

JULY 2024

July was another busy month, but before we go into July I need to update on the end of June. We were one of twenty four to be awarded the Community Award from Gloucester Rotary. It was a afternoon of celebrations, celebrating local charities and chance to share a little of what we do and the support we give but most of all to share the love of the GCM and network with other great causes. Gloucester Rotary's total grants awarded for 2024 is a massive £11862.65 and we were presented with £500. THANK YOU not just from GCM but all the others you support.

Nikki Arthy the Rector of Gloucester City Centre made contact to arrange a visit for Bishop Dalcy the Bishop of Eswatini in South Africa. It was a real privilege to show her around our building and share the work we do at GCM. I was able to share my testimony with Bishop Dalcy and how it had lead me to GCM. She will be praying for GCM. Thank you Bishop Dalcy for taking time out of your

Ade and I went to Elmbride School. They had contacted us for a wish list, and they were really helpful in what we had asked for, and on the food list they ticked every box and our pack up supply which had run out completely is now well stocked. They only collected clothing we had asked for and there were lots of joggers which is a real blessing we really cant get enough pairs, and also sleeping bags in great condition. We will be visiting and sharing the work of GCM in the new School term.

Thank you

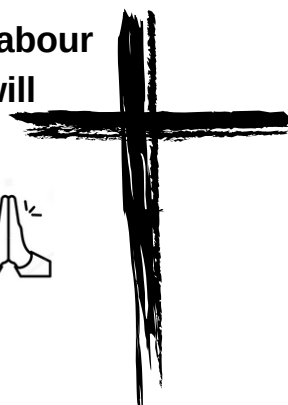
One Church, Clear Spring Church and Brunswick Church have visited in July, we love having visitors if your Church would like to come along see what we do meet the staff and have a chat.

Contact Lou or David our email address is on page 4.

If your off to **New Wine** have a blessed time, Worshiping our Lord and may you come away overflowing with the Holly Spirit.

Mathew 11:28

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will you rest"



Vision Care

I asked Ruth who is a regular Vision Care Volunteer to do a piece for the news letter its an amazing service and support many of our guests.

GCM kindly lets VCHP (Vision Care for Homeless People) use two rooms for eye clinics every Monday. One is used as a consulting room which has been fully equipped through donations from opticians and/or manufacturers. The other is used for dispensing and fitting spectacles.

The clinic is staffed by volunteers, and I am one of the optometrists. Having retired in December 2022, I felt there was some optometry "left in me" and it is an absolute joy to be able to provide a service to those who have no money for eye care. Some patients are homeless or sofa surfing, but we also see refugees and asylum seekers.

In many ways, the service we are providing is optometry in its purest form as there is no pressure. I can spend as much time as the patient needs and provide whatever spectacles are best for the patient. I can build some sort of relationship with the patient, sometimes though google translate which can cause a certain amount of amusement. With the refugees and asylum seekers, I often see other family members too - word about the service spreads amongst families, friends and others who are

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housed in the same location. Users of other facilities at GCM come to us and our services are advertised at various centres used by the homeless.

VCHP provides the spectacles at no cost to the patients. Some of our patients cannot function without glasses as they have such high prescriptions; some cannot read any of the necessary forms if they don't have reading glasses, so specs improve their lives hugely. One told me he would now be able to get a library card, the new glasses were opening up a whole new world; for another he'll be able to sit the exam for the course he is taking.

Our patients were very grateful, sometimes as well as providing the eye-care, its the fact we've spent time with them and treated them as fellow human beings, that make a huge difference. As is often the case, they give me so much too - a joy in using my skills for those who wouldn't be able to access eye-care in any other way as well as an understanding of the challenges many people face, a huge respect for those who overcome them and compassion for those who struggle.

Ruth.

As you can imagine there are times of complete chaos here at GCM and it never fazes any of VCHP volunteers, they manage all situations professionally with boundaries and care.

There have also been times when they have come to the rescue of staff when sellotape just wont do the job.

Thank you to all involved you are a blessing to GCM Family.



The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek The Bishop of Gloucester

We were kindly invited to Bishop Rachel's garden party. She holds fourteen garden party's and invites an array of people from all over Gloucestershire. It was lovely afternoon the sun shone, conversations were good, a chance to share resources and knowledge. Nelson Trust did a wonderful job with the catering of the Afternoon Tea, not just one but fourteen, well done to all involved.

Thank you Bishop Rachel for a lovey afternoon.

Gloucester and district Christian Choir

We are very grateful for all the support we receive from Gloucester and district Christian Choir. This month they held a Picnic and Concert in the garden of The Pelican Inn. Thank you to all concerned The amazing Christian Choir, the hosts at the Pelican and all who attended.

£150

was raised and has been gratefully received.

Thank you.

Toodle to the Noodles promotion continues in Revive

58

Pot Noodles have been sold so far. Thank you to everyone who has brought or donated.



Well-being Group

Our Tuesday afternoon group have been busy and the smell has been amazing, they have made bug-bite balm, multipurpose balm and pillow sprays. I was very fortunate to receive 2 jars of the balm.

Arts and Crafts

The Thursday morning group have learnt the art of felting and there are some amazing pieces of work, and some of the guests have brought felting kit and are doing it at home. We have also been teaching sewing (a dying skill) one guest had never sewn before and has perfected the satin stitch.

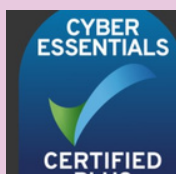
Donations

We **desperately** need **Joggers**, (size S and M) Trainers size's 9 10 and 11.

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

Thank you everyone for your continued support with donations.

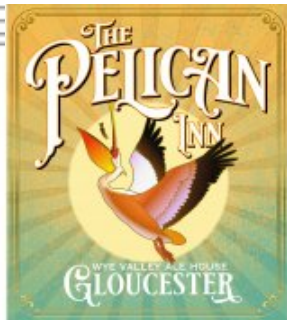
If you have Face Book please take a look. David shares updates, and Gemma Thank You Thursday, and when there's time Fun Friday. If you have anything you would like added email over to david@gloscitymission.org.uk and we will see what we can do





Community

**Gloucester and District
Christian Choir**
Thank you for your
continued support.



**Thank you to the
pupils of
Elmbridge
Primary School**



Gloucester Rotary
Thank you
for all you do for so many
good causes.



**The Rt Revd Rachel
Treweek**
The Bishop of Gloucester
Thank you.



The GCM Team

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

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David Brand Marketing Lead david@gloscitymission.org.uk

Alice Armstrong - Cleaner

Maisie Mackenzie - Revive Coffee House Manager
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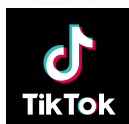
Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Assistant Supervisor
Mike Curtis - Chaplain

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Also click and follow us on



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