



2016 has seen new volunteers come forward for Project Beacon as well as maintaining some old ones.

The balance of experience and enthusiasm is crucial and at the moment I feel we are still getting this right! The aim of Project Beacon has always been to go to people and be on their terms, this may be in a shop doorway or on the side of the road or whilst they are bedding down for the night on a bench.

Some of the stories we hear and circumstances that people find themselves in is heartbreaking and hard to deal with at times. It is important to remember that the power of prayer is so important in what we do, we are never tasked with something that we cannot do and with the Lord all things are possible! But Jesus looked at them and said,

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 ESV

For those of you new to our newsletters, Project Beacon is our Saturday Night outreach into the City of Gloucester. We go to where people are, build relationships and follow 3 strands of work:

- Providing something warm for people (tea, coffee cuppa soup pot noodle etc).
- Making sure people have something warm to wear / sleep in (providing sleeping bags to those who need them – if we have them, clothes, hats and gloves especially in the winter).
- Signposting, encouraging individuals to engage with support services, complete referrals if needed, let people know where they can go to get food in the week.

In a nutshell this is what Project Beacon is all about; we have some non Christians come out with us as well which is great. What a fantastic way to practically show someone

what the church is /should be all about. We also have other agencies that come out with us to see what we do and how we do it, this gives them an insight into the difficulties some people face and helps them build relationships with people as well.

One of the key themes that run through our newsletters is the value and importance of our volunteers. Without them Gloucester City Mission or Project Beacon would not be able to do the work it does. If you are reading this and wondering what you could do to help, if nothing else please pray for our volunteers! They are an amazing crazy bunch and we would be lost without them.



our wonderful volunteers

A Final Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for your support, for all of the anonymous donations that we have received throughout the year and for the continual support of our printers, Inky Little Fingers, who enable us to produce this newsletter. GCM would be unable to continue its work without your thoughts, prayers and support. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Kinghorn and the GCM Team

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Dave's Report

Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Finally GCM have arrived at the George Whitfield Centre (GWC)...

The lease was signed in March and notice was given at Park Street as well as the office we rented from Southgate Evangelical Church. It seems fitting that a good place to start is by thanking both Southgate Evangelical Church and Park Street Mission for their support over the past years and all their encouragement. Without the support of churches and our volunteers GCM would not be able to do what it does in supporting the homeless and vulnerable.

Wednesday at GCM is as busy as ever, we have seen an increase since our move. On May 25th we had our busiest morning seeing 70 people come in for something to eat, maybe some benefit advice, some who were rough sleeping looking for help to find somewhere to go and others just looking for some company as they battle loneliness and isolation.

Our volunteer pool has seen an increase as well; this is such a massive blessing to us and with plans a foot to go to 3 days a week we hope to see this increase even further!

So if you are interested in helping out in any way please get in touch with us at office@gloscitymission.org.uk there is a real variety of roles that we need help with including office duties, kitchen roles and donation sorting!

We are also looking for volunteers to go out onto the streets and engage with our street friends and anyone else we come across and meet.

Work at the George Whitfield is coming along, if you would like to come and visit us please email the address above and we would love to arrange to show you round one afternoon. There will be an open day in September time which will allow visitors access to the Homeless Health Care side and the Gloucester Foodbank side so keep an eye out on the facebook page or website for more details of that.

Dave Kinghorn - Manager GCM



The new building!

Dave's Report

We've moved!

Meet a Missioner

Project Beacon

We've moved!

There are numerous agencies and organisations working in our city to serve the needs of those that simply don't fit in.

Whether the problem is substance abuse or alcohol, whether it's a breakdown in a relationship, redundancy or loss of regular accommodation there are many stories that we hear all pointing to a breakdown in what we might call life's normal routine. Health deteriorates, eating becomes irregular and friendships and family disappear.

In the years that we have sought to support the needy in our City we have helped many people and got to know certain organisations and their staff very well in the process. Paths cross and support is often transferred. Two of those key organisations that we have worked with are the Gloucester Foodbank and the Homeless Healthcare Team (part of the NHS).

During March 2015 Dave Kinghorn asked me if we had ever considered renting our own dedicated premises.

My response was short, explaining that we were happy using the premises where we were and further, explaining that we were unlikely to consider such an initiative. How wrong can you be?

It was important to know what God had in store for us and those we serve and following many months of consideration, meetings and negotiation On 1st May we moved into the George Whitefield Centre in Great Western Road - and we are sharing the building with Gloucester Foodbank and the Homeless Healthcare Team.

Having a large building which affords each organisation the space to operate independently yet giving each a home we can call our own, will help shape our services as we go forward.

Please continue to support us as without your help we will not be able to support those in need.

Phil Gent - Chair of Trustees

SURVIVE THE NIGHT

RAISING AWARENESS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN GLOUCESTER

Survive the Night

On 21st May a group of volunteers slept outdoors to raise awareness of homelessness. Everyone survived and had bacon butties to finish off. It was cold and hard but worth it!

Thanks to everyone for all your support!

Soup Runs

Over the winter months we worked with other churches and groups to provide teams to go out in the evenings to give out hot drinks, soup, sandwiches, crisps and biscuits and to make sure that those spending the night on the streets have enough clothing and bedding to see them through the night.

Each night except Sunday was covered through the months of December to March.



Meet a Missioner

"Do you take Catholics?"

It wasn't a serious question.

I knew Mike Curtis well enough to be pretty sure of his reply.

"We'll take ANYBODY!" He laughed.

(For a trial period, anyway. Thankfully, GCM let me stay!)

I chose to go out on the town with Mike my first week in. I was a little fearful at what I would find, but there was no need to be. A couple of months earlier I had watched a video of a group praying with people on the streets, and I heard the Lord say, "You're going to do that!" I thought I'd imagined it, until that first day when I knelt besides Nicodemus in Easgate Street and offered him a coffee, all the while silently praying, holding This precious soul up to Jesus with His love and compassion. Many prayers, many cups of coffee later, I've never regretted that impulse to join the Mission, or ceased to be thankful of the Mission's willingness to invite Christians of ALL denominations to join the GCM family.

Mary Francis



volunteer Mary Francis

Mango & Fidget Go Long!

One crazy day Mango (Mina) asked her sister Fidget (Bridget) if she would like to swim across the English Channel. She agreed. They started planning. In August 2016, Mango & Fidget will swim the furthest they ever have in solo efforts across the English Channel. 'We are raising money for Gloucester City Mission. These guys do a fantastic job of supporting the homeless in our home city of Gloucester. It is hard to think that anyone should have to sleep rough in these current times.'

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mangoandfidget>



the new building



the interior work



the building in use!