.uk

Louise Mackenzie - Project Worker (Catering) louise@gloscitymission.org.uk

Elaine Mather - Project Worker (Restore and Volunteers)

elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk

Karen Williams - Revive Coffee House Supervisor

Jayne Brett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Mike Curtis - Chaplain

Please take a few minutes to have a

look at our website

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Also click and follow us on



**Admin Address - Gloucester City Mission, Southgate House,
Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB**

Registered Charity Number 1115780, Company Number 5830147

admin@gloscitymission.org.uk 01452 687735

