

Helping the homeless and vulnerable in our city

We hope that you all had a great Easter. Thank you for reading this newsletter, we shall be sending one out fortnightly during these uncertain times to keep you updated with what we are doing.

In the last newsletter I explained that, as a reaction to Covid 19, we have had to change the way we operate, but please be assured that we are still working hard to support people across the city who need our help.

We are supporting the council and other organisations with their work. The vast majority of our volunteers who work with us through normal times are unfortunately classed as vulnerable themselves and so we took the decision very early on to ask all volunteers to step down. This leaves us with a small staff resource who are very willing and able to continue to support the needs of those who need us.

Amongst other work and video conferencing meetings that have been happening there are many ways in which this is happening:

- Ade is supporting the Foodbank by delivering food parcels using the City Mission van;
- Sue has been cooking meals with the Feeding the 5000 project;
- Paula has been making Easter gift bags for clients in Newton House, Claremont House and Northgate House as well as toiletry packs for clients in the New County Hotel;
- Elaine has been phoning and emailing our volunteers who don't have access to social media or our messages to check that they are ok and to keep them updated.

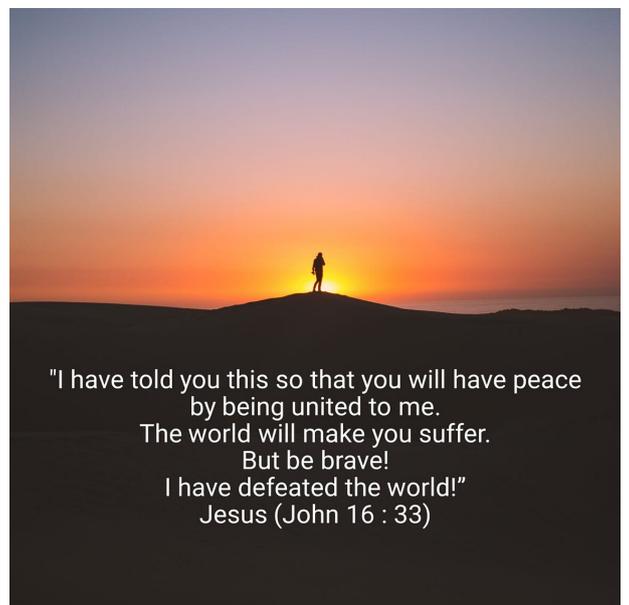
We have also been collecting and delivering food donations from people who have been having food parcels sent to them but they don't feel that they need them.

Our Trustees continue to meet regularly and other meetings continue between myself and the trustees to plan out our next steps.

We continue to ask you to hold the clients in your prayers and that you are able to continue to support us. Financially things will potentially become a bit tricky for us due to the reduced opportunities for fundraising but we have just received grants from the Gloucestershire Community Foundation and the CAF Emergency Fund to help us out and we continue to pray that God will provide for us.

Take care,

Kevin



The Trustees, alongside Kevin, continue to monitor the Corona Virus situation, particularly the guidance from Government, the NHS and the Council. We have a duty of care to the staff and volunteers and therefore underscore the need to limit what can be done at the moment. This is frustrating because we know that staff and volunteers all want to get out and help. We must ensure that what is done across the city is coordinated and those in need are helped appropriately. We are aware that some vulnerable people are getting multiple unasked-for support whilst others are in need.

GCM exists to engage with rough sleepers, currently that need is being met by the Council and their agents following the Government's CEAP scheme (similar to the very cold weather winter provision). We stand ready to support the Council and their agents should they request help, but they tell us that they are coping so far.

When the restrictions on the lock-down begin to be relaxed, then GCM will resume outreach and other activities as appropriate, resources permitting.

As the Trustees think about how the staff and volunteers are doing in these times, a couple of verses from 1 Thessalonians come to mind:

2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nick Gleich, Chair of Trustees

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**

- Christine's family after she was sadly taken by Covid 19;
- Sally. she works in a London hospital on the physiotherapy team but have all been asked to help take over from nurses on the wards, while they go on Covid wards. Sally is now working on the stroke wards and has been for last few weeks;
- Jayne and her family who are struggling with loss at this time;
- Kathy Gibson, County Homeless Coordinator is working tirelessly to support people;
- The staff at P3 who are working so hard to support clients;
- The Homeless Healthcare Team who continue to look after clients on the frontline;
- The NHS, Social Care Workers and Emergency Services who are doing such an incredible job;
- All essential and key workers in schools, shops and elsewhere keeping the country running;
- The leaders of our country;
- The Foodbank staff and volunteers.

