

How your support is transforming lives.



Working together

Creating community

Our weekly brunch and English classes for our international guests are helping people to feel at home in a new city.

Building confidence

A new parenting class at our Child and Family Centre called Circle of Security is benefiting the whole family.

Fundraising heroes

Runners, knitters, cyclists and bakers – our work would not be possible without our amazing fundraisers.

A new Chief Executive

The Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Charles Maasz as Glasgow City Mission's new Chief Executive. Charles is known to many of us in his current role as Pastoral Chef based at our city centre project.



Charles (pictured) comes from a background in hospitality, property acquisition and pioneer ministry with the Baptist Union. He has a BSc Hons in Land Economics and a BD Hons in Theology and Pastoral Care. We look forward to the creative and visionary leadership Charles will bring as we embark on our next five-year strategy – to see our city and its people flourish.

With a diversity and breadth of skills, qualifications and professional and lived experience, the Board is convinced of God's call on Charles' life to lead Glasgow City Mission into our next stages of ministry and development.

We trust you will join us in prayerfully supporting Charles as he takes up his new role.

Shaw Anderson
Chair of the Board

Making contact

Building relationships over coffee and sharing food with our guests is central to our work. Our daytime Drop-in is one of the main spaces during the day when this can happen.

The daytime Drop-in runs four days a week. Simon, Senior Project Worker, says, "It's for everyone. Here we can make connections with people and link them into other things that are going on in our building, including one-to-one support. It would be difficult to do the one-to-one work without this space to make initial connections.

"Only last week, two people who had been released from prison that morning came to the Drop-in. We were able to help them make phone calls to chase up their accommodation. One of them didn't know which chemist he was meant to get his methadone script from, so we were able to help with that. It was a cold day and one only had jeans and a t shirt so we were able to give him a new t-shirt and a jacket."

We have a street outreach project where we go out in pairs to connect with people who are begging or sleeping rough on the streets. The team is often out while our daytime Drop-in is on. As they build up trust with the people they meet they can encourage them to come to the Drop-in where they can get food and support and be linked in with our other services.

There's also a group of regulars who come to at least one Drop-in each week. They come for community, for the routine and for a safe space to spend time. John has a chaotic lifestyle but comes regularly and always asks for Joe, one of our Project Workers. Without the Drop-in, it would be hard for us to maintain contact with people such as John.

Someone to listen

Stuart, pictured top right, helps at the Drop-in. He says, "I love it. I enjoy talking to the guests. I understand them. I've been homeless. I've been in addiction and in prison. I want to help people. Some of the guests are friends from when I was in rehab, or hostels or jail. They say to me, 'If you can do it [get clean and turn your life around], anyone can.'

"Coming in here makes people feel a bit more human. They can get a shower and a shave and a cup of tea. A lot of them get ignored if they're out on the streets. They come in for company."

Along with tea and coffee, we serve baking, bacon rolls and fresh soup on different days. Other organisations who our guests might not otherwise have access to also attend. Victim Support comes, as does Citizens Advice Bureau, opticians, dentists and hairdressers. Joanna is a dental health support worker. She comes once a fortnight so guests can chat with her about their oral health. She says, "I can help people deal with any anxiety they have about going to the dentist. And I can help people with no fixed address fill out the right form so they can access the dental care they are entitled to."

This service is often when we meet people for the first time, for example when they have hit the lowest point in life and need someone who will sit and listen to them. Stuart says, "I listen to people. That's often what they want. If it wasn't for someone taking the chance on me, I wouldn't be sitting here today."



Creating community

Every Thursday we meet with our international guests for brunch, games and English classes.

“Slowly these people are my family,” says Amirreza. “In Scotland, I don’t have friends or family. I’m so happy because now I have a big family.”

Amirreza comes to our weekly brunch and English classes. After fleeing Iran with his son, he lived in Turkey for four years before coming to the UK. He says, “It was hardship. I prayed (to leave Turkey) and my God listened and answered me. Now I’m here and me and my son are happy.”

“I came every day and then started college. I come here two times a week and three days to college. I enjoy the community, and I can learn the culture of this country. Before, I didn’t have this community.”

He comes to the brunch and he also uses our Urban café, where he can use the computers, play chess and go on some of the trips and outings that we organise. Amirreza was a civil engineer in Iran, and hopes to go to university in Scotland to become qualified to use those skills here. He has also started helping out in Urban, for example helping ensure the café area is stocked and tidy.

Many of our international guests are seeking asylum and have only recently arrived in Glasgow. They are often carrying trauma from whatever situation caused them to flee their own country, and have had difficult journeys to get to the UK.

As well as building community, the brunch also helps us get to know people’s individual needs. Adam, our Project Worker who works with our international guests, says, “They say things like, ‘this is my family’ and ‘I check my watch to see if it is Thursday’. There’s a great atmosphere as we share food together and practice English. The volunteers are amazing, it’s a brilliant team – committed and caring.”

“There’s an overwhelming need among the people we work with and many are dealing with trauma. A lot of people come to me with practical requests – the challenge is to be ready to spend time with people to get to the deeper issues and also to enable them to utilise their gifts and skills.”

