

**ISSUE #3 (MARCH) 2024 | VOL. 85**

Well it has been a busy start to my new role, we have two new member of Staff, Gemma as Executive Administrator and David as Marketing Lead, but I will leave their introduction to them.

Sarah and I spent an Enjoyable hour at Gambier Parry Hall, Highnam. we met the lovely Audrey who runs a Community Café twice a month and proceeds are shared with Charities, we were chosen and received £300. Thank you to all concerned.

Four pupils from Wycliff College visited to learn about the work we do at GCM. They went away and budgeted, researched recipes and purchased ingredients. Using our facilities they made a real treat for our hot food service, a delicious Lemon Cheesecake. One of our regular guests said it was the best Cheesecake he has ever tasted. Check them out on our TikTok site. We look forward to seeing them again.

Smoothelious have generously donated £5000. Thank you Gill Parsons for making this possible. It will be used to continue future projects.



**NEW**

We have introduced a Bursary Fund and we were blessed with a £1000 donation to begin this new opportunity. Alice has been a volunteer for over 2 years, worked as a waking night support worker in our Night Shelter and is now GCM's Cleaner, she is the first beneficiary and she has started training to be a Mindfulness Tutor something she is passionate about. We will keep you updated on her progress.

The garden is springing into life and we look forward to Sue and Margret restarting the Gardening Group. We also have Roger and Nick leading the Memorial Garden Project, look out for photos as it is transformed.

**John15: 12-13**

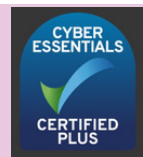
“My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this. To lay down ones life for ones friend.”

Here at GCM sometime all we can do is love our Guests.

**Blessings**

**Lou**

**Louise Mackenzie  
General Manager**



**Revive Coffee Shop.**

If you are a customer at our Coffee Shop Revive you will have met Connor.

Connor's journey with GCM started on the night he was brought to our Night Shelter, he was not local to Gloucester and unfamiliar with the area. He was cold, hungry and in a bad way, It became clear Connor wasn't happy with his life, staff worked with him and arranged for him to join a gym which was funded by other gym members and also found him a temporary job in the building trade. He stayed with us from mid December though to March 31st. Originally temporary housed with P3 and then accepted with Emerging Futures in their Dry House. The following December we employed Connor as a paid member of staff in the Night Shelter as a Waking Night Support Worker, he was a real team player always ready to cover when needed, he was able to relate to the guests and was well respected by everyone, He was also volunteering at Revive when a paid position became available Connor applied and joined the team. He also became a volunteer in Retreat. Connor has now flown the nest.

**We Prayer for a Blessed Future.**

If you're in town please pop into Revive Coffee Shop to enjoy a slice of homemade cake, Louise, one of our volunteers, makes an amazing zesty lemon cake. My special is the Bakewell sponge. Toasties and Sandwiches are also available. Great Milkshakes.

**Retreat**

Retreat is in need of Jogging Bottoms Size Medium Hoddies Size Medium and Large If you are having a spring sort out. Trainers in sizes 9-10-11

**Would you, your church, workplace or school consider Sponsoring a Space in Retreat?**

**<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sponsoraspac>**

Embrace meet on Thursday evenings and is run by Ollie and Sarah

Its a 10 week course, supper is served, and conversations are centred around recovery, life and faith in a safe loving environment.

A quote from one of the guest who has recently been Baptised.

“All sin is heavy. Some sin other people have put on us and some sin is of our own doing. We carry it without realising how heavy it really is sometimes.

I'm learning that Jesus died on the cross for all our sins, so if I give it all to him and stop hanging on to it, then I feel lighter.

Jesus wants us to be light so we can float up to Heaven”

Sometimes we forget the power Jesus.

This conversation lead on to another Guest saying.

“Living with unforgiveness of myself and others is like driving with the hand brake on in the car your still moving, but not very quickly and it's damaging to the car. Which is going to cost you in the long run. Letting go of hurt is simply taking the hand break off, then you can truly grow, and move forward with your Life.”

Wise words



**Gemma Harrison**  
**Executive Administrator**

**David Brand**  
**Marketing Lead**

Hello,

My Name is Gemma I was introduced to GCM in 2018 by a good friend to myself and GCM. At the time my partner was expressing a period of illness and I decided to take 6 months sabbatical from my Banking career that had been my world for 20 years, to look after him.

After it became obvious that I am not a natural nurse. I instead entered a world that I didn't really know existed and spent my time volunteering at the George Whitfield Centre, building friendships with our Street Friends. Sadly , very soon the 6 months was up and I had to return to work.

I maintained contact with GCM superhero Ade J, Lou, and Darren (to name a few) and in 2021 I was privileged to take up the role as Clark to the GCM Trustees. Fast forward to 2024 and I am now honoured to be part of the GCM team as Executive Administrator, responsible for all admin requirements, with a bit of IT thrown in.

I am really looking forward to this stage of my journey with GCM and getting stuck in with the rest of the team.

**Gemma**

We are very excited to welcome Gemma and David to our Staff Team, both will add there own gifts to this sometime crazy team but always filled with love.

Praying you both find Success  
Contentment and Satisfaction  
In your new roles.

**GOD LUCK**

My name is David and I have joined the GCM staff team as Marketing Lead responsible for things such as fundraising and keeping our supporters up-to-date with what's happening at GCM.

I first heard of GCM way back in 2005, when our founder Mike Curtis, gave an inspiring talk at my church one Sunday. I'm a Gloucester boy, born and brought up here, but not long after Mikes visionary talk GOD started me off on a professional journey that would take me on adventures all over the world.

in 2018 I found my vocational home when I joined the staff of London City Mission. GOD has now brought me back to my geographical roots, blessing me with the opportunity to become part of the team at my home City Mission.

My story can be summed up best in three words "Battles and Blessings". Being faithful to Gods plan for our lives will include wonderful times of happiness and peace, but also moments of pain and turmoil.

I can testify that throughout each and every step of my journey GOD has been faithful, giving me everything and everyone I've needed to pursue the path he has set out for me to tread.

I encourage you to always follow Jesus as you journey through life, and I'm looking forward to this next chapter of my journey as part of Gloucester City Mission.

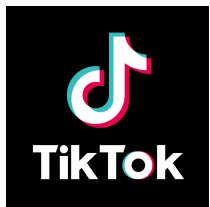
Hebrews 12:1-2

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfect of faith"

**May GOD bless you abundantly.**

**David Band**  
**Marketing Lead**

**Gambier Parry Hall  
Community Café  
£300 Donation**



**Join us on  
TikTok.  
Be part of the  
Journey**

## **Big Shout out to our Emerging Future Boys**

**Roger** has become our Maintenance Man, Memorial Garden lead, Street Teams and Head Chief for Embrace.

**Dan** our latest Revive Volunteer.

**Johnny** is volunteering in Retreat Restore and Embrace.

**Shane** has Joined our Street Teams and helps out with Memorial Garden

**Adam** makes the Victoria Sponge for Revive



### **The GCM Team**

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**David Brand Marketing Lead** [david@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:david@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Alice Armstrong - Cleaner**

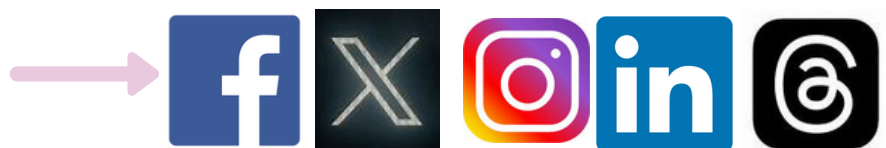
**Maisie Mackenzie - Revive Coffee House Manager** [revive@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:revive@gloscitymission.org.uk)

**Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Assistant Supervisor**

**Mike Curtis - Chaplain**

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

Also click and follow us on



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