



Helping the homeless in our city

After this newsletter I shall be producing a monthly edition rather than a fortnightly one (until January we were producing them one per quarter), as to be honest things have all calmed down a bit in terms of the support we are offering clients and we have established a good rhythm in the outreach work that we are doing. I hope that you have enjoyed having a more regular newsletter and would be interested to know if you would prefer them as monthly update rather than quarterly. You can still keep up to date through our social media channels.

In June our outreach teams fed, prayed and interacted with 505 people, bear in mind they are only out for two hours a day, of those people there were 31 different people who were/are still sleeping rough in our city. Last week we worked with 117 people in outreach sessions and served 43 takeaway hot lunches from our centre on Wednesday.

On the next page you will find out information about the major changes that will be happening at GCM over the next few months. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we are going to be moving out the the George Whitefield Centre and change our overall strategic approach to being one based much more heavily on doing outreach work. We are also going to be opening a coffee shop in the Eastgate Shopping Centre and doing lots of other projects in temporary accommodation units, churches and schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank our outgoing Treasurer, Richard Grant, who has stepped down. Richard has been a fantastic Treasurer and has seen GCM grow from being a smallish operation into what we have become today. We sincerely thank him.

I would then like to welcome Julie Ridgway, our new Treasurer, and we very much look forward to working with her for many years ahead.

Please do pray for the changes that are happening, we believe that we we are following the path that Jesus wants us to take GCM and are really excited about these plans coming into fruition after an awful lot of hard work to put the pieces together.

Kevin

Thank you

Our financial year ended in June and we are so grateful to everyone who has supported us over this past financial year. This has come in from all ages and from many individuals, families, churches, schools, businesses and grants. We would not be able to operate without these kind gifts so thank you.

Thanks also to the following companies for donations in these past two weeks - The March Hare Coffee House, Tesco St Oswalds, Asda, The Cornish Bakery, Fare Share SW

**THESE EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL ONLY BE PRODUCED DIGITALLY
PLEASE SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY/CHURCH/WORK COLLEAGUES ETC**

City Mission Plans for the Future

As I have briefly outlined in previous newsletters, the way that we are going to be working here at GCM is changing significantly. We want to go back to our roots and focus on not only taking provisions and help out onto the streets, but also focusing on offering more of the love of Jesus to our friends on the streets as well.

The need for supporting those on the streets during the day and rough sleepers is increasing and we believe this the area that we should be working in. That is not to say we won't support others in need, especially those in temporary or supported accommodation, as we still aim to work with those clients as well, but our focus will be on those most in need.

Our new structure will be:

Outreach Teams On Foot – 6 times per week two teams outreach teams will be taking food, emergency packs of clothes and toiletries to those who are rough sleeping as well as hot drinks and snacks to anyone who needs it. Each team will also be able to offer prayer with clients.

Coffee Shop – We are opening a Coffee Shop in the Eastgate Shopping Centre. This has been 'brewing' since January time but has taken a really long time to finalise. The coffee shop will be open to the general public on Wednesdays to Saturdays and will offer hot/cold drinks, snacks, drinks, cakes, biscuits and sweet treats. We hope to be open by the end of August.

Upstairs in the coffee shop is a kitchen area which will be our Outreach Base so that it is easy and quick for the outreach teams to go out to help those in need in the city centre.

On Mondays and Tuesdays the Coffee shop will be used to run courses and Alpha sessions as well as training sessions for clients.

One of the key aims of the coffee shop will be to offer employment and training opportunities to clients so that they can improve their chances of finding work.

Catering Van – Mo, our catering van, will be out and about supporting those clients sleeping rough away from the city centre.

Wednesday Lunch - We shall continue to offer a hot lunch to clients and will be hiring a church in Cromwell Street to carry this out.

Bible Study and Outreach Work– We shall be developing our weekly sessions in Temporary Accommodation housing and expanding this to include more opportunities for people to spend an hour or so a week catching up and doing and studying the Bible.

Admin Head Office - Later in the year (hopefully September) we shall be moving out the The George Whitefield Centre and into a new Admin HQ, this base will enable us to store everything in one place and have space for donations and have staff working out it as well.

Winter Shelter - We will continue to run the City's Winter Shelter and are in negotiations with the Local Authority about how this will look as it is likely that there will be social distancing measures in place in the winter.

Once things return to normal we are also formalising how we can improve our Schools work and Church work by establishing new School and Church Ambassadors.

I know that we frequently ask for donations but if you were able to offer a monthly donation it would help us tremendously, especially with all the changes ahead.

Alternatively if you, or someone you know could help us in any way by offering a service what could it be?

MONTHLY TEXT GIVING

We have a Text Donate Appeal to encourage supporters to give a £1 or even a couple of pounds per month through their mobile phones. This will help us with cash flow and to keep us going in the future.

Because this donation is done through your phone we hope that you might not even miss the amount that you are giving us :)

It is so easy to do, just; Text GLOSCM to 70085 to donate £3 a month

(Texts cost £3 (or the amount you donate) plus two standard rate messages)

If you would like to give another amount per month you can do this as well up to £20;

“To donate £1 a month text GLOSCM 1”

“To donate £5 a month text GLOSCM 5”“

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.

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Online www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/gloscitymission

Prayer List

As well as praying for GCM's clients, volunteers and staff please also hold these people in your prayers. To add someone to the prayer list please email GCMprayer1@gmail.com

- All at GCM as we meet the challenges of moving forward in the next few months
- Clients in emergency hotels and those who have found themselves back on the street;
- Our Outreach teams
- Families who we cannot be with;
- All those who have lost someone to Covid19;
- Our volunteers and friends who are isolated;
- School children and staff who have returned to school, as well as those still at home;
- The Homeless Healthcare Team who continue to look after clients on the frontline;
- The Foodbank for the amazing work they are doing;
- Our Church leaders and their staff;
- Hayden after his camp was burned down;
- The increasing numbers of clients in tents around the city

PLEASE COME AND VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP. YOU CAN BUY A WHOLE RANGE OF T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, PHONE CASES AND BAGS IN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND SIZES AND ALL PROFITS GO TO OUR WORK

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK/SHOP



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



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