

# Meet a Missioner

When I look back on my life I'm reminded of one of my favourite parables told by Jesus, the **Parable of the Prodigal Son**. The story, in Luke 15:11-32, recounts how a father's son, wishing to be independent, departs with his share of the family wealth to spend as he pleases in wild living. Jesus portrays the father as never giving up hope that one day his son will return and he waits eagerly for that day.

The son eventually falls on desperate times, his friends vanish when his money runs out. He begins to reflect on his position and how low he has got and decides that enough is enough. Will his father accept him back? We read that his father accepts him home with open arms and his son is transformed from a state of destitution to complete restoration.

**The forgiving father, whose character remains constant throughout the story is a picture of God.**

For ten years, I'd been living it up, on a bender, just like the Prodigal Son; frequenting raves in warehouses, clubbing at night. Things came to a head at one rave in Bristol. It was dark, sweaty and condensation was dripping from the ceiling, people were collapsing on the floor around me...and it came to me, 'This is bad enough, even for me...I've had enough...I want to get out of this.'

I went outside, it was early morning in the summer, 5am, and it was just getting light. I went and sat on a bench on my own and thought, 'God, you've got to do something about this, please put my life back on track, make yourself real to me, please help me.' The prodigal had turned back and I felt God was still there, I could come back. God turned my life around, he welcomed me back, piecing my life together and helping me make sense of my life.

Now I help out at **Gloucester City Mission**, to try and help those who are in the same boat as I was. **Jesus Christ is that friend who you can always turn to no matter what situation you are in.** Sometimes the pressures of life are too hard, too much to bear and we need a friend to help us; I can fully recommend him.

Dennis



Dennis



## Volunteering

We currently have over 40 regular volunteers at the mission and without them we wouldn't be able to provide the services that we do.

Last year, having moved into our new building, we were able to extend our opening hours and we now open on:

**Tuesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm**  
**Wednesdays from 11am - 12.30pm**  
**and Fridays from 2pm and 4pm**

We also outreach on the streets of Gloucester city and visit those in supported housing. We are also upgrading our kitchen facilities so there are a wide variety of different volunteer roles for anyone looking to give some time.

We are so grateful to 'The Guru' who provide a meal on a Wednesday every week and for 'C14' who come once a month to give free haircuts.

**Maybe you can offer some skill or some time or would like to give financially to the work here. You can also donate soups/pot-noodles, bedding and clothing, we especially need mens jeans size 32-34 at the moment.**

If you can then please email [dave@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:dave@gloscitymission.org.uk)

## contact us:

01452 901922  
[admin@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:admin@gloscitymission.org.uk)  
The George Whitfield Centre  
107 Great Western Road  
Gloucester GL1 3NF

facebook

[www.facebook.com/GloucesterCityMission](http://www.facebook.com/GloucesterCityMission)  
[www.GlosCityMission.org.uk](http://www.GlosCityMission.org.uk)  
GCM is a member of the British Association of City Missions  
Charity No: 1115780

## 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

*D. Kinghorn*

## Manager's Report

## Winter & Diary Dates

## New Trustee

## Meet a Missioner

## Volunteering

**Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an everlasting love.... I have drawn you with unfailing kindness"**

The mission field as a whole is changing and **Gloucester City Mission** needs to change with it, our approach can differ but our substance remains the same. If you were at the AGM in November this was the message of my report. I am repeating myself here because I believe what I am saying is so important not just to GCM but to Mission field on a whole. Our approach can alter, our ideas, our ministries but the substance of what we do, the centre of it has to be Christ centred or it is not worth doing.

**GCM is growing and moving at a pace that at times is hard to keep up with. In the last newsletter I mentioned plans to go to 3 days a week, praise God we are there, Tuesday and Friday afternoon 2 till 4pm light refreshments, tea and coffee and the clothes store open. Wednesday is still our main day of operation with the food programme seeing in the region of 50 to 70 each week.**

**Greensquare** are attending the George Whitefield Centre twice a week on a Wednesday and Friday providing tenancy sustainment support to those in accommodation which is great and we are pleased to announce that in partnership with Greensquare we will be running short course cooking programmes at the George Whitfield Centre from April. These courses are being designed to up skill some and give basic cooking skills to others. These courses are free to our clients and open the door to other areas of work including healthy eating and budgeting.

Another short term partnership that has seen some real fruition has been the winter shelter. In partnership with **Emmaus Gloucestershire** we were able to open the GWC during SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Provision) and house rough sleepers over night. This has meant that when the weather has been the coldest between January and the end of March, we have been able to really make a massive difference to some of the most vulnerable people in our city. Without the help of Emmaus we would not have been able to achieve this and we have learnt a lot from them along the way.

The last Tuesday of each month we have 2 hairdressers from 'C14' come to the GWC and give free haircuts to our guys this is a brilliant outreach from C14 that we and our visitors really appreciate. 'The Guru' also based on Brunswick Road continue to support us on a Wednesday with 3 vats of food 2 vegan/vegetarian friendly and 1 corn beef stew type of meal. They taste amazing and smell beautiful, this allows us to give our guests something really healthy nutritious and filling. We are really grateful to The Guru and C14 for all their support, so if you are looking for a haircut and then some lunch, Brunswick road is the place to go!

