



Helping the homeless in our city

I'm not sure if you've noticed but we are almost half way through the year! Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

This last couple of weeks we have welcomed back several of our volunteers so that we can get our outreach walks up to 5 days a week, most days we have had one team out but on some days we have been able to have two teams going out to support people. We hope to be up to 6 days a week very soon.

Over the next few weeks will also be operating some services out of our catering van 'Mo' at the George Whitefield Centre and further afield again by offering food and clothes to any clients who need it. Social distancing measures will be in place and we are looking forward to seeing some of our regulars.

On page three of this edition you will find details of our new approach to taking donations. We truly are blessed by the amount of donations that come in each year so please do have a read.

Some of our volunteers are now back with us to help us out, if you would like to help us with outreach work or sorting things in the centre for the outreach teams to take out please contact elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk

Kevin

MONTHLY TEXT GIVING

We have a Text Donate Appeal to encourage supporters to give a £1 or even a couple of pounds per month through their mobile phones. This will help us with cash flow and to keep us going in the future.

As we are sure you are aware, charities are under pressure at the moment due to Covid19 and the effect it has had on fundraising events but they still have to pay rent, wages and other costs. Because this donation is done through your phone we hope that you might not even miss the amount that you are giving us :)

**It is so easy to do, just; Text GLOSCM to 70085 to donate £3 a month
(Texts cost £3 (or the amount you donate) plus two standard rate messages)**

If you would like to give another amount per month you can do this as well up to £20;

“To donate £1 a month text GLOSCM 1”

“To donate £5 a month text GLOSCM 5”

To donate £10 a month text GLOSCM 10” etc

**THESE EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL ONLY BE PRODUCED DIGITALLY
PLEASE SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY/CHURCH/WORK COLLEAGUES ETC**

Eddie is in his 70's, he has been part of the GCM community for some years. During Covid we have met him several times sitting on a bench in town and have provided him with a cuppa and some company, he has kindly said we can share this story, which was prompted by this question, "Eddie do you have a faith?"

"When I was younger I lived in Norfolk as a farm hand and was responsible for looking after the pigs, this was tiring work. My friend looked after the horses, one day my friend told me do the horses too and went off into his home. I obediently did my chores and then on to his chores, I got back to my caravan very late at night, I was extremely tired, hungry and stank of pigs, as I sat I began to cry and in desperation said to God "Is this it, is this how my life is now?" I wasn't expecting an answer but He spoke to me, He said "Eddie, call your brother he will know what to do." So the next day I obediently called my brother who said come and live with me, so I packed my things, left my job, caught the train and moved to Gloucester, within a week I had the start of my new career as a welder, and have lived contentedly in this town since.

Eddie believes if you are desperate and need God he will answer you, maybe not in the way you expect but He will answer you.

Outreach Teams

Some pics of the different teams who have been out on outreach runs lately. For more details about our outreach work please contact paula@glosccitymission.org.uk



Prayer List

As well as praying for GCM's clients, volunteers and staff please also hold these people in your prayers. To add someone to the prayer list please email GCMprayer1@gmail.com

- Clients in emergency hotels and those who have found themselves back on the street;**
- Protection for those around the world taking part in or those affected by the Black Lives Matter protests;**
- Pat, Eric, Pete and Dave C, for strength to keep them going through these tough times.**
- Families who we cannot be with;**
- All those who have lost someone to Covid19;**
- Our volunteers and friends who are isolated;**
- The Homeless Healthcare Team who continue to look after clients on the frontline;**
- The Foodbank for the amazing work they are doing;**
- Our Church leaders and their staff;**
- The NHS, Care Workers and Emergency Services who are doing such an incredible job;**
- All essential and key workers in schools, shops, the Government and everyone else keeping the country running.**

Donations

We are always blessed with amazing amounts of donations when we put out appeals but we often run out of storage space or donated items aren't always suitable for the needs of clients. With us having to have a more focused approach to being back on the streets through our outreach work, we are changing the ways that we give clothes to the clients.

Without clients being able to come in to the centre to choose clothes, we have started making up clothes packs of items such as t-shirts, joggers, underwear and giving these out directly to the clients when we see them on the streets. In terms of coats and shoes we take an order and then take the items back out later.

With this new system it has reduced the amount of donations that we need, therefore, we have taken the decision that any donations which are surplus to requirements will be sent to a clothes recycling company who will pay us by the kg. This money will then be used to buy new underwear for us to give out.

We could very much do with donations of the following items please to take out on outreach;

- Food (Fray Bentos pies, quick and easy packet meals)**
- Sun hats (Baseball style caps)**
- Small and Medium T shirts (or size 8, 10 and 12 women's t shirt)**
- Joggers (s/m/l)**
- Leggings (10 and 12)**
- Hoodies (size m and l)**

We still have quite a lot of kit in storage so these are the only items that we are short of at the moment. We regularly put out appeals for items on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn so please follow us on those channels as well.

A special thank you to all of the amazing people and groups who have been making masks for us to give out the clients. Who would have thought that face masks could be made in so many ways and with so many funky designs.

Thanks also to the staff at Pret a Manger in Cheltenham who have partnered with us to provide us with food for outreach sessions on a weekly basis.

We must also thank MCHLG/Homeless Link and the Police and Crime Commissioner for grants that we have been given.

PLEASE COME AND VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP. YOU CAN BUY A WHOLE RANGE OF T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, PHONE CASES AND BAGS IN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND SIZES AND ALL PROFITS GO TO OUR WORK

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK/SHOP



Please take a few minutes to have a look at our website
www.gloscitymission.org.uk
Also follow us on



**Find us at The George Whitefield Centre, 107 Great Western Road,
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