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MAY 2024

Thank you so much for all the positive feedback last months Newsletter.

David and I attended the Mayor of Gloucester (Cllr Kathy Williams,) Annual Civic service, at Gloucester Cathedral. The Ukraine Choir were a pleasure to listen to. St Mary Decrypt did a wonderful job of hosting afternoon tea. I had the chance of catching up with Theresa Fisher who is Tesco's Community Champion. She has the biggest heart and is passionate about every Charity she supports and gives up so much of her own free time.

I attended my first City Mission managers meeting held at Birmingham (CM) along with Coventry CM, Dudley CM and New Soil from Worcester.

We got a tour of BCM and visited their Day Centre, and met some beautiful souls. It was a time to share what services we provide, what works and what doesn't. We had a time of reflection and prayer.

Thank you to Wes for being a wonderful host, you Have an amazing team.

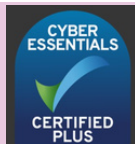
Staff are all settling in to our new roles, its a busy office and not always easy to find the time we need, but there always time for Prayer.

Sometimes just to thank Our Lord for his continued Love, Support and Provision. GCM are so BLESSED. Please hold Trustees, Staff and Volunteers in your Prayers.

Volunteers where would we be without them? We wouldn't . Admin, Street Teams, Retreat, Renew, Embrace, Restore, Replenish, Revive, Food Service, Cooking and Baking are ALL supported by our Volunteers. They give their time and love freely and we are so grateful for their support and commitment.

Hebrews 13:16

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices GOD is pleased"



Sue Dalton Finance and Premises

My name is Sue and I have been working for GCM for 10 years.

I took over the Administrator role in June 2014 and was privileged to work alongside Mike Curtis, the founder of Gloucester City Mission

We were the only two paid employees and shared a tiny office on Southgate Street.

Since then GCM has grown and changed massively but two things have NOT changed, our heart is still to support, care for and love those who find themselves out on the streets or marginalised and we still rely on our incredible team of volunteers to do the work we do.

My role has changed as GCM has grown and from being jack of all trades in a small organisation I now work with finance and I have just taken up a new responsibility for premises. It has always been a joy to be part of an amazing team of staff and volunteers that grows and changes to adapt to the needs of those we support.

I have always enjoyed working with the passionate teams that function for the good of the homeless community.

The stories that we often hear, regarding those that benefit from what we do, are both heart-warming and rewarding and it is a joy to see the change and growth in those we support.

I have particularly enjoyed welcoming and providing 'a cuppa' to the clients we support who are in recovery.

Blessings Sue

Next Month **Sarah** will update you on how her role has changed.

Would you, your church, workplace or school consider Sponsoring a Space in Retreat?
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sponsoraspac>

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Tim Sandys

My Name is Tim. In 2018 I found myself reading the Bible in a new way. Verses that had always been there, were jumping out at me and breaking my heart. Verses about GOD'S care for orphans, widows and the poor. Indeed, in **Mathew 25v35**, Jesus himself said "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." I wasn't.

My heart was broken, but who were the orphans, the widows, the poor people in my life/ Who were oppressed people in my local society, and how could I a Vet, possibly help them.

Soon after this time I heard about a new national charity called StreetVet which provides FREE accessible vet care to the pets of people experiencing homelessness. God gave me a thought that wouldn't go away, Bring StreetVet to Gloucester. So in 2019 I did. I could be Jesus's Vet I decided I needed to understand homelessness, and that too me to GCM. As I walked in my first time, the song "Oceans" by Hillsong United was playing and the lines "You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail. And there I find You in the mystery. In oceans deep my faith will stand" The "Waters" God was calling me to step out into were unknown of helping the homeless. That day I signed up to be Jesus's barista, feeder, listening ear, carer and advocate.

For more than 5 years now , I have dedicated my time to volunteering with GCM and StreetVet Gloucester sharing my vet care with those who have pets, but sharing my heart, my time, my love, my faith and my compassion with those who have pets, through the great Kingdom work that is Gloucester City Mission.

Tim is a real Blessing with a massive heart.



Woodwork Group

On a Monday morning, **Andy** runs the woodwork group with CCP

They have been reclaiming garden furniture which has been done very professionally and will be well used through the summer.

They have also made garden planters and bird boxes which are scattered around the garden, we are very excited to tell everyone we have Bluetits nesting in one of the boxes.

Looking forward to see what their next project will be. **Thank you to all involved**

(Sue and Andy are also both Street Team Volunteers.)

Donations

We still need Hoddies, Joggers, size S and M Trainers size's 9 10 and 11

Pot Noddle's and Individually wrapped Chocolate Biscuits.

They can be dropped off at 72 Eastgate Street Monday to Thursday 9 till 4, or Revive Wednesday to Saturday 10.30 till 4.

Do to the awful wet weather this month Retreat has been busy with 55 Guests, with 256 visits between them. Nathan and his Army of Volunteers have been busy, their jobs include washing, cooking, cleaning, making hot drinks lots of prayer all with smiles on their faces and hearts filled with love.

