

www.gloscitymission



3:16 THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

ISSUE # 5 (MAY) 2023 | VOL. 75

With so much that has been happening recently to celebrate our 20th anniversary I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on several aspects of our plans moving forwards.

We offer support in three ways - through aid, transformation and growth.

To offer **aid** we have;

- **Street teams** going into the city centre 5 days week offering food, drinks and prayer;
- **Refresh** – this is our weekly hot lunch service and time for fellowship at St Mary’s Congregational Church;
- **Restore**- a clothes bank for clients to come to get fresh clothes, toiletries and emergency provisions,
- Our **Mobile outreach** teams support rough sleepers away from the city centre;
- From July we shall be opening the Street Homeless Drop in Centre - **Retreat**, a safe place for people to access food, showers, a laundry, advice, access to drop-in sessions and crash beds.

We try to **transform** lives through;

- **Renew** (72 Eastgate Street) - our main offices, drop in centre, Training Centre.
- **Refuel** – our monthly worship session for staff, volunteers, clients and anyone to come and spend their lunchtime in prayer and praise.
- We offer prayer through all of our street teams and at Wednesday lunch

We enable people to **grow** both practically and spiritually through;

- Our **Revive Coffee House** in the Eastgate Shopping Centre where we offer employment opportunities to people who have lived experience of homelessness or addictions;
- We employ staff and give opportunities to volunteers with lived experience of being street homeless of addiction, and/in recovery too and who want to give something back to the community.

In our education and training centre we offer courses and multi-agency drop in sessions 5 days a week. We continue to run Alpha courses and a follow up Discipleship course twice a year and have plans for Bible Study courses and from next month we have written a course called **Embrace** – this is an evening session for people who are in recovery or still struggling with addictions to start their journey with Jesus or to rediscover the love of Jesus.

We have a free optician’s clinic on site through VCHP and are launching a podiatry service from July with Footsteps. We work with Probation, the DWP and the City Council Housing Department as well as other organisations to have drop in sessions too and to signpost clients to. We have courses in crafts, gardening, woodwork, IT, basic skills literacy, football, music therapy, mindfulness, counselling, Narcotics Anonymous and art courses.

In July we shall be opening Retreat, a place where people who are street homeless can come in the daytime between 10am – 3pm to get food, showers, clean clothes, use a laundry, sleep in a bed and be signposted to further support. They can also access our **Renew Training Centre and Wellbeing Garden**. We are delighted to have appointed the Retreat Manager after having some exceptional candidates for the post.

As you may be aware we have been running an emergency Winter Shelter in the city for the past 7 years. It has been open from 1st December to 31st March each year except this most recent shelter that opened on 1st November. When the shelter first opened 7 years ago the vast majority of the guests were people with no recourse to public funding or had no local connection. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...)



**GCM 20TH ANNIVERSARY
THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION
Southgate Evangelical Church
Sunday 2nd July
3pm - 4.30pm
ALL WELCOME**

However, over the past few years this has not been the case and we have seen not just a significant reduction in guests from these areas but also from the overall number of guests needing the provision. Since it first opened there has been significant development in council resources. This includes funding to support those in need through a team of staff being employed as well as over 100 single accommodation units being opened. This, along with a growth in P3's resources has led to much greater provision being offered to those on the streets at night time. The GCM Trustees recently met to look at the overall provision in the city and, given that the overnight provision services being offered to people has increased so significantly, there seems to be less need for GCM to continue its contribution for night-time provision except in exceptional circumstances. Therefore the decision has been made to not run the shelter next winter.

Following a significant amount of time spent consulting with those who are street homeless, and those who were guests in the shelter, as well as with other agencies in the city, there is a clear gap in the daytime provision for rough sleepers that needs to be filled. This is why we will be committing resources to opening Retreat.

Our other provisions will continue to grow to support more people who need help including not just rough sleepers but also any homeless or vulnerable adults or those in recovery. We ask for your continued support in our ministry and work along with your continued prayers for the work of Gloucester City Mission and those who we work with. We are so thankful to our volunteers who give up so much time – we have around 65 regular volunteers and over 450 volunteers during the year.

