



Gloucester CITY MISSION

Serving Christ in the City

A LOOK AT WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Manager's report
- Meet our new Chair of Trustees
- Project Updates
- Thank yous



MANAGER'S REPORT

Dave Kinghorn

Happy New Year one and all, 2018 has been an incredibly busy year for Gloucester City Mission and things do not seem to be slowing down! I have now been at GCM for 4 years and there is so much to be grateful to God for.

My prayer for 2019 is one of growth for the church, spiritually, prophetically, in numbers of volunteers + supporters and in finance.

GCM is open more, has more space, is able to do more around advocating for people, coming alongside people and signposting them appropriately. Praise God. We have some really good partnership working happening with the DWP, Gloucester Rugby Club and Gloucestershire Fire Service, as well as linking in with more churches in the city and around the county which has been a massive blessing to us.

We start the year with some sad news in that our centre coordinator Nick Penney is leaving us. He is moving back to the Cathedral on a full time basis. I would like to say a massive thank you to Nick for all he has done for GCM and will continue to do I am sure! Nick has become a great friend and has served GCM faithfully. We wish Nick all the best and look forward to hearing about his adventures at the Cathedral.

This does give us an opportunity at GCM to expand our team, we are looking for two-part time (18 hours a week) workers to come in and join our team. Please be praying for the right people to come forward who are ready to serve and help to grow the kingdom.

Christmas seems such a long time ago! The joy of spending time with the family and opening presents brings back happy memories, seeing Noah my 2-year-old kicking his mini football around with such a smile on his face was a joy! Although Christmas isn't such a great time for all, it was amazing to see the centre open so much over the Christmas period. Christmas eve and Boxing day 10 till 4, volunteers from all around came to help out serving tea and coffee, food, mince pies and clothing. It was also heartening to hear about the Christmas day meal in which over 100 people came to the GWC for food and celebration.

Christmas is a special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus our saviour. It often feels to me that it is forgotten about too quickly with New year approaching fast on the horizon. As Christians we must never forget the importance of the birth of Jesus and the rejoicing of his name. 2019 will bring many challenges, it will stretch us, hurt us and disappoint us. It will excite us, it will make us laugh and it will provide us with cherished memories. 2019 is an opportunity for growth, an opportunity to reach out and opportunity to stand as one in faith for the Lord we serve. Give thanks in everything for the Lord is good, in him all things are possible.

Please take a few minutes to have a look at our newly designed website - www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Also follow us on



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

May I start with a huge thank you to everyone. I have been made to feel really welcome from the moment I walked in to the Centre to find out about Gloucester City Mission. It has been a pleasure meeting so many of you and I am grateful to Phil Gent and Mike Curtis for their prayers and support.

At the AGM I wanted to share something of myself and I want to do something along those lines now for those who weren't able to be there.

In helping identify myself to you it struck me that those things that (might) characterise me are some of the same things that characterise all those we meet, including the homeless.

So, let's start with where I live. I suppose I'm one of the minority who having been born in the county have lived here for all but about six years. And most of those were for further education. As might be surmised from my surname I am of mixed German English parentage, though as I say, born locally. When we meet and greet people, how much notice do we take (or infer) from their living circumstances? Or their ethnic origin? Does it matter if they are many generations British? Or if they have just arrived? Or whether they live in a big house, a flat, social housing, a squat or on the streets?

And of course, there is the question of accent. When I was working in London, I was conscious of my West Country accent, which in some quarters is associated with being of a rustic if not simple nature. How do we react when we hear someone speaking in an accent that isn't like ours? Or actually doesn't want to say very much?

It's that standard conversational gambit isn't it? Often when we meet someone for the first time, we ask what they do. What we do somehow defines who we are. That's fine if we have a job. As one who has been unemployed, being out of work is not good. How do you react when the person you are meeting and greeting tells you they have no job?