One of our Guests said

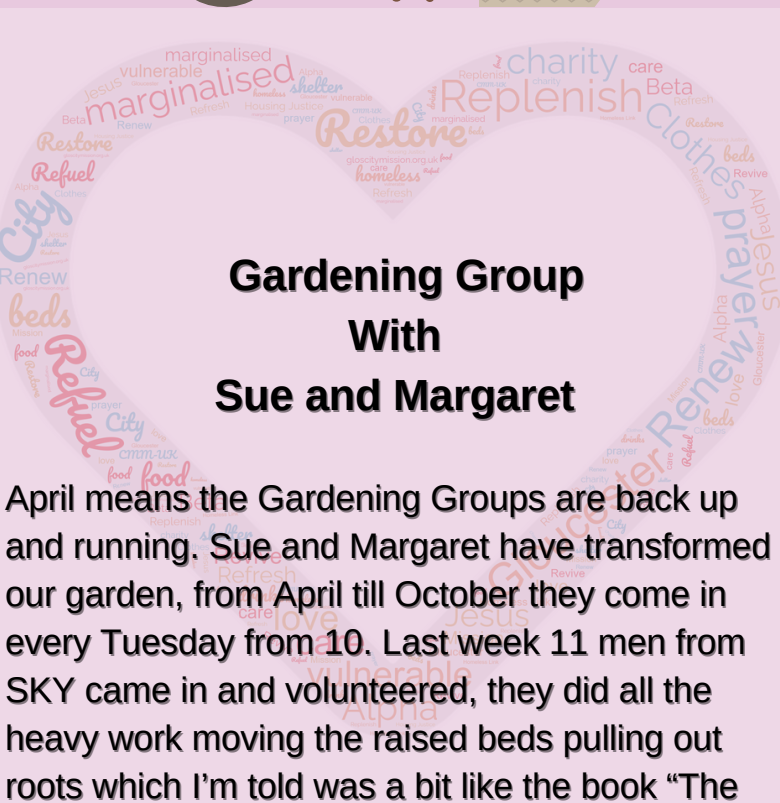
"We are lovely people, do so much for us. I would not manage without GCM"

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

Harry Smitten.

I had the privilege to meet Harry who ran the marathon in aid of GCM, he hadn't set himself any goals he said he just wanted to complete it. Harry did it in 3 hours 37 minutes and 20 seconds, and has raised between £1200 and £1300 with gift aid.

Thanks Harry you Super Star



Gardening Group With Sue and Margaret

April means the Gardening Groups are back up and running. Sue and Margaret have transformed our garden, from April till October they come in every Tuesday from 10. Last week 11 men from SKY came in and volunteered, they did all the heavy work moving the raised beds pulling out roots which I'm told was a bit like the book "The Big Turnip." What this has done has prepared it for Sue and Margaret and those who join them. We have had our first picking of rhubarb, come the summer there will be strawberries, raspberries, grapes, onions, runner beans, garlic and an array of colour from all the beautiful flowers.

Not only do they work extremely hard to keep the garden in order, they support some of our guest's with complex needs always with patience, a smile and a loving heart.

The produce grown will be used in Retreat and Embrace.

Thank You Lovely Ladies.

**Big John has recently joined us.
He is a great cook and has been really
spoiling our guys.**

**So much so my dark chocolate which was
for Revives Chocolate Brownies
went into Hot Food Service Chilli**



**Ellie has also joined us and has taken
on Replenish, our donation stock room.
sorting and organising
donations and also runs Restore.
She also volunteers in our
Ladies Crafting Group.**

**I Peter 3:15
Sanctify the Lord God
in your heart.
Thank you**



HARRY Our Marathon RUNNER

With sadness we would like to acknowledge the
passing of Julia Rausing (nee Delves Boughton)
on the 18th April 2024 aged 63.

Julia was widely known for her unwavering
commitment to philanthropy and her impactful
contributions to various charitable causes. She was
co-founder of **The Julia and Han Rausing Trust** with
her

husband in 2014. Supporting good causes in the UK
and beyond.

GCM have been beneficiary's
we would to extend our deepest sympathy to
Her husband Hans Rausing four stepchildren, sister
and mother.

The GCM Team

Louise Mackenzie - General Manager louise@gloscitymission.org.uk

Sue Dalton - Finance and Premises sue@gloscitymission.org.uk

Nathan Casey - Retreat Manager nathan@gloscitymission.org.uk

Gemma Harrison Executive Administrator gemma@gloscitymission.org.uk

**Sarah Fairbairn - Street Teams Coordinator and Recovery Lead
sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk**

David Brand Marketing Lead david@gloscitymission.org.uk

Alice Armstrong - Cleaner

Maisie Mackenzie - Revive Coffee House Manager revive@gloscitymission.org.uk

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Assistant Supervisor

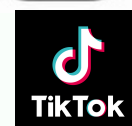
Mike Curtis - Chaplain

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Also click and follow us on



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