

It feels like a long time ago now but I hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year.

Another busy month with lots going on as usual. I have had a rejig of our website, please have a visit www.gloscitymission.org.uk. We had our first ReviveFest and need to express huge thanks to Max Lee for organising it and to the other amazing bands/performers who gave up their time.

From 11th - 13th Feb we are having a 48 hour prayer room through 24/7. If you would like to sign up for a slot please do. You can sign up as an individual or as a group and pray for our work, the clients and the city. **To sign up please see the poster on page 4.**

Thank you to Abbey Church for inviting me to talk recently, Jane James for organising a Zumbathon and for getting so many beds sponsored, The Maxted Trust, The Podde Trust and Glos County Council for grants. We have a defibrillator on order, huge thanks to those who have supported this and especially to Clare at Tidal Training and Bob Hunt. Donations are still welcome for this appeal

We are sorry but we are currently sorting through all of the donations that we were in over Christmas. As a result we are currently **not** taking in donations for a few weeks. As soon as we have space again we will let everyone know. Thank you.

Kevin Howie, General Manager

Refuel is a monthly GCM prayer and praise event held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 12-12.45 at St Mary's Congregational church. It is open to supporters, staff, clients and volunteers of GCM and has been running for 3 months. We have been blessed with worship leaders from supporting churches who have led wonderful times of praise. We pray for all aspects of Gods work within GCM. During December we gave out Christmas stars for our clients to write on, which included prayer requests and people who they would like to be remembered over Christmas. Two particular men who are both homeless filled in several stars, all their requests were for other people, none for them and their own challenging circumstances. Receiving their stars was both humbling and emotional. At the last meeting we prayed over every Christmas star and prayed especially for those who wrote them. **The next Refuel is on 9th Feb, please come and join us if you are free. Paula**

The Winter Shelter

What a start to the shelter this year, it was definitely a sprint, but with lots of praying and hard work we opened as planned on the 1st of December. We are currently averaging 10 guests per night.

As with most years we had a quiet start, but our male rooms are now full most evenings. We have had 32 male guests and 4 female guest to date.

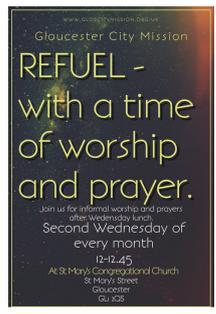
We have a great team of 9 staff most of whom have worked in previous years. We have one new member of staff who a few years ago was using our services and also accessing the night shelter. How amazing that he can now, in his words, "give back" .

Thank you to everyone who has helped; volunteers, staff and churches. I'm told the food is exceptional this year, so to everyone who is coming in to cook or sending food in our guests are very grateful.

Our guests have not been shy in receiving prayer or asking questions and a couple have enquired about church.

Just one moan from us is the stairs all 49 of them!! Once again thank you to everyone's involvement.

Lou, Winter Shelter Manager



Homeless Link Member



PLEASE FUNDRAISE FOR US! It would be really amazing if we could get a series of fundraising events up and running for groups of people and/or individuals. You could do something on your own, as a family, with friends, as a church or with work. There are loads of ideas [here](#) in our new **FUNDRAISING PACK**. We rely on fundraisers helping out us throughout the year.



FANCY RUNNING THE LONDON 10K? WE HAVE 3 CHARITY PLACES AVAILABLE

We have 3 Charity Places in the Vitality London 10K on 2nd May 2022 (more places can be booked)

If you're looking for a big London city centre race try the Vitality London 10,000. It runs a similar route to the Olympic marathon, and is a unique way to see the sights of the city.

Visit <https://www.vitalitylondon10000.co.uk/>, (you can find us in the list of charities to run for), or for full details about the run.

Please contact kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk if you would like information or to book a place



We usually have several events as well as our Big City Sleepout, but covid has put a stop to that still.

If you click [here](#) there are loads of ideas in our new **Fundraising Event Resource Bank** along with an **A-Z of ideas for all ages**.

We have 3 places in this year's London 10k on May 2nd if anyone would like to do it, just contact kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk

In the past we have had teams walking Hadrians Wall in 3 days, we have our annual curry and quiz night, we cycled virtually from John O Groats to Lands End and then to Gloucester. We have had swimming challenges and running events from 5ks to marathons. We've also had head shaving, concerts and all sorts.

Renew Update

The building may still be surrounded by scaffolding, but work at Renew is progressing well. The first and second floors are complete and the Winter Shelter is making full use of these spaces. The alterations and upgrading to the lower two floors is moving at pace now and, once complete, will form the Training and Education Centre and GCM offices.

It is currently anticipated that the internal building works will be finished at the end of January and that the moving in process will happen during February ready for the building to be fully operational at the beginning of March. We have much to thank God for in connection with this.