**One thing we really value from our supporters is prayer, a message I have been giving everywhere I go is the power of prayer and how we at GCM appreciate all the prayer we get! If you would like to be part of a GCM specific prayer chain please get your church to email us or you can do it individually at [dave@gloscitymission.org.uk](mailto:dave@gloscitymission.org.uk) this just gives us the chance to email out at once regarding any issues that arise.**

I just want to take this opportunity to say thank you as well, the support of people through donations prayer and volunteering is what keeps the mission going, without it we would struggle and cease. If you feel you can give some time, want to know more then please get in contact emails and phone numbers are on this newsletter.

Many thanks - Dave



Issue 27

**Gloucester**  
CITY MISSION  
Serving Christ in the City





## Winter

### Christmas at Gloucester City Mission

*This was our first Christmas in our new premises and it proved to be a really fruitful time as we welcomed many people through our doors.*

We held our Christmas service on the 14th December, welcoming back the founder of Gloucester City Mission, **Mike Curtis**, who brought the Christmas message and the **Glebe Chapel Singers** who led the Christmas Carols.

A massive thanks to **'The Guru' Restaurant** who provided a **Christmas lunch** on our service day, where we fed over 70 people and this year we were able to give out approximately **350** hampers to those in need, so thank you if you were one of the many people who donated gifts and helped to put the hampers together - such a great effort!

**For the first time we were able to open our doors on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.**

**'Friends at Christmas'** hosted on Christmas Day, so thanks to **Albert Gardiner and his team** who provided lunch and community for the many people who would otherwise have been on their own.

**Project Beacon** is our arm that reaches out every Saturday night in Gloucester City Centre, throughout the year, providing hot drinks and clothing to those who are homeless and vulnerable.

Our teams are made up of many volunteers from different churches and organisations. But from early December until the end of March, when the weather is colder, we also organise a rota of teams who are out every other night of the week. This year it has been great to see **fourteen different city churches** and other organisations step up to be counted in, each taking turns to be out from 9pm, reminding people on the streets that they matter and they aren't forgotten.



Kings Square, Gloucester



Festive Cheer!



Glebe Chapel Singers



## Dates for your diary

On the **1st of every month** we invite the volunteers and staff to join together and pray for each other and for the work of the mission.

**Every three months** we extend the invitation to all our supporters and we would love it if you could join us at the next one on **1st June** to celebrate and pray for all that God is doing through the mission here in Gloucester.

**Wednesday 12th April, 11am** - It's our normal Wednesday opening but we will have an Easter message and will be giving out Easter eggs to all our guests.

## New Trustee

### Meet our newest Trustee!

In 2016 **Ollie Bennett** joined our Trustee board and he comes with a wealth of experience working in the fields of mental health and substance misuse. In his words:

"In 1987 I left my home in Cornwall and went to work for a year with the **London City Mission** - I was 18 years of age. I was placed in a team based in Covent Garden, working with the homeless in and around the West End of London and it was during this time that I met many people living on the streets who had mental health issues. It was this that led me to apply to do my mental health training, which is how I ended up in Gloucester and I qualified as a registered mental nurse (RMN) in 1991.

I worked in a variety of mental health teams as a nurse and a community nurse before I specialised in substance misuse treatment where I became a Team Manager for drug and alcohol services in Gloucestershire for the NHS and then subsequently with Turning Point, before my career took a completely different turn in 2014. Since then I have been working full-time as the **Pastor of Kingfisher Church in Tredworth**. It is a real honour to be involved with GCM, supporting the work of the Mission and coming alongside Dave Kinghorn and the growing team of volunteers, and it has felt like a real return to my roots, where God first called me to this particular mission field."

**Please pray for Ollie and for all our other trustees as they oversee the work of the mission in this coming year.**



Ollie

### New showers and washing facilities

Since moving in to the **George Whitfield Centre** we have embarked on a number of improvements to make it fitter for our purpose, including a new meeting room (now named **The Curtis Room**), storage space and an upgraded sound and media system. One of the projects we were keen to establish early on was to upgrade the toilet facilities and install male and female showers for the many people who don't have access to these things on a daily basis.

**We are so excited that this has now become a reality having been completed and handed over to us on Christmas Eve. We would not have been able to do this without the fundraising efforts of our supporters.**

So we want to say a massive thank you to **Mina and Bridget Ward** who raised **£5,500**, and to **The Rotary Club**, Gloucester and their President, **Martin Henshaw**, who made this project possible. We now have new showers, toilets and a space to wash and dry clothes, which is a great resource to maintain people's dignity when they have very little else.



New washing facilities



New showers!

# SURVIVE THE NIGHT

RAISING AWARENESS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN GLOUCESTER

### Survive the Night

**Saturday 6th May** (all night) It's our next 'Survive the Night' event. Following on from last year's successful night outside the Cathedral we will be rallying support, raising awareness about homelessness and fundraising for the work of the mission.

**If you want to be involved please contact the office for more details.**