



Helping the homeless and vulnerable in our city

A very Happy New Year to you and we hope that you had a wonderful Christmas.

It has been an incredibly busy time here at GCM over the Christmas period with the Winter Shelter open, Christmas meals, hampers, the Mission Shop being open, Carol Singers, concerts, lots of volunteers in helping out and so many donations.

Special thanks to Jason and the team at Eastgate Shopping Centre plus George and Lizzie at 14 Gifts for all their support with the shop. There are so many other people to say thank you to - churches, choirs, schools, companies and individuals. There are too many to list by name but they all know who they are and we humbly say thank you.

The annual curry and quiz night was a huge success once again and raised over £2000, thank you to everyone who supported it and/or took part. Special thanks to Holly Jones for her fantastic cooking as always.

2020 looks as though it is going to be a very exciting year for GCM as we look at our vision as well as what and how we provide God's love to those in need. Please keep us in your prayers.

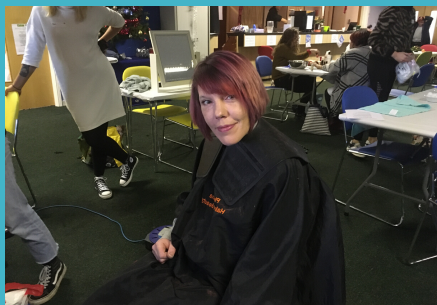


In December we said goodbye to Dave Kinghorn. Dave had led GCM for 5 years and seen us grow in to what we are at the moment.

The Trustees will appoint a new manager in mid-January so please pray for everyone involved in the appointment process at this time of transition.

Jeremiah 29 v 11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



Pamper Morning

As a pre-Christmas treat we organised a Ladies' Pamper Morning and offered clients haircuts, manicures, massages, proper coffee (thanks to Ethical Addictions) and goody bags. We funded this through the Period Poverty Grant received from Gloucestershire County Council.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped out, the clients really appreciated it.

We are aiming to run a Men's Day sometime in March.



Walking Rugby

We took the Walking Rugby group on a tour of Kingsholm Stadium before going back to the Cathedral for a special Christmas Meal



Survive the Night

This year's Survive the Night Event took place on World Homeless Day in October and we partnered with Gloucester Rugby to run 'Try Out the Night' in the Shed on the same night. A group of 50 of us spent the night in the rain and cold sleeping on the concrete steps of the Shed. The camaraderie was fantastic and we were able to talk with lots of people about our work and homelessness in general. We split the money raised, between us and the Gloucester Rugby Foundation, and raised over £13,000 from the event. Gloucester Rugby have already asked us to make this an annual event so please sign up for this year's event when we announce further details!!!

In addition we had companies and schools sleeping out for the night across the county and this also raised over £4000. We are so grateful to everyone who took part in both events.

During the day we ran a schools event at Kingsholm Stadium and a networking event for local charities and organisations working with the homeless and vulnerable to have a platform to show people what their work is about.



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



Winter Shelter

The winter provision has opened nightly from Sunday 1st December. In the first month we have had 61 referrals from P3, HHC, TTH, NHS, GCM and self-referrals, with 6 guests moving on to other accommodation.

Four full time members of staff have been employed to provide a safe, warm and loving environment. Local Churches are regularly providing a hot meal and we have a bank of volunteers to help with serving food, hot drinks, and giving out clean clothes.

Two of this year's volunteers were guests last year, the gentleman is now in full time employment, in recovery and in private accommodation, and the lady has moved into supported accommodation and has also volunteered in the pop up shop over Christmas. Christmas was a special time in the shelter, all guests received a gift bag on Christmas morning with new hoodies, joggers, toiletries, hats, gloves, socks, underwear and lots of chocolate. New year's eve guests were treated to pizza.



A quote from the Alpha course attendee in the autumn of 2019: "The Alpha course at GCM was truly amazing I learnt so much it's changed me for ever I know that much."

It was an honour and a privilege to run an Alpha course for the 6 weeks with an incredible team of staff and volunteers. We had 6 regular guests who all in their own way are journeying with Jesus.

Please pray for our next course which we plan to run from the end of February.

BELIEVE IN GLOUCESTER AWARDS

In November we were invited to the prestigious Believe in Gloucester Awards Night held at Kingsholm Stadium as we had been shortlisted as a finalist in the Best Community Project of the Year Category.

We were so amazed, delighted and honoured when our name was revealed as the Winners of the Award and are very grateful to the staff, trustees, volunteers and supporters who help us to do the work that we do.



Our Staff Team:-

Kevin Howie - Interim Manager/Fundraising Coordinator

Sue Dalton - Administrator

Paula Keeper - Project Worker

Louise Mackenzie - Project Worker

Elaine Mather - Volunteer Coordinator

Clara Hancock - Winter Shelter Support Staff

Jayne Brett - Winter Shelter Support Staff

Martin Holt - Winter Shelter Support Staff

David Haddock - Winter Shelter Support Staff

SPONSOR A BED APPEAL

This year's Sponsor a Bed Appeal has brought in just over £20k so far (at the time of writing). This has sponsored over 800 beds for people who are most in need at this time of year. The Appeal will stay open

though so please do still sponsor a bed if you are able -

www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/GCMsponsorabed



Working with the homeless and vulnerable

GCM IS A DAY CENTRE AND WINTER SHELTER PROVIDING
FOOD, CLOTHES, SUPPORT, SHOWERS, WASHING
MACHINES, ADVICE AND PRAYER

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

PLEASE DONATE

£5 will pay for 3 meals

£10 will pay for fresh underwear, clothes, toiletries and a
shower

£25 will pay for someone to get off the streets for a night
during the winter months

Maybe you could sign up to give a monthly gift.

Online www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/gloscitymission

By Text

To make a 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.

To donate in Person or by post

Please make cheques payable to Gloucester City Mission and post
to the address below, we also accept CAF cheques

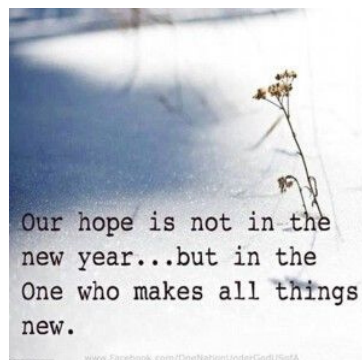
Gloucester City Mission
The George Whitefield Centre
107 Great Western Road
Gloucester GL1 3NF
Charity Number 1115780



Donations NOT Needed

at the moment :)

We have been blessed and really appreciate everything that has been given over the past few months but we have reached saturation point and just need a bit of time to sort things out over the next month or so.



ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

Last year we had people running marathons, half-marathons, 10Ks and 5ks, sky diving, doing swimming challenges, sleeping rough, holding cake sales and non-uniform days all to raise funds for our work.

If you would like to do something to help with our fundraising please get in touch. We have places in next year's London 10K if anyone is keen to take part.

Survive the Night will take place in October

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Find us at The George Whitefield Centre, 107 Great Western Road,
Gloucester GL1 3NF

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Thank you to Inky Little Fingers for their continued support with printing this newsletter