

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Our financial year ends in June and it is fair to say that it has been a really tough few years for fundraising and we really could do with even more of your help. I have been praying about this and particularly that more events will be organised to support our work. Interestingly, I received a phone call from our Chaplain, Mike Curtis, who said that God had woken him up at 4am one Saturday to ask him to pray for GCM and in particular for our finances. So, we really need your help please to help us to continue to grow. We haven't been able to have the support of many fundraising events during these past few years but I am putting out a plea to you all to set something up, it could be something at your church, your place of work, school, a club you attend or just at home. It could be something like a quiz night or a sponsored event of any description, it could be a cake sale, it could be some thing physically active something that taxes the brain or just pure fun but please can I put it out there that we need your support. We are so grateful for the blessings that are poured on us financially but the joy of events is that they spread awareness further. On our website is a copy of our fundraising pack ([or click here](#)) and it has loads of ideas for all ages.

If your workplace or church has an annual event maybe we could be one of the charity partners. I love coming out and talking about our work as well. Please also either sign up for, or plan, a Big City Sleepout event (in October)

Those of you who know me well know that it is very rare for me to come out and directly ask for financial donations, I normally ask for volunteers, general resources and prayer but as a Mission we are doing so much now - whenever I go out to do a church talk or show people around our work they always says that they just didn't realise how big we now. But at the end of the day it all costs money (over £14.5k per month) and we fundraise for everything we do. I appreciate that everyone seems to be asking for help, but please

could I ask if you can have a think if there is something that you can do as an event to support us. Those of you who run businesses know that cashflow is key, our financial year sees us having peaks in Oct and throughout the winter and troughs in spring and late summer. In an ideal world we would flatten out these waves. If you were able to support us with a monthly gift or support us throughout the year that would ease the financial burdens on our work plus it would enable us to do even more!

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Kevin Howie, General Manager

A message from our Chair - Rev'd Nick Gleich

I will let you into a little (not so) secret, I read quite a lot of mystery type books. The words, "means", "motive" and "opportunity" crop up quite a lot as the hero sets about solving the "locked room" or other baffling mystery. When you think about it a lot of our decisions work through these questions; "can I afford that car (or can I get to the car dealer by bus)", "I need a more economical car", "when can I skip work/football/gardening/child-care to go and see a new car"? And then we get to a related type of fiction where people are caught spying and the inquiry investigates the "MICE". MICE is Money – being paid, Ideology – believing in the cause, Compromise or Coercion, this may be a honey-trap or threats, and Ego or Extortion, which may be "because I can" or blackmail.

You will be relieved to know that we invite volunteers to join our activities at Gloucester City...(Continued on Page 2)



Homeless Link Member



...Mission purely as welcome colleagues not through any compulsion or other means. But we do understand that they will need to think through their means, motive and opportunity.

For Christians we believe that reaching out to the marginalised and disenfranchised is what Jesus requires of us, motivated by his love, and that he will provide the means, given that GCM offers the opportunity. We value all our volunteers highly, whether as Trustees or those who go out on the streets. We can't operate without them.

If you have the urge to "do something", please get in touch, we are always interested in new volunteers and you never know, you may be able to do something for us that we haven't yet realised we needed to be done.

NG

Volunteers

Where would we be without our volunteers?

They just do so much to help us to operate and we are incredibly grateful to them all. Not many people know that last year we received the news that we had been nominated for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. We went through a long process and ultimately we received a letter last week saying that we had missed out this year but we were being highly commended for our work.

When Covid first struck we lost lots of our volunteer teams but we have been blessed and able to build those numbers back up so that we now have around 60 regular volunteers and a further 100 or so who help out when they can, this is just so huge for us. In April alone we had volunteers supporting us with over 410 hours of support - that is the equivalent of 12 full time members of staff and the equivalent salary value of over £4,000, that was just in one month!!

Our volunteers come from all different backgrounds and churches as well as those who might not have a faith. We value them all equally. Whether that is those volunteers who sort through donations or run Restore, those that volunteer with cooking or preparing meals, those that clean, those that help with Wednesday lunch, those on outreach and those who help run courses in Renew. We are also seeing more and more corporate volunteers who are encouraged by their companies to go out into the community to do projects. We love the fact that we are often their first choice to come to.

These past few weeks in Renew we have had courses on for clients in art, crafts, gardening, music, literacy, Beta as well as Narcotics Anonymous and football. Volunteers are key to helping run these sessions.

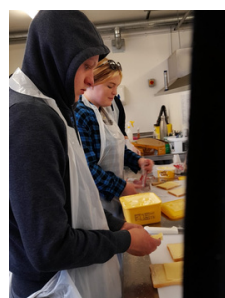
Hopefully you saw the pictures in the last newsletter of teams from Spirax Sarco and HSBC who came and did amazing things, well both companies are coming back to do more!

