



ISSUE # 8 2021 | VOL. 55

I just wanted to share this with you. It sums up why we do what we do and why all the hard work is worth it.

Last week I was on my way to the office after sorting some things in Revive when I just had the urge to go to Wednesday lunch instead.

When I got there all was going well, we even had the NHS giving out test kits to the clients. At about 11.30 Lou came over to me and asked if I could come and chat with a new client called Michael.

Michael is an army vet from the North East who had come to Gloucester a couple of days previously but hadn't been able to get any support because he had no local connections, so he had been sleeping rough. I got chatting to him and he explained a bit about his past. He was clean and dry and just needed a break. He was in Cardiff the week before but couldn't get any real support.

Lou had met him for the first time the day before and he let her pray for him. He wasn't going to come for food but had felt an urge to. Lou and I chatted about how we could try to help so I decided to contact Joe, the manager at Emmaus on the off chance that they might have spaces, Michael had a phone so I passed on his number.

I told Michael that the chances of anything happening in terms of accommodation were quite slim but we would try anyway. We arranged for him to meet Elaine and Lou to get a tent, sleeping bag and some clothes for that night and we all left.

Ten minutes later I had an email from a member of staff at Emmaus saying they had tried to ring Michael but there was no answer. This wasn't a problem because Elaine and Lou agreed to meet him at 1pm and if necessary would take him to Emmaus.

When Lou and Elaine went to meet Michael he didn't show up. So Elaine gave him a ring and found he was already at Emmaus having a cup of tea because he had picked up the call from them when they tried again.

Anyway at 3.45 we had a phone call from Emmaus saying that he had been accepted in and was now settling in to his new home.

God is so good at the moment!

You may have seen on Facebook the recap of things that had happened in that fortnight;

- We have been blessed with two new amazing volunteers in the kitchen - Sarah and Jo;

- Jayne in Revive has found additional work as well as her job with us;

- One of GCM's long term friends has been a year clean;

- Another client is now doing really well in Recovery;

- One of the clients we worked with in the past who was sleeping rough in the city for a long time came into Revive and gave a £5 donation because he is now clean and dry and his life has turned a corner;

- in Church on the past two Sundays two of our long term clients have been for the first time, and they were sober, and being welcomed by other members of the church;

- Another long term user of GCM's service came into Revive with an amazing picture that he had made and had framed (see page 3);

-And another client came in to say that he had found a job and was now working.

These are just some of the good news stories we have and can share - there are so many positive things going on at the moment!

As a staff we are on a real high because we are genuinely seeing God blessing our work at the moment.

**Kevin Howie, GCM General Manager**

## **DONATIONS - URGENT APPEAL!**

Due to the knock on effect of not being able to accept donations during the lockdowns we now **URGENTLY NEED** quite a few items in our Restore unit. If you are having a sort out please could you donate any of the following-

**Trainers – especially size 9/10**  
**Joggers s-m-l**  
**Men's jeans - waist size 30/32/34**  
**Men's / Ladies T shirts s-m-l**  
**Men's/ Ladies shorts s-m-l**  
**Underwear - (New)**  
**Baseball caps**  
**Wet wipes**

We will happily accept other clothing items, however if we are unable to make use of them, we would then sell them onto Cash for Clothes and use the money we receive to buy new underwear for our clients. If you are comfortable for us to do this, then please feel free to donate other clothing items as well.

If you are able to help, donations can be taken to Revive Coffee Shop in Eastgate Shopping Centre from Wednesday to Saturday between 11am and 3pm or larger donations can be taken to Restore Clothing store in Southgate Street by arrangement – contact [elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk) or Tel: 07506 752886

## **PLEASE NOTE/REMEMBER THAT UNFORTUNATELY WE DO NOT TAKE DUVETS, BEDDING, PILLOWS OR BLANKETS**

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### **Outreach Stories - Tony Hipkins**

Homelessness is devastating, dangerous and isolating and causes health problems. On average homeless people die by the age of 47 years old. Why am I saying this?

On outreach we used to come across a guy who was rough sleeping in the underpass under the railway station; we'll call him Dave. He was usually with his mate sitting on his few belongings on the floor and we would stop and offer food, drinks, a chat, a Gods Promise, support, etc. The wind could really blow through the walkway and when it got too cold, he would find shelter in a nearby multi storey car park.

You could usually find Dave reading a book. One day I asked what he was reading. 'The Cross and the Switchblade', he said, and asked me if I had read it. No I said, and he told me what it was about....the amazing true story of a young preachers outreach to New York teens trapped by drugs and gangs...a message of renewal, miracles and God's love.....you should read it, he said, I recommend it.....I bought a copy later, yes, an astonishing, moving true story.

Anyway, together with P3, we tried to encourage Dave to take up the offer of accommodation/service with Safe Spaces but sadly unsuccessfully until one day, great news, he agreed ....but wouldn't go without his mate. His mate had gone off to ASDA I think, so I said I would wait behind, and watched as Dave walked off and out of the underpass with his few belongings with P3 for somewhere safe to sleep that night.

However, while books can tell a story of renewal and miracles, sometimes, sadly, it just doesn't happen.... for whatever reason. I did and still do wonder why but can only fall back on God's love. Two days later I heard the very sad, tragic news that Dave had passed away. All I can say and fall back on, is that he had a faith, you can tell when someone is being changed by Jesus. But why he was taken so soon when events seemed so promising, so hopeful.....I don't know.....like losing a friend.....but that's what homelessness and all its implications, can do to you.

## BIG CITY SLEEPOUT 2021

This year we are running one huge sleepout fundraising event called **The Big City Sleepout** by teaming up with **Gloucester City AFC (8th Oct)**, **The Eastgate Shopping Centre (9th Oct)** and **The Cloister Challenge (8th Oct) (fully booked)**. Bookings aren't yet open for the Try Out The Night event at Kingsholm



To get in early and book your place please visit our Eventbrite pages;  
**EASTGATE SLEEPOUT**

**NEW MEADOW PARK SLEEPOUT ON THE T-END**

Come and sleep out in an iconic Gloucester location or sleepout at work, church, school or in your gardens.

Special thanks this month to Dave for donating a painting to Revive, to our Outreach Teams for modelling the new hi-vis vests so well, to the NHS Team for giving out Testing kits to clients and of course to Ade Jones for repainting Revive.



Please click here to find direct links to give a donation to our work

**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.account.stewardship.org.uk/donation/oneoff/gloscm](http://www.account.stewardship.org.uk/donation/oneoff/gloscm)  
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  
Homeless Link Member  
City Mission Movement U.K.

**Revive Coffee House**  
Gloucester City Mission  
Registered Charity 1115780  
[www.gloscitymission.org.uk](http://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

## 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](mailto: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;

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](http://www.streetlink.org.uk).

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

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Karen Williams - Revive Coffee House Supervisor [karen@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:karen@gloscitymission.org.uk)

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.gloscitymission.org.uk](http://www.gloscitymission.org.uk)

Also click and follow us on



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