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I hope that you have had a good start to 2021, we pray that this year ahead will work out to be a very positive one. I've had a little rejig of the newsletter and included more links to web pages, I hope you find it useful.

The guys on the streets are as safe as they can be and to date there still haven't been any cases of Covid 19 amongst them. We must praise the Local Authority for the support they have been able to offer those in need, we appreciate that they have had unprecedented funding in order to do this but the staff the council have been working incredibly hard. The people who are rough sleeping at the moment for more than one night are those who choose to live that lifestyle.

Our staff and volunteers teams continue to go into the city centre as outreach teams. To keep things as safe as possible the teams are limiting their time out to one hour. It has been difficult balancing keeping everyone safe whilst still being able to offer support but the teams are doing a great job following Government guidance. Some days the teams are seeing less than ten people now which should be seen as a positive as it shows that clients are being supported in other ways, other days the number is around 22 people. The sooner we can all get back to normal the better.

As you are probably aware we haven't been taking donations during this lockdown. This is to keep our staff and yourselves safe but also because the logistics of storing, quarantining, and moving stock around is very complex. Please hang on to anything you have and we will accept donations again asap.

You may have heard me on a couple of the local radio stations over the past few weeks. We are really

fortunate to have excellent relationship with the local media. These most recent interviews were on the importance of supporting local charities. The particular focus on one of the interviews was about encouraging people to do small events/activities to raise money. Maybe supporters can hold virtual coffee mornings, quizzes, virtual challenges, head shaves, diets, running/walking/hopping/skipping... anything really where you could ask family/friends/colleagues to offer a small sponsorship/donation for your activity. We can help with sponsor forms and online donations.

We have been running a £1 fundraiser on our social media pages. So far this has brought in over £800. Basically for the past week or so we have been asking all of our social media followers to donate £1. If everyone did this it would be bring in around £6000 - small acts can make a huge difference. **To join in and donate £1 text 'gloscitymission 1' to 70085 or via Facebook donate, or online at www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/gloscitymission** .(if you would like to offer more than £1 then it would also be very welcome).

Be completely humble and gentle: be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2-6

Kevin Howie, GCM Manager

YOU CAN BUY A WHOLE RANGE OF T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES IN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND SIZES AND ALL PROFITS GO TO OUR WORK IN OUR ONLINE SHOP

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK/SHOP

THESE EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE ONLY PRODUCED DIGITALLY, PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY/CHURCH/WORK COLLEAGUES ETC

Welcoming a New Face to the GCM TEAM

We would like to announce a new member of staff who is joining our Staff Team here at GCM. Neil Parmenter will be joining us as our Operations Manager from the start of March. Neil is a Chartered Surveyor with a great deal of experience in the charity sector having worked with charities in the UK and South Africa.

Please pray for him as he prepares to start his work with us on coordinating our premises, particularly as we continue to look to develop our work in the city. We are currently creating strategies for establishing more support for clients around their spiritual growth and through skills based training courses.

Outreach Encounters - Sue Yates

I have been privileged to be a volunteer with Gloucester City Mission for a number of years, and now serve as one member of the Outreach Team, and although we have gone through many changes and have had to adapt to different ways of serving our Friends on the Street, we know that "God is with us".

One of our past Volunteers always coined the phrase "Divine appointments" and that is exactly what we do have, and during our 'reflection and prayer' time at the end of our Outreach session, it is amazing when we see how God has intervened and led us to those "Divine appointments".

We are blessed to be able to give out soups, rolls, crisps, chocolate biscuits, coffees, teas, hot chocolate, woollen

hats, gloves, scarves, clothes packs, face masks, etc., because of the kindness and generosity of the Churches and individuals who donate to Gloucester City Mission, without their help and support our work would not be possible. But we find the gift our Friends most appreciate is The Promise - which is a small piece of paper folded

over, containing a verse from the Bible. These are uplifting verses which speak of God's love, care and encouragement, and nine times of our ten, our Friends response is -"Great! just right for me at the moment, how did God know that!!" I know that these Promises are often kept safe in a special drawer in hostel accommodation or sometimes displayed around the outside of a mirror.

It is always a privilege and pleasure to share in the lives of our Friends on the Street and so important that we provide that "listening ear" when for much of the time our Friends can feel ignored and of no value. We emphasise

that God will always listen to us, wherever we are and whatever we are going through, we don't have to be in Church to have a conversation with our Loving Heavenly Father!!.



Thank you to everyone and all the churches and businesses who have continued to support us, it means so much to clients and to us. Thank you to the Old Town Christian Trust, The Goodnews Evangelical Mission, the City Council and GMCA for grants received.

Well done to Ash who had his head shaved and raised £350 in doing so, Ash has been a member of staff in our Winter Shelter in the past few years.



Last week we received this email and it just means so much to us;

My name is Lucas and I am 7 years old and I am learning about homelessness at my school.

I have learnt that there are lots of different ways someone can become homeless and it can happen to anybody. If I was to become homeless I would feel scared, sad, hungry and lonely. If I felt this way I would want lots of help so that I could have a house and feel happier.

We have been doing some research about different charities and what they do to help homeless people cope and I feel very grateful that these charities exist.

During lockdown I have felt sad because I couldn't see my friends but I do have a home to live in. I think this makes things a lot harder for people who are homeless.

I have been doing home-schooling for quite a long time because of Covid and have earned some pocket money for doing my work well. I have donated £20 to you from my pocket money and I hope it can make some people happy.

Thank you for everything you are doing for homeless people.

We have been receiving regular visits from Sonia at The Care Pack Collective. The team there put together rucksacks with essential provisions which we then distribute to clients who need them.



Please click here to find direct links to give a donation



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

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WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

PLEASE DONATE

Online

www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/gloscitymission
or via Paypal, Facebook, Stewardship
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.

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Maybe you could sign up to give a monthly gift.

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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



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 at GCM as we continue to respond to, and meet, the challenges that are being faced
- Clients in emergency hotels and those who have found themselves back on the street
- Our Outreach teams
- All those who have lost someone to Covid19
- All frontline and key workers
- School staff and leaders as well as those home schooling their children
- Children and students who are at home or learning online
- Sue Dalton and her family
- Revd Jo Pestell
- Revd Michael Butler



We are often contacted by churches or individuals who have come across someone rough sleeping in or near their grounds. If this happens please use the Street Link App or website.

It is really quick and easy and alerts the Council and the P3 Outreach team about the person. More often than not the rough sleeper is already known however this isn't always the case. It is quick, free and easy to use and will be the quickest way for that person to be offered support.

The GCM Team

Kevin Howie - Manager kevin@glosccitymission.org.uk

Neil Parmenter- Operations Manager neil@glosccitymission.org.uk

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Elaine Mather - Project Worker (Restore and Volunteers)

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Karen Williams - Revive Coffee House Supervisor

Jayne Brett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Mike Curtis - Chaplain

Please take a few minutes to have a

look at our website

www.glosccitymission.org.uk

Also click and follow us on



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