Kebrom, from Eritrea, enjoys the chance to meet people from different countries, such as Scotland, Sudan and Nigeria. He says, “It’s fantastic food, and it helps my English. I came to the UK because in my country it was a bad life.” He now has limited leave to remain but is unable to travel to visit his family, who are scattered across the world.

He says, “All the people here help me. Adam is a good friend for all the people here. He is a kind person. The volunteers talk slowly and know how to understand people.”

Adam says, “I’m inspired by working with our international guests, who have huge resilience and faith in the midst of the challenges they are facing. Many of them have multiple degrees and are highly skilled, but are unable to work due to the asylum process. They are desperate to move from a place of receiving support to being able to utilise their skills and talents. And it’s a privilege to learn from our guests. For example, at our weekly Bible study I’m constantly amazed by their insights and perspectives.”

“ I enjoy the community, and I can learn the culture of this country. Before, I didn’t have this community.”

Building confidence

Working with the whole family at our Child and Family Centre in Govan helps the children we work with to flourish. We are running a parenting course in partnership with the NSPCC, and it is already having an impact on the children.

Emma M, Kaye, Hafsa and Emma R are discussing the NSPCC Circle of Security parenting course. “It was like counselling,” says Emma. Emma M, Kaye and Hafsa benefitted from the course earlier in the year and Emma R is enjoying the current sessions.

“Talking to the other mums was good,” agrees Kaye (pictured left), who is mum to Mairead, 18 months and Anna, aged four. “I learnt that if you’re doing it right 30 per cent of the time, you’re winning – that’s made me a bit more confident as a mum. I’m a wee bit calmer and I’ll take time to listen to them and come right down to their level, so I can look them in the eye instead of towering over them.”

Margaret, our Adult Worker, says, “When a child’s parents are more in tune with their needs, that child is going to grow up feeling more confident and secure and less afraid, and more able to form attachments with others. What’s brilliant is seeing people getting an awareness of generational parenting strategies that can be damaging, and see them want to do something different. They are learning that it’s ok to teach boys to cry and not to suppress their emotions.”

Emma R agrees. “It’s different now to when we were growing up. I’m doing the course because my four-year-old (Konlin), finds it hard to show emotion. I wanted to try and understand him better. It’s working, he explains more to me. The course opens your eyes to the emotional side.”

Emma M has a four-year-old son called Milo. She says, “I want my son to know it’s ok to let emotion out. On this course I’ve learnt it’s ok for him to cry and want a cuddle. Now I take time before I react and I take time to listen to him.”

Hafsa says, “I’m not affectionate and it was affecting my little one [Amelia, aged 5]. The way I was raised it was tough love. Giving her hugs feels weird but I keep trying. She comes to me now and tells me how she feels and what she has been doing. Before, she would just have told her dad.”



The course is delivered at our centre by staff from the NSPCC and consists of a session per week for eight weeks. There’s also a home visit at the start and end of the course to discuss what the parent wants to get out of the course and then to see if the learning is being implemented. We’re able to encourage parents to take part because of the relationships we have with them.

We had seven people on the first course and five on the current course, including two dads. Margaret says, “Their wives did the previous course, so now they will be able to support one another in their parenting. I sit in on the course and I can contribute, and because I’ve got a relationship with the parents, I can do follow up.”

Emma M says, “I’ve been coming here since Molly (now 6) was at nursery. My friend brought her daughter and my best friend came here when she was growing up. It’s always been part of our community. “It’s good just being here and being involved. If I’m having a bad day you can talk to another mum. You can give a cry for help sometimes as well.”

She comes to our family holiday clubs, and says, “the kids pure love it. They can spend time with their school and nursery friends. It’s easy for a parent, knowing they are having a good time.”



Volunteer with us

We are looking for more volunteers to help out at our Child and Family Centre. If this is something you might be interested in, please have a look on our website which contains more information along with an online application form:

www.glasgowcitymission.com > how can you help > volunteer

Fundraising heroes

Our work wouldn't be possible without our amazing fundraisers. Bakers, mountain climbers, knitters, cyclists, and runners – we are so grateful for each individual that chooses to use their time and talents to help to tackle homelessness and poverty. Here is just a small snapshot of some of the ways you have been raising money to make a difference.

Big Arran Challenge

Ian completed the Big Arran Challenge for the third time this May, cycling 57 miles round the island. He says, "I enjoy cycling and love Arran, so doing the Big Arran Challenge to support Glasgow City Mission's incredible work with homeless and disadvantaged people in Glasgow is a very enjoyable and fulfilling way to raise funds. This year was the best Challenge yet!"

It has turned into a family event – he wasn't able to take part last year but his wife and son cycled the island instead.

Marion took part in the Big Arran Challenge with her friends. She says, "I wanted to raise money because I am aware of the fantastic work they do through my role as a Street Pastor. I've volunteered for the night shelter and know what an amazing service it provides. I'm not sure if the word 'enjoy' aptly describes the experience. I didn't enjoy the hills or the wind. However the scenery and the sound of the oyster catchers was awesome. The First Friday tour of the city centre project the week before was so beneficial. When I was struggling up the hills I focused on Sammy [a Glasgow City Mission helper] and kept reminding myself of how Glasgow City Mission had helped change her life."



Kiltwalk

Glasgow City Mission volunteers Alison and Susