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A belated Happy New Year to you all, I hope that you had a lovely Christmas. The new year is a time of change and each year just seems to pass by so quickly. I'm sure that many of you made resolutions about giving something up or starting something new, which is great but do we need to? If we keep God central to everything then He is in control so we shouldn't have to worry about things - this is easier said than done though.

If you have broken your resolutions then you can still try to focus on starting (or restarting something); read more, pray more, listen to music, be more intentional about things, exhale your worries and anxieties and breathe in hope. What changes can you make to your life to help others?

Philippians 4:6-7 says
6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The year ahead is going to be a time of change for GCM but the Trustees know that we are in a good place and that they will have prayerful guidance about GCM's next leaders. I cannot thank people enough for all of the lovely things that have been said to me or emailed, messaged or put in cards about me leaving. You may be surprised to know that I am quite an introvert and I really don't like being the centre of attention but those words of affirmation and congratulations have really taken me aback. I love what I do and what we as a team have done over these past 6 years but I suppose I've never really stepped back and reflected on it properly. So thank you but hopefully now the focus will be shifted to moving forward and what is happening next.

I'll still be in and around Gloucester because my new role at London City Mission is 2 days in London and 3 days working from home.

Please pray for everyone involved in GCM and that the transition period is smooth. Please read our Chair, Nick Gleich's, message on page 2.

Thanks again,
Kevin Howie, General Manager

A Message from our Chair

The dictionary definition of déjà vu is the illusion of remembering scenes and events when experienced for the first time or a feeling that one has seen or heard something before or something overly or unpleasantly familiar. Déjà vu was the feeling that I had when Kevin Howie, Gloucester City Mission's General Manager rang me to say that he had found a wonderful job and would be leaving in early 2024. Actually, it wasn't a question of experiencing something for the first time, Kevin's predecessor had left on my watch as well.

And of course, Ecclesiastes chapter 3 speaks of how things are for a season, so, what are we going to do?

In business, when a member of staff leaves the usual response is to review the job description, concoct an advertisement and kick off the recruitment process. But GCM is not a business and although we try to be professional and efficient, we have to ensure that we use all the pounds we get wisely which includes ensuring that our staff structure is appropriate to do the job before us.

Kevin's exit is a prompt to review who does what in our organisation. He and I had intended to do this during 2023, but our anniversary celebrations and some other things pushed that activity down the priority list.

So, now is the time. Louise Mackenzie has graciously agreed to become our interim General Manager for six months.



This will give the Trustees, with the support of Louise and the staff, an opportunity to have a good look at what we do and the best way to resource that. The intention is to put a minimally revised structure in place very soon in order to support Louise as she takes up her new responsibilities. Then as we move through Louise's tenure as interim, and we consider the job description etc for the next permanent General Manager we will review how things have gone and revise and recruit accordingly.

Please pray for Kevin in his new job and Louise, the staff, volunteers, and Trustees as we move forward into a new season for GCM. You may see changes, but we are committed to continue providing the best care we can for those who need our services.

Grace and Peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revd Nicholas Gleich, Chair of Trustees.

Hopefully you saw the excellent piece by ITV News presenter Ken Goodwin about our Retreat Centre. If you missed it then please have a catch up on our Facebook page. Its only a few minutes long but boy do the guests at the end express themselves eloquently.

Nathan and his team of volunteers are doing amazing work with those people who are on the streets and need help. Not only does he run the centre but he spends a good del of time sitting and supporting rough sleepers at their pitches.

A flyer for Gloucester City Mission's "Sponsor a Space in Retreat Appeal". The flyer features a teal circular graphic with the text "SPONSOR A SPACE IN RETREAT APPEAL £12". It includes the Gloucester City Mission logo and "Charity No 1115780". The text describes the appeal, stating that the new all-year facility opened in July after consulting with people on the streets, and that sponsorship covers meals, laundry, showers, clothes, and safety during the day. It also mentions that the facility provides access to medical help, eye-care, podiatry, and support from the council and other organisations. A QR code is provided for more information and donations. The flyer also includes a small photo of a person sleeping on a bench and another photo of a person sitting on a bench.

Street Teams

Interactions

5205

Retreat visits (Since
July)

929

Renew Training
Centre

1835

Facts and Figures from 2023

Number of people
who say they have
found Jesus

19

Number of direct
prayer opportunities

8627

Lunches served

2007

Restore Clothes
Bank

828

Cakes or treats
served in Revive

2493

Drinks served in
Revive

5715

Volunteer Hours

6012.5

Street Link Referrals

301

Thank you to everyone who supported the Undies Under the Tree and our Winter Food appeals.



WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

Do you have a spare
£1 to share some love
for Valentine's Day
please?

Our initial target for undies was around 750 pairs, well we actually had 1990 pairs donated!!! This is vital for us because we have traditionally bought new underwear for clients which costs us around £6000 per year. Having so many pairs donated means that we can spend money on other services instead. Thanks to the countless individuals, churches, schools and companies who supported this campaign and especially to The Eastgate Shopping Centre.

All of the food donated goes into our kitchen supplies and again means that we don't need to then spend so much money on shopping for Wednesday lunches, Retreat lunches, Friday lunches and Street Team provisions.

We keep an update list of items we need on our website - www.gloscitymission.org.uk/donating-clothes-food-and-other-items

The GCM Team

Kevin Howie - General Manager kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk

Sue Dalton - Administrator admin@gloscitymission.org.uk

Louise Mackenzie - Renew Training Centre Lead

louise@gloscitymission.org.uk

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

Sarah Fairbairn - Street Teams Coordinator and Recovery Lead

sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk

Alice Armstrong - Cleaner

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

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Assistant Supervisor

Connor Clarke - Revive Coffee House Staff

Mike Curtis - Chaplain

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Also click and follow us on



**Main Address - Gloucester City Mission, 72 Eastgate Street,
Gloucester GL1 1QN**

Registered Charity Number 1115780, Company Number 5830147

admin@gloscitymission.org.uk 01452 529310