



This month's newsletter is mainly dedicated to stories about the Winter Shelter. The staff team have been absolutely incredible and I want to thank them all for going above and beyond in offering such amazing care to those guests who have found themselves in the shelter this year.

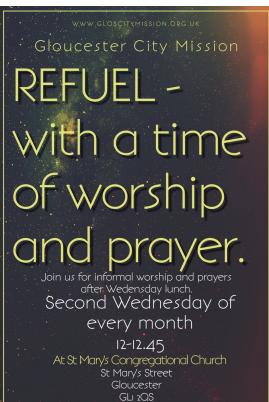
Briefly in other news thank you to one of our volunteers, Lorraine, who went out to talk about our work with the MU at St George's Church Brockworth, and to a Trustee, Margaret, who talked at the MU in Shurdington.

We have had a record 8 Alpha attendees for this most recent course!! We shall have a full report on it in next month's newsletter.

Despite lots of volunteers and staff being out of action due to covid our **outreach teams** and **Wednesday lunches** have continued to offer opportunities for food and fellowship. **Renew** courses start running from April and finally **Restore** will reopen at the start of April after the flooding incident in Southgate Street.



Kevin Howie, General Manager



**Refuel** is our monthly Prayer and Praise time for clients, staff, volunteers and guests. It is held on the second Wednesday of the month from **12-12.45** at **St Mary's Congregational Church**. All are welcome. **The next Refuel is on Weds. 13th April.**

## PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW OFFICE ADDRESS

Gloucester City Mission,  
72 Eastgate Street,  
Gloucester  
GL1 1QN  
Telephone 01452 529301

## WINTER SHELTER 21-22

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the shelter this year whether that be through volunteering, financial giving or prayer.

It has been somewhat of a challenge over the past year in getting the building up and running and all of the negotiating and planning involved with that, plus Covid restrictions, but we got there and the shelter has been a huge success.

On page two of this newsletter you will find some stories from guests who have been in the shelter and the difference it has made to their lives plus a report from Lou, our awesome Shelter Manager.

The key driver behind this year's shelter has been the word '**dignity**', since we started the search for the building two years ago we have always wanted the shelter to a place where guests can come for emergency accommodation and be treated with dignity. We are thankful that this has been possible and, as the shelter now closes its doors, we have already started making plans for next winter's shelter.

We are frequently asked why the shelter can only be open from Dec 1st to March 31st, the reason for this is that these are the dates that the Government and Local Authority classify as winter and unless we are ever allowed to open a permanent all year round shelter then we have to adhere to these dates. You never know though, we continue to pray that one day we would be permitted to run all year round provision.

Special thanks to the amazing staff team that has worked tirelessly all winter - you are all truly fantastic. People don't always understand just how much compassion and patience you have to work in the shelter.

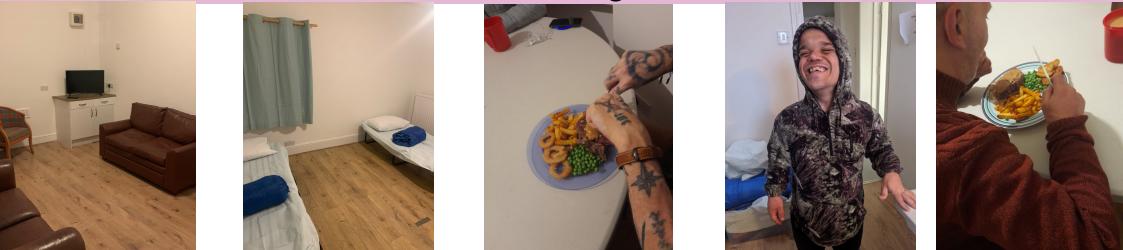
Even though it's our 5th year of running a Winter Night Shelter, this was a new and exciting provision. Set over 2 floors in our huge new building we could offer shared bedrooms, a TV lounge and dining room - gone are the days of a roll mat on the floor with 15 guests sharing 1 room.

With a team of 9 paid staff all dedicated to providing a safe, warm, welcoming, and loving environment without judgement. All staff have either worked in social care or previous years in the Shelter, tight boundaries and rules were set to keep guests, staff and volunteers safe. One member of the team was a former guest who has been on an incredible journey over these past few years. He is in recovery and has loved being able to "put something back" and has been a real asset to the team. We also had other members of the team who are in recovery and some who have been homeless, this gave them a real understanding of our guest's complex needs and how best to support them. We have had over 50 amazing regular shelter volunteers who have been dedicated and supportive, we could not of managed without them, cooking, washing up, laundry, and genuinely caring, listening and talking with our guests.

Over the winter we have had 54 different guests, some for just 1 night and one of our guests was with us for 80 nights. Real relationships have been built, support given and love shared. Prayer has been given, Bibles offered and Alpha course promoted. We believe Jesus has kept us safe throughout. Not only was the new environment a challenge we also had Covid to deal with. Each night guests were tested before entry, can you believe we had just 2 cases, we were really being looked after!

