



**Primary School Resource Pack
2022**

**The Homeless and Marginalised
in our Community**



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This pack has been produced so that primary schools can understand more about the work that is done by Gloucester City Mission with the homeless and marginalised members of our community.

This pack has resources that can be used for assemblies/collective worship as well as discussion areas and activities for classroom lessons and beyond.

Some of the resources or material is directly linked to the Christian faith, these are colour coded in blue so that they are clearly identified. They can be used by everybody but are particularly useful for Collective Worship and faith based activities. Copies of the pack can be downloaded from www.gloscitymission.org.uk There are also downloads and links to the videos mentioned in the pack on the website under 'Support GCM'.

Gloucester City Mission works with homeless and vulnerable members of society. It was established in 2003 to offer one on one support, advice, hot meals, drinks, as well as distributing clothes and sleeping equipment.

Our aim is to do more than just be an aid agency by offering just food, drinks, clothes and prayer, we want to transform lives and give people hope and opportunities to flourish. Over the past two years we have really changed the way we approach this and we now have;

Outreach teams going into the city centre 4 days week offering food, drinks and prayer;

Renew (72 Eastgate Street) - our main offices, drop in centre and training Training Centre;

Retreat—a day centre open all year round for rough sleepers and sofa surfers with beds, food, shower, clothes a laundry and advice.

Refresh – this is our weekly hot lunch service and time for fellowship at St Mary's Congregational Church;

Friday lunch service at Renew;

Restore- a clothes bank for clients to come to get fresh clothes, toiletries and emergency provisions,

Our Revive Coffee House in the Eastgate Shopping Centre where we offer employment opportunities to people who have experienced homelessness or addictions;

Our Mobile outreach teams support rough sleepers away from the city centre;

Replenish – Warehouse storage space

Refuel – our monthly worship session for staff, volunteers, clients and anyone to come and spend their lunchtime in prayer and praise.

In our new education and training centre we offer courses and multi-agency drop in sessions 5 days a week. We have a free optician clinic, a medical clinic twice a week, podiatry, Probation, the DWP and the City Council Housing Department as well as other



organisations to have drop in sessions too. This week for example we have had courses on in crafts , gardening, basic skills literacy, football, music therapy, Narcotics Anonymous and art courses as well as our Discipleship Course.

Key Stage 1 Assembly/Collective Worship (CofE and RC schools)

Use the format below to introduce the topic of homelessness to KS1 children. The assembly can last roughly 15 minutes; you may want to include more discussion about any activities you are planning.

Welcome the children and explain that in today's gathering you will be thinking about what it is like to not have a home.

Watch video clip -

[YouTube video: A Homeless Snail \(5:06\)](#)

Who helped the snail?

Rabbit

Turtle

Frog

Flowers

Sometimes it's not always like this for homeless people. Snail was very lucky to find her home and that other animals cared about her and were able to help.

Talk about what Homelessness is

Explain that often homeless people don't feel like they have anyone to turn to for help. If you were by yourself, and you were cold, hungry, and couldn't talk to your mum, dad, nan, or anyone, how would you feel?

People are not homeless because they want to be. It is not their fault. They may have:

Been ill

Had an argument with their family

Been told they can't live in their house

Lost their job

Some children may be directly affected by some of the issues you talk about, and may even be facing homelessness. If you are aware of this, take time to follow up with them in private, and reassure them if necessary.

What is Gloucester City Mission

Gloucester City Mission is a charity to help homeless and vulnerable people. The snail had to take a long and hard journey to find her house. People who are homeless also have to take long and hard journeys to get better, find a job, and find a home.

It helps people of all ages to find a way to stop being homeless.

They might want to go learn new skills

They might need a uniform or certificate for a new job

They might need new clothes

They might need furniture if they move into a new home

How many people do you think are homeless in Gloucester?

Official figures say that there are 12 people who are homeless in Gloucester. Do you think this is accurate? We say no, we average around 70 people per week who need our help. During the last Winter Shelter we averaged 13 sleepers per night.

Reflection - Light a candle and reflect on the things that you have

What can we do to help homeless people?

- Be kind to them – it will help them to feel better.
- Ask your mum, dad or carer if they can donate clothes, toiletries or food to a local homeless charity like Gloucester City Mission.
- Ask a grown up to buy a hot drink or some food for someone on the streets



EYFS/KS1 Classroom Discussion Activity

Key questions:

What is a home?

Does it matter where you live if you have your family and things?

How would you feel if you had to leave your home? (Consider what it is like to be homeless).

Why is having somewhere to call 'home' important?

EYFS – Pupils use either construction/modelling material or available art materials to make or draw their ideal home.