This past month has been so busy. We have had sky divers jumping out of planes (so far raising over £19,000 with more to add!!), dragon boat rowers avoiding capsizing in The Docks (raising £1000), Kevin and Mike Curtis met with HRH Princess Anne and we carried on with our normal work too.

At the top of the page you will find details about our Thanksgiving Celebration at Southgate Evangelical Church. Please do come along and join in with the celebrations.

Thank to so much to one of our amazing volunteer cooks, Louise Wood, who organised a bake sale at the Tewkesbury Growth Hub and raised £320.

Also in Tewkesbury, Kevin was invited back to Tewkesbury Baptist Church to give an update on our work and they also held a fundraising lunch after the service.

Special thanks also to the staff from Elmrep who visited us and to Mears Group who come in each month, this month it was time for a deep clean in the Revive kitchen.

Thank you all for your support.

Kevin Howie



It is time for you to start thinking about planning an event to join in with our Big City Sleepout PLUS we have Fire Walking in September, come on and walk with love to do something different to help fundraise with us.



Prayer Points

If you would like to sign up to receive a copy of our Monthly Prayer Sheet please **CLICK HERE**

How can you give to help us?

Apart from financial gifts there are many ways to help our work including donating items. We keep an up to date list of things that we need on our website [here](#).

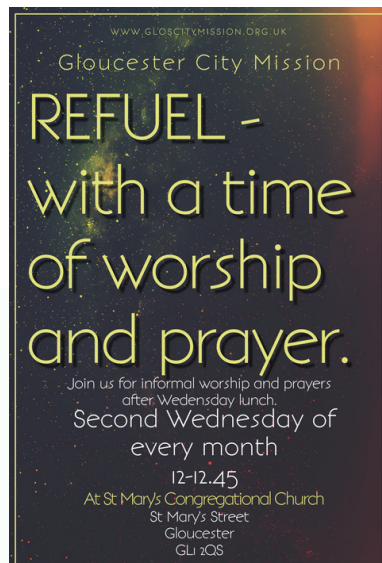
We also have a 'Shopping List' of items available to order through Amazon which can then be delivered directly to us. [Please click here to see the list](#)

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

REVIVE GIFT SHOP

WE HAVE A CHRISTIAN AND ETHICAL GIFT SHOP IN REVIVE WITH A WHOLE RANGE OF CONTEMPORARY CARDS FOR ALL OCCASION PLUS BOOKS, HOLDING CROSSES, FAIRTRADE ITEMS AND OTHER GIFTS

Refuel is our monthly Prayer and Praise time for clients, staff, volunteers and guests. It is held on the second Wednesday of the month from **12-12.45** at **St Mary's Congregational Church**. All are welcome. The next Refuel is on Wednesday 14th June.



**Concerned
about
someone
sleeping
rough?**



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

**Street
Link**

www.streetlink.org.uk



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Next time you're thinking of 'giving your time' why not consider Gloucester City Mission. We are a charity based in the heart of the city that has been supporting the homeless and vulnerable for 20 years. We are always happy to work with individuals, local organisations and companies in support of their community engagement programmes.

Individuals can get involved in any of the following activities:

- * Join one of the street teams on one of their daily runs – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday;
- * Come and help with our hot food service on a Wednesday morning;
- * Sort clothing and toiletry donations to keep our clothes store well stocked on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon;
- * Help in the Revive Kitchen preparing food for the outreach teams or baking for the Coffee Shop.

Timings will depend on the day and activity and normally are only for 2/3 hours maximum.

Teams can get involved in half day/full day activities such as:

- * Painting and refreshing the Winter shelter - bedrooms, dining room and kitchen
- Revive Kitchen deep clean;
- * Close down/Set up the Winter Shelter;
- * Projects in our Restore clothes shop;
- * Wellbeing Garden tidy up and refurbishment.

For more info please email elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk

www.gloscitymission.org.uk



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

- Retreat Manager @gloscitymission.org.uk

Elaine Mather - Volunteer and Corporates Coordinator elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk

Sarah Fairbairn - Street Teams Coordinator and Recovery Lead

sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Assistant Supervisor

Maisie Mackenzie - 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