So as we come to the end of this season we praise our Father God that he is a great provider and always loving.

**Louise Mackenzie - Winter Shelter Manager**



## WINTER SHELTER HEADLINES

The shelter was open **every night** from **1st December to 31st March**.

The shelter provided a total of **402** beds this winter

This year's shelter has seen us have **69** referrals from **12** different agencies. This enabled **54** people (**48 men, 6 women**) to not have to sleep out in the cold and instead to have access to food, clothes, showers and friendship. (**15** referrals didn't show up on the night -quite often people find alternative arrangements such as a friend's house)

We had capacity for **12** guests per night (**9** men and **3** women)

**21 guests** were moved on to accommodation (14 through Statutory bodies, 7 by themselves).

The Winter Shelter cost £34,710 to run this year - all of this was fundraised and supported through churches, businesses, schools, grants, the Big City Sleepout and Sponsor a Bed. (please see p.3)

## QUOTES AND WORDS FROM GUESTS

'People just don't

understand just how cold it feels on your back when you have to sleep out'

'You just can't sleep outside so I need to go and get a small bottle of vodka and then I go to sleep instantly'

'The shelter has been a true blessing'

'It's so hard during the day time because if you are carrying a sleeping bag people look down on you'

'It's been my home, just knowing that I can come here for something hot to eat and then to sleep in a bed in my boxers rather than having to layer up and still be cold'

'The shelter has been really good and I wouldn't change anything'



# Revive Coffee House

**WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK      REGISTERED CHARITY 1115780**

The logo for Gloucester City Mission, featuring the text "Gloucester City Mission" in a stylized font with a cross and a hand icon.

**REGULAR OR DECAF ETHICALLY SOURCED MOCHA,  
LATTE, CAPPUCCINO, ESPRESSO, AMERICANO - £2.50**

**FILTER COFFEE (REG OR DECAF) - SML £1.75, LGE  
£2.50**

**RANGE OF SPECIALITY TEAS - £2**

**HOT CHOCOLATE (FAIRTRADE) - £2.50**

**HOT CHOC MOUNTAIN - £3  
SPECTACULATTE - £3**

**COLD DRINKS - £1**  
**SMOOTHIES - £2**

**MILKSHAKES - SML £2. LGE £2.50 [TOPPINGS 50p]**

**HOMEMADE CAKES AND TREATS - £2.50  
(inc Gluten free and vegan)**

**BAGELS/TORSTIES/PIZZA BAGELS FROM £2.50**

**COME AND TRY OUR NEW  
TOASTIES, BAGELS, PIZZA  
BAGELS, TEA CAKES AND  
MILKSHAKES IN *REVIVE COFFEE  
HOUSE***

# Concerned about someone sleeping rough?



**Download the StreetLink app or visit the website at [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) to make an alert and help connect them to local services for support**

The StreetLink logo consists of the word "Street" in a large white sans-serif font above the word "Link". The letter "L" in "Link" features a small blue location pin icon integrated into its design.

# **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](http://WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK)

# PLEASE DONATE

Online

[www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20094986](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20094986) or  
[www.justgiving.com/gloucestercitymission](http://www.justgiving.com/gloucestercitymission)  
or via Paypal, Facebook  
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**



**Please click HERE to find direct links to give a donation to our work**



**Fundraising for the next Winter  
Shelter starts straight away.  
Please help us by voting for us  
in the Tesco Community Grants  
Blue Token Scheme.  
We are up for votes in all Tesco  
stores across the city from 1st**

### 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](mailto:GCMprayer1@gmail.com)

- All those involved with the work of GCM;
- Our new Training Centre, opening April 1st;
- The family and friends of Rich;
- The guests and staff who have been in the Winter Shelter this year;
- Clients in accommodation and those who have found themselves back on the street;
- The rough sleepers in and around the city;
- All those currently with Covid.
- Families about to start the Easter Holidays.



**THE BIG CITY SLEEPOUT WILL BE OVER THE WEEKEND OF 7TH - 10TH OCTOBER**

We raised just under £12,000 through last year's Big City Sleepout.

Please start thinking about organising one for your church, company, school, family or just for you. We shall be organising sleepouts across the city again including at least one new venue.

### The GCM Team

**Kevin Howie - General Manager** [kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Neil Parmenter - Operations Manager** [neil@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:neil@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Sue Dalton - Administrator** [admin@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:admin@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Paula Keeper - Project Worker (Outreach)** [paula@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:paula@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Louise Mackenzie - Winter Shelter Manager/Training Centre Lead**  
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**Elaine Mather - Project Worker (Restore and Volunteers)** [elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Sarah Fairbairn - Revive Coffee House Supervisor and Cook**  
[sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Jayne Brett - Revive Coffee House Staff**

**Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Staff**

**Mike Curtis - Chaplain**

**[www.gloscitymission.org.uk](http://www.gloscitymission.org.uk)**

Also click and follow us on



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