Encourage pupils to explain what they have made or drawn verbally or using labels and captions as appropriate to describe their home. Record using a digital camera and/or annotations for display.

Year 1 – Pupils use pictures of 'homes' or use a home from your chosen stimulus story to create a poster about the importance of 'home'. Pupils use pictures, words and captions to convey what 'home' means to them or their chosen character, remembering to orally rehearse what they are going to say before writing it down.

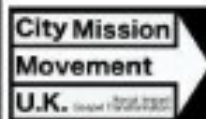
Year 2 – Pupils use pictures of 'homes' or use a home from your chosen stimulus story to write a poem or short descriptive piece about what makes their house a home. Draft and edit their work for spelling, punctuation and grammar. N.B. The development for year 1 pupils can be used, where required, as a differentiated task for year 2 lower ability pupils.

Write a short note to give to a homeless person

Write prayers to read out regularly in class or Collective Worship



Housing Justice



Key Stage 2 Assembly/Collective Worship

Use the guidelines below to run an assembly for KS2 children. It aims to last for around 20 minutes, depending on the detail you go into.

Watch - GCM Video on our [website](#) or Youtube has some brilliant (American) short videos called [Cardboard Stories](#)

What does the word marginalised mean?

What do you think being homeless or marginalised feels like?

Ask for ideas, the following words can help

Isolated

Rejected

Helpless

Unhappy

Scared

Uncomfortable

Hungry

Tired

Cold

Alone

Bored

In pain

Thirsty

Sick

How many people do you think are homeless in Gloucester?

The Official figures say that there are 14 people who are homeless in Gloucester. Do you think this is accurate? We see and work with an average of 25 rough sleepers every day

What does the Bible say about Homelessness?

It is mentioned in the Bible several times about God and Jesus wanting us to help people who are marginalised. For example in Luke 4 when Jesus returns from being in the wilderness for 40 days it says; ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

Can you think of other times in the Bible when Jesus helps people in trouble.?

What stories did Jesus tell about helping others?

What is it like to be homeless?

Being on the streets can be incredibly frightening. But people might also be staying on someone’s sofa or floor, or in a hostel. These are different types of homelessness. People may not be homeless for a very long time, but some people are homeless for years.

Sometimes children can be homeless with their parents and so they need to find help from the Council or charities.

Some children leave home on their own and become homeless. They won’t have much stuff, or privacy. All their possessions have to fit into bags that they can carry round with them – it’s like having your whole life in your school bag. What would you miss if you were homeless?

Generally people are not marginalised because they want to be, it is not necessarily their own fault, they may have made bad decisions or they may have:

- Been ill
- Had an argument with their family
- Been told they can’t live in their house
- Lost their job
- Been in prison

- Issues with drugs or alcohol

These things can happen to all sorts of people, whether they are quite young or very old. It is very, very hard away from homelessness or living without a permanent home.

What is Gloucester City Mission?

Gloucester City Mission is a charity that helps homeless and street people. They fund the things that homeless people need to get out of this situation permanently.

At the City Mission they offer people hot food, drinks, clothes, shoes, sleeping bags, toiletries and people to talk to.

They also try to offer help and advice so that people can get somewhere to live. GCM also run sports sessions, crafts and help with English, maths and computers.

What do you think people need to stop being homeless?

- They might need new clothes, sleeping bags, toiletries or blankets
- They might need help finding a home or filling in paperwork
- They might need furniture if they move into a new home
- They might need to improve their maths and English or learn other skills

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for people who show your love to those in need,

Help us to think how many things are done for us-

Cooking, cleaning, taking us to places, wash our clothes, are for us and love us.

Help us to think about those people who don't have somewhere safe and secure to live,
Or don't have people who care for them.

Please help us to think about ways in which can help others,

So that others can see the love of Jesus.

Amen



Key Stage 2 Classroom Activities

Key questions that can be discussed:

What is a home?

Does it matter where you live if you have your family and things?

How would you feel if you had to leave your home? (Consider what it is like to be homeless).

Is having somewhere to call 'home' important?

Why are people homeless or marginalised?

Where might you see homeless or marginalised people?

What might they be doing?

Split in to small groups or partners and pick a cause from below.

Discuss each group's ideas and answers as to why people might be marginalised or homeless, and jot them down.

Suggest any causes they have missed out. Remember that a lot of the reasons are linked, eg eviction may be due to debt, or to a relationship ending. Encourage them to see that it is rarely due to one individuals' actions, but a chain of events.

