



Helping the homeless in our city



*Wishing you every Christmas blessing
From all at Gloucester City Mission*

This is the final Newsletter of 2020 and, as the year comes to an end, I just wanted to say **thank you** to everyone who has supported GCM this year. I joined the staff team here in mid 2018 and then took over as the Manager last December and am so grateful to the staff, volunteers and supporters for their efforts this year. It has been a tough year but we have had so many positives. One such positive can be found on the next page about Mike Curtis.

The move out of the George Whitefield Centre left us with no choice but to change the way we worked and we now focus more heavily on outreach work. These changes actually fitted in well with the enforced regulations around Covid.

I was recently at a meeting with the Local Authority and all of us were just so relieved that amongst all of the chaos this year there was not one single case of Covid amongst any of the clients whom we work with. Bearing in mind that way back in March when we had to close the Winter Shelter early there were major concerns about rough sleepers and the homeless community who were considered highly vulnerable because of their lifestyles.

Our move to focusing on outreach has been ever so successful. Between March and November we had more than 4600 direct interactions recorded with people in need. These interactions might be through giving food, drinks, clothes, toiletries, prayer or general support such as helping people to write CVs and apply for jobs.

We have lost nine regular clients this year to a variety of causes and they stay in our thoughts and prayers.

We shall be closing down for the Christmas period this year after Outreach on Christmas Eve until January 4th. As the year ends we carry forward **hope** that we can continue to make a difference to people's lives and that Jesus can be known to our clients.

'I lift my eyes up to the hills, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalms 121:1-2

Merry Christmas and wishing you all the best for 2021. As D:Ream once sang - "Things can only get better".

Kevin Howie, GCM Manager

Our New GCM Chaplain

I am excited to announce that Mike Curtis has agreed to take on the role of GCM Chaplain. Many of you know Mike as being the founder of GCM way back in 2003. He came back to us last year as a volunteer and when I told the Trustees that I had it on my heart to ask him to be our Chaplain they were all so supportive.

Mike's role will be voluntary and see him oversee the pastoral and spiritual care of the staff and volunteers. It will enable him to work with staff to offer regular spiritual guidance and prayer to clients as well as supporting Paula when we start our next Alpha course in January.

Please pray for Mike to give him strength and wisdom when he starts this role after Christmas.

OUTREACH THOUGHTS

Gus Baldean joined us as a volunteer this year. Here are his thoughts about what he has been doing.

There's a hymn that goes "Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me..." and that is what the Lord does, certainly this year, and I speak from personal experience and I'm sure for many too.

And this is also what I see volunteering at the GCM, coming across many 'melted' people, not just materially but more importantly spiritually. This is what God does or make us go through so we can rely on Him, go to Him and be more like Him.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord..." Jeremiah 29:11-13

As broken people ourselves but 'being moulded' by God, this is the hope that we communicate to the people we see in the streets of Gloucester, the living hope the Lord provides; the hope and great news of redemption, peace and freedom. This is the hope that came into the world with the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that we celebrate at Christmas.

After all, most of the good people we come across have their basic material needs provided by various organisations; be through charitable ones or be through the council, but the spiritual needs can only be truly provided by God and these turn us into givers not just receivers.

The wonderful Christian volunteers and staff I have met at GCM are faithful testimony of this. Enjoy a safe and warm Christmas.

Revive Coffee House

Revive...the first three months! The thoughts of Karen Williams, the Revive Supervisor

After several weeks of scrubbing and degreasing, and a training session on how to use the various machines, the Revive Coffee House opened on September 9th and of course we then had the second lockdown a month later!! We are the face of GCM on the high street and the first week was very busy with people eager to see what we are doing. Since then we have been building a regular clientele who really appreciate the peaceful, restful and safe environment that exists in the coffee shop.

We have a number of both men and women coming in on their own who really enjoy having a chat with us and we have also become a popular destination for people with additional needs and their support workers. I think the thing that has touched my heart the most was the two older ladies who set their elderly husbands up with a pot of tea and cake and who then left them whilst they went off and did a bit of shopping. It felt like a real privilege to be trusted enough to just keep an eye on their precious partners.

Louise's wonderful cakes are extremely popular and we always have a great selection. We always have a choice of vegan and gluten free cakes too. In terms of drinks we serve ethically sourced filter coffee, hot chocolate and teas. Jayne and Darren have the hot choc mountains well sorted with cream, marshmallows and a flake!