For the record I am just coming to the end of my time as the Minister of the independent church in Frampton on Severn affiliated to the Congregational Federation [<https://www.congregational.org.uk>]. I am also a member of a couple of committees that help run the Federation and also the chair of its training oversight committee. Although I have been a minister for about 17 years, my secular career, which ended 2 years ago was all about project management. I was blessed by stints with the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), a management services consulting company and then the Civil Service (in London). I really was blessed, the CEGB gave me a grounding in management, the consultancy introduced me to working with Civil Servants and the Civil Service gave me jobs that took me into the Cabinet Office, No. 10 and the Palace of Westminster.

Have you ever been asked what your religion is? I'm not sure that it is a question that arises that often around Gloucester. But I have been asked, admittedly slightly tongue-in-cheek, on working trips to Liverpool and Belfast. Though, being pedantic, what was being asked was whether I was Protestant or Roman Catholic.

But let's put things into a Christian context; we need to remember:

11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:11-12 New International Version.

We are a Christian organisation, we are Christ's open arms to the world irrespective of who they are.

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40 New International Version

May God watch over our endeavours and may they be to his glory.

Yours in Christ

Nick Gleich
Chair of Trustees

Nick Penney



Beth Allen-Jones



Louise Wyatt



Curry and Quiz Night

The Curry and Quiz Night was hugely successful with the hall packed out with teams. Many thanks to Holly Jones for preparing the food and to Dave and Ade for organising things. Through donations on the night and through the auction over £1080 was raised.



Christmas time is obviously a very busy time of year for everyone and life at GCM is no different. Over the Christmas lunches alone we provided over 300 meals. We had a meal provided by Gloucester Rugby, a Polish Community Christmas meal, a Fire Service meal and our usual Christmas meal. Each one of these meals was a very special occasion and we are grateful to the organisations who came in to support us as well as the volunteers who came in to help out.





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First Aid Course

Over the period of a week we had Lucizaaid First Aid trainers in the Centre to deliver the First Aid at Work course. Over 30 staff and volunteers completed the course.

Christmas Meals

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Schools' Work

GCM has been working more closely with local schools recently. We believe that is very important to share information and raise awareness with children and young people. Visits and links have been established with the High School for Girls, Sir Thomas Richs, Fieldcourt Juniors, Hillview Primary, Highnam Academy, St Pauls Primary, Beech Green, Chosen Hill and Barnwood Park.

Walking Rugby

We are delighted that the walking rugby sessions are still running and are excited that the partnership between us and Gloucester Rugby is continuing to grow so much so that these sessions will be starting to be held in Gloucester Cathedral from the middle of January instead of here at GCM. This is a great development in the promotion of these session with the long term aim being that we will eventually be able to put a team together and maybe even play at Kingsholm. As we continue to grow we hope to offer other courses during 2019 that will develop clients' communication, physical and social skills.

Volunteers

We have an amazing team of around 65 volunteers, but we are always looking for more. Volunteers are needed on a Tuesday afternoon (1-4.30pm), Wednesday morning (10-1.30) and Friday afternoon (1-4.30pm). Our teams serve food, pray for clients, help give out clothes, go out on the streets and help people as Jesus would have done.

If you feel that you would like to come and volunteers, or if you know someone who might be willing to spare a few hours a week, please contact dave@gloscitymission.org.uk

Thank you for all of the donations and support that you offer. GCM would be unable to continue if it wasn't for your thoughts, prayers and support.

The Winter Shelter has proven to be as needed as ever with 52 clients so far needing somewhere warm to sleep for a night and access to hot food, showers and clothes.

In December there were 45 referrals made for people to come and sleep (despite the official homeless figure for Gloucester being 6 people). The data shows that 92% of these referrals are people who are rough sleeping or living in the Gloucester area while the others come from other areas of the county or further afield (including one person from Australia).

The team of staff and volunteers are led by Louise and we are all very appreciative of the donations of time, energy and money that have been given to help support the shelter. The Sponsor a Bed Appeal will continue to run until the end of March, as of the start of January this appeal has brought in £8151.