Reasons for homelessness include:

Eviction and the end of a tenancy are currently the most common reasons for losing one's home

Relationship breakdown / divorce is also a common reason why people find themselves with nowhere to go

Benefit cuts and sanctions – young people under 21 no longer have access to housing benefit, even if they are care leavers or cannot live at home

Family or friends unwilling or unable to accommodate them

Having been in care, or with previous experience of homelessness

Ex-offender, having been in prison, or having a criminal record

Poor mental health

Drug or alcohol problems

Leaving the Armed Forces

Loss of job / unemployment

Refugee / immigrant

Domestic violence

Debt

- Collage key words about homelessness to make a whole class mural saying Home/Homeless/Help
- Create a video diary around the theme 'Home'
- Use a package like Wordle to create word pictures about Homelessness

Bible Activity

It is mentioned in the Bible many times about God and Jesus wanting us to help people who are marginalised or poor.

Find each passage and jot down what it says about helping marginalised people (see Appendix for further Bible passages);

Deuteronomy 10:18

Hosea 14:3

Psalm 68:5-6

Luke 4: 14-18

Matthew 25:31-46

Other Activity ideas

- If you could pack a rucksack for a homeless person what would you put in it?
- Sockless day: Homeless people wear through socks at a rapid rate. How does it feel to have cold feet all day?
- Give up your bed: Spend the night in a cardboard box or blanket fort. Imagine if you hadn't had a bed to sleep in for months.
- Have your shower or bath with cold water. Think about how hard it would be to not have the option to shower every day.
- Turn off the central heating for a full day. Now imagine living on the streets, where there is no heating.

- Note down things that you feel thankful for – especially little things. Do homeless people have them? What would you miss if you were homeless?
- Make a card or handwritten note for someone living on the streets. What would they like to hear?
- Design the ideal home for someone who doesn't have one.
- Food or shoebox collection: Collect tinned and non-perishable food, or essential items such as toiletries. Make sure that you know where to take them, such as your local hostel or food bank.
- Poetry/art/music competition

There are over 400 references in the Bible telling us to help those who are needy or marginalised and 2000 references to people being less fortunate than ourselves.

Here are some Bible passages about poverty and need:

Deuteronomy 15 4-11

Ecclesiastes 5, 8-17

Isaiah 58 6-11

Micah 6 6-8

Matthew 25 34-40

Luke 18 1-25

Luke 15 1-7

Luke 14 1-24

Titus 3 1-8

James 2 1-17

Psalms Megamix – 9:18, 12:5, 14:6, 35:10, 37:16, 41:1, 72:12-14, 82:3, 113:7, 140:12,

Proverbs Megamix – 11:25, 14:31, 19:17, 22:2, 22:9, 28:27, 31:8-9

Poems about Homelessness

A Home Song

I read within a poet's book

A word that starred the page:

"Stone walls do not a prison make, Nor iron bars a cage!"

Yes, that is true; and something more

You'll find, where'er you roam,

That marble floors and gilded walls

Can never make a home.

But every house where Love abides,

And Friendship is a guest,

Is surely home, and home-sweet-home:

For there the heart can rest.

by Henry Van Dyke

Down behind the dustbin

Down behind the dustbin

I met a dog called Ted.

'Leave me alone,' he says,

'I'm just going to bed.'

Down behind the dustbin

I met a dog called Roger.

'Do you own this bin?' I said.

'No. I'm only a lodger.'

Down behind the dustbin

I met a dog called Sue.

'What are you doing here?' I said.

'I've got nothing else to do.'

by Michael Rosen

There's No Place like Home

Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;

A charm from the sky seems to hallow us there,

Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere.

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

An exile from home, splendour dazzles in vain;

Oh, give me my lowly thatched cottage again!

The birds singing gayly, that come at my call

-- Give me them -- and the peace of mind, dearer than all!

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

I gaze on the moon as I tread the drear wild,

And feel that my mother now thinks of her child,

As she looks on that moon from our own cottage door

Thro' the woodbine, whose fragrance shall cheer me no more.

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

How sweet 'tis to sit 'neath a fond father's smile,
And the caress of a mother to soothe and beguile!

Let others delight mid new pleasures to roam,
But give me, oh, give me, the pleasures of home.

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

To thee I'll return, overburdened with care;
The heart's dearest solace will smile on me there;
No more from that cottage again will I roam;

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

Home, home, sweet, sweet, home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

by John Howard Payn



What would you do if these people were sleeping on your
doorstep or at your school door?



What next?

Maybe you can help to fundraise for our work There are lots of ways you can help;

- Maybe collect clothes, toiletries, some food etc that we can use to give out to clients;
- Maybe you can raise money to help our work;
- Maybe you could take part in our annual Big City Sleepout

To find out more please visit-

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, and LinkedIn

Registered Charity Number 1115780,