From a supervisor's perspective it has been so encouraging for me to watch my other team members develop their skills and knowledge and flourish in their roles. Both Jayne and Darren started off feeling very nervous and Jayne in particular was very anxious about chatting to customers. However to see and hear them now you wouldn't have a clue that was the case. They are both very confident using the machines and with the tasks that need to be done and they are amazing with the customers. They have a real sensitivity to people's situations and are able to chat with ease. The one thing that I have said applies to us all is we never need to feel bad if we are sat talking to customers. For some we could be the only people who chat to them in their week and the best gift we can give them is time and a listening ear.

It has been an honour to pray with folk visiting Revive and equally its been wonderful seeing groups praying in the coffee shop. God is working His purposes out in, and with, Revive. To Him be the glory for all He has done and is doing there.

We Are Hiring!

Do you have a huge heart for
the homeless and vulnerable
in Gloucester?



Gloucester City Mission Operations Manager (30 hrs pw)

For full job details please visit the Vacancies page on our website

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Closes 12pm 8/1/2021 Regd Charity 1115780

www.gloscitymission.org.uk/vacancies

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

PLEASE [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](http://www.gloscitymission.org.uk/vacancies)

Hamper Appeal 2020

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our Hamper Appeal. We teamed up with Gloucester Cathedral this year and made 100 hampers. These were distributed through the Cathedral Breakfast Club and through our outreach work and lunches. Hampers contained mince pies, pot noodles, noodles, cup a soup, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, hats, gloves, scarves Christmas crackers, a card and sweet treats



Revive Coffee House

Run by
Gloucester City Mission
Registered Charity 1115780

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Find us in The Eastgate Shopping Centre.
Open Weds to Sat 11 - 3.30



Ethically sourced hot drinks,
homemade cakes/treats, and
cold drinks.

Revive
Coffee House
Run by Gloucester City Mission

Gloucester
City
Mission

THE
eastgate

Helping the homeless and vulnerable
GIVING TREE DONATION POINT

THIS WINTER WE WANT TO PUT TOGETHER 100
STARTER HOME PACKS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE, OR
HAVE BEEN, HOMELESS IN OUR CITY.

PLEASE TAKE A TICKET OFF THE GIVING TREE AND
PURCHASE THE ITEM AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT
FOR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A BIT OF HELP THIS
WINTER.

ITEMS INCLUDE THINGS LIKE MUGS, ALARM
CLOCKS, CUTLERY, BED LINEN, SMALL
KITCHEN/BATHROOM ITEMS, KETTLES, TOASTERS
PLUS LOTS MORE



WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

CHARITY NUMBER 1115780

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;
- Members of GCM staff and volunteers who either have covid or are caring for someone with covid especially Elaine;
- 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;
- Ben Mather
- Mike Curtis as he prepares for his role as our Chaplain
- The Homeless Healthcrae Team and the staff at Glos Royal

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

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK/SHOP

Or pop into Revive to pick up a Walk With Love Limited Edition t-shirt

DONATIONS

Please could you consider supporting the Giving Tree in the Eastgate Shopping Centre which also helps us with our Home Starter Packs for clients moving on from the emergency hotels into their own homes? Thank you to those people who have given items.

Please could donations be brought to Revive or Restore when we reopen in January?

Please could we appeal for the following items;

T shirts - men and ladies, all sizes

Trainers (men and women)

Waterproof coats (not woollen coats please)

WE ARE SORRY BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT DUVETS, TOWELS, BLANKETS OR PILLOWS

Special Thank yous

- Thank you to the Sports Staff at the University of Gloucestershire who have been fundraising for us by doing a trek from the University to the North Pole, including a half marathon dressed as Santa, Rudolph and Frosty.
- Thank you to the staff and families at Huntley Primary School and Ribston Hall for their kind donations
- Thank you to Western Power Distribution, Glos City Council and Quantock Christian Trust for grants towards our work
- Thank you for all the generous financial donations that have come in over these past two months



Concerned about someone sleeping rough?

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Download the StreetLink app or visit the website at www.streetlink.org.uk to make an alert and help connect them to local services for support

StreetLink
www.streetlink.org.uk

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 and will be the quickest way for that person to be offered support.

The GCM Team

Kevin Howie - Manager kevin@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 follow us on



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