St Catharine's Church have set up a 24/7 prayer group for Gloucestershire Royal Hospital as it is in their Parish. Please visit www.stcatharine.org.uk/hospital

Kevin's New Hairstyle

As many of you are aware, Kevin's children decided that they wanted to do something to raise funds for GCM so they decided to shave his head.



Due to the generosity of people (who possibly just wanted a reason to laugh at him) the current donation total stands at £1736.

You can still donate if you wish via text Please Text GCMHEADSHAVE (followed by the amount you wish to donate) to 70085(eg Text GCMHEADSHAVE 2 to 70085 to donate £2 plus one standard rate message)or donate via www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/glosci tymission

If you would like to do something to raise funds for us however large or small, please do get in touch



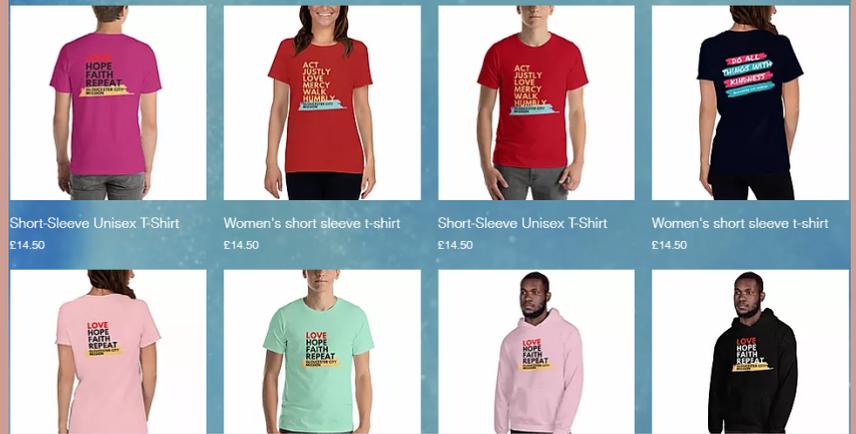
Last week I had my first day supporting the Feed the 5000 Project at Roots who have partnered with The Long Table.

We cooked & froze 43 chicken & chickpea curries. These meals will go into stock for delivery (again using volunteers) to vulnerable and self isolating people. Its great to be part of such a great project. As well as people ordering and buying meals, referrals come in from the Foodbank and other agencies working with the homeless people & vulnerable families.

Sue

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



Anxiety-Calming Scriptures

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. (CSB)

Psalm 4:8

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. (NIV)

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. (NASB)

Philippians 4:6-7

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand. (CSB)

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. (ESV)

John 14:1

Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. (HCSB)

to read more, visit cathymcintosh.com

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



Kathy Gibson is the County Homeless Coordinator and is someone who we have strong links and work closely with. She wanted to reassure everyone and has said 'I can confirm that the individuals placed in CEAP accommodation have been provided with food in a variety of methods (food parcels, packed lunches, hot food deliveries, takeaways etc) since the accommodation opened. Numbers are changing daily; we have housed over 100 individuals at present (rough sleepers, sofa surfers, vulnerably housed etc). We are now working on an assessment of needs for each individual re: accesses to food in long term.

If you see someone who is sleeping rough please either Streetlink them using the Streetlink App or by phoning 0300 500 0914 or you can use these contact numbers

If you are Homeless please call the council on 01452 396396

If you can't get through please call P3 outreach team on 0808 168 2443

Or P3 hub 01452 221698

If it is after 5pm please call Emergency Duty Team on 01452 614194

I had ordered 100 Why Easter booklets months ago to give out at our Easter celebration meal at GCM. Lockdown had stopped the meal but I felt a nudge to get on and give these out anyway, so I made up Easter bags with a creme egg, bar of soap, flannel, 'bless you' tissues and note to say we were thinking of all our clients, plus a Why Easter booklet.

I delivered them to 3 supported living houses near to GCM and they were received with much gratitude.

Please pray that the Why Easters get read and the real meaning of Easter resonates in people's hearts, and that there is Kingdom fruit from this time. Thanks for reading this, take care and keep safe.

Paula.



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



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

Registered Charity Number 1115780, Company Number 5830147

admin@gloscitymission.org.uk 01452 901922