The process is not without challenges though as we need to work with and around the contractor for the Winter Shelter to happen each night, recognising that it is a building site by day! The contractor, Longcroft Building Services Ltd, are very supportive of this GCM work and are going the extra mile to assist in whatever way they can.

We will need a couple of 2 seater leather sofas for the drop-in room and/or maybe a couple of leather armchairs (all with fire tags), and then a cooker and fridge for the Training Centre kitchen. - Neil



Outreach

Since August we have changed how Outreach has been run {you may have seen us pulling a trolley in the town, please stop and chat to us or encourage us with a smile if you do see us}

*We have an Outreach volunteer lead with a team of 3 volunteers.{We have amazing volunteers who are essential to what we do}

*We go into the city 5 mornings week, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat from 10.30-12noon.

*On a Weds we provide a hot meal and fellowship at St Mary's Congregational Church

*We build relationship with our friends on the street as well as providing food and drinks.

*We offer prayer and God's promises and have bibles available.

* We carry clothing packs and essential personal hygiene items for those in need.

* We Streetlink all rough sleepers we find.

*We liaise and signpost to other organisations who can provide relevant help.

Just before Christmas one of the teams found a vulnerable rough sleeper, they gave him warm clothing, a hot drink and helped him to get to the Homeless Health Care Team for essential medical intervention. A member of staff at GCM and a volunteer returned later in the day to advocate for him and assist with an emergency housing application, they stayed with him until late in the evening to ensure he was safely housed, a tough and rewarding day all in one. Last week I witnessed this same man help a vulnerable, upset lady in the city, he bought her a hot drink and ensured she was warm and well, his kindness touched my heart. - Paula

Revive Coffee House
 Gloucester City Mission
 Registered Charity 1115780
www.gloscitymission.org.uk
 (Eat in or Take Away)
 You can find us in The Eastgate Shopping Centre

Delicious Homemade Cake -
 (includes vegan and gluten free)
 Speciality Coffees
 Range of Teas
 Hot Chocolate /Hot Choc Mountain

All hot drinks are ethically sourced

Fruit Smoothies, Cold cans, juice, water

Open Weds, Thurs 10.30 - 4
 Fri, Sat 10-4

Thank you to Tesco St Oswalds for letting us come and do two awareness afternoons.



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

PLEASE DONATE
 Online

www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20094986 or
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

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR (FR)
 Homeless Link Member
 Housing Justice
 Charity Excellence FRAMEWORK QUALITY MARK
 City Mission Movement U.K.

Please click [HERE](#) to find direct links to give a donation to our work

OUR VOLUNTEERS

What an amazing team of volunteers we have with us! Not even a global pandemic has stopped them from giving their time, patience, love and support for those in need. GCM has always had a great pipeline of volunteers but now it is more diverse than ever.

Where do we get them from I hear you ask? Well, social media is definitely a key platform for getting our message across to a broader audience. That culminated with our visibility out on the streets, the opportunity to be back in schools and churches and our promotional activities over the latter part of 2021 all massively improved our external media profile. At Christmas we always get a massive spike in support particularly from younger people, but now they want to volunteer longer term. Our core base has increased by some 10/15 volunteers over the past couple of months and we are now in a really healthy position with circa 60 plus volunteers regularly involved in activities.

Having had to change the way we operate to become compliant but also as we transition to our new model, volunteers have embraced these new initiatives and found new and different areas to get involved in. One of those areas is Restore – our clothes store in Southgate Street. Previously it was the HQ for GCM, then an overspill storeroom for clothing, Restore re-opened in April 2021 as a fully functional Clothes Store for our clients to come and get replacement clothes and toiletries. It is on a busy main street so has its challenges as well as the covid situation restricting access for clients at the moment. However they are just happy to have a base where we can help them out. We have a more prominent profile being on a main street, with several donations coming from people who have seen us as they walk past. Several of our volunteers have joined as a result of this visibility as well.

Restore is open Tuesday and Thursday between 1pm and 3pm, and we typically see circa 15 people a day. In between we bag up emergency packs for the outreach team to take out with them on their morning coffee/soup run.

None of this happens though without our trusty team of Volunteers! Please contact me elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk for more info - **Elaine**

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 those involved with the work of GCM;
- The guests and staff in the Winter Shelter, especially for Lou, our shelter manager
- Clients in accommodation and those who have found themselves back on the street;
- The rough sleepers in and around the city;
- Our Outreach teams;
- All those who have lost someone to Covid19.
- The emergency services for the support they give us and clients



Sign up for 48
hours of
prayer (11th -
13th Feb)
Click [here](#) or
on the poster,
or scan below



The GCM Team

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

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Elaine Mather - Project Worker (Restore and Volunteers) elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk

Sarah Fairbairn - Revive Coffee House Supervisor and Cook
sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk

Jayne Brett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Mike Curtis - Chaplain

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Also click and follow us on



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