We also have teams in from Mears Group and Morgan Sindall who have made donations and are arranging visits with Elaine to come in to do projects.

Then of course there are the teams at Tesco who have supported us for many years. We don't ask any of these companies directly for money because the time and resources that they can offer through volunteers is just so much more valuable to us.

In the first week of June it is National Volunteer Week so in the build up we at GCM say a huge blessing of thanks to them all.

If you would like to volunteer with us or get involved at a corporate level please email elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk



Young Glos came and prepared some food for outreach.

Our VCHP Opticians is now open and seeing clients.



One of our Outreach volunteers, Catherine, was blessed with the birth of baby Isaac.



One of our clients, Rich, lost his partner during Covid and was supported by our volunteers Mary and Lorraine to plant a tree in memory of her.



Magnox donated 20 sleeping bags.



Morgan Sindall donated a large box of waterproof sleeping bags. 2



WE HAVE OUR SUMMER WISHLIST AVAILABLE NOW, PLEASE CLICK ON [THIS LINK](#) OR THE LOGO TO ORDER ITEMS, THEY WILL THEN BE DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO US.

Meet Jo, One of Our Volunteers.

Jo has been volunteering with us for about a year now. She started by doing some baking in our Revive kitchen by making tray baes for Wednesday lunch. As her confidence grew so did her baking repertoire and she now also bakes for the Coffee Shop - her brownies are exceptional! - not to mention one of our best sellers.

Jo has suffered from quite severe mental health issues for a number of years and is now rebuilding her life, confidence and social skills. When I first met her she rarely gave me any eye contact and I only got yes or no answers to questions. It has been an honour to watch her grow so much whilst volunteering with us.

She now volunteers twice a week and is cooking savoury meals as well as baking. She has a real flare for cooking and is an absolute blessing to us. More importantly I get to bear witness to her smiling and laughing and we have great conversations and even the occasional sing and dance whilst cooking together. When I asked Jo how she felt about volunteering with us she said "It's been an amazing experience and I love coming in, I have friends now"



How beautiful is that? Thank you Jesus
Sarah Fairbairn - Revive Coffee Manager/GCM Cook

www.gloscitymission.org.uk
 Gloucester City Mission

REFUEL - with a time of worship and prayer.

Join us for informal worship and prayers after Wednesday lunch
 Second Wednesday of every month
 12-12.45
 At St Mary's Congregational Church
 St Mary's Street
 Gloucester
 GL1 2AB

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 Weds. 8th June**

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.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20094986 or
www.justgiving.com/gloucestercitymission
 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

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

Please click [HERE](#) to nominate us for a Movement for Good Award of £1000

Please help us by voting for us in the Tesco Community Grants Blue Token Scheme.

We are up for votes in all Tesco stores across the city from 1st April to the 30th June.

A team of our volunteers will be at Tesco Quedgeley on the 9th June to tell customers about our work and to encourage them to vote for us with their blue counters. If you are in store between 2-4 pop over and say hello.



Revive Coffee House
 (In the Eastgate Shopping Centre)
 Run by Gloucester City Mission

Come and try out our new menu at Revive. We have now started serving bagels, pizza bagels and toasties as well as milkshakes.

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

- This month our prayer is one of thanks thank supporters have blessed our work so generously but we also pray that that more people will give regularly as well as answer the prayer that we need more fundraising events and support for events throughout the year.
- We also pray for Neil and his family, Sue, Mike & Beryl, Donna and Jo.
- We also pray for all of our amazing volunteers.



THE BIG CITY SLEEPOUT WILL BE OVER THE WEEKEND OF 7TH - 10TH OCTOBER

We have sleepouts confirmed at Gloucester City AFC (7th Oct), Eastgate Shopping Centre (8th Oct) and at Renew (9th Oct)

Please start thinking about organising one for your church, company, school, family or just for you.

The GCM Team

Kevin Howie - General Manager kevin@gloscitymission.org.uk

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

Sue Dalton - Administrator admin@gloscitymission.org.uk

Paula Keeper - Project Worker (Outreach and Ministry) paula@gloscitymission.org.uk

Louise Mackenzie - Training Centre Lead/Winter Shelter Manager

louise@gloscitymission.org.uk

Elaine Mather - Volunteers and Corporate Coordinator elaine@gloscitymission.org.uk

Sarah Fairbairn - Revive Coffee House Supervisor and Cook

sarah@gloscitymission.org.uk

Jayne Brett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Darren Bennett - Revive Coffee House Staff

Mike Curtis - Chaplain

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Also click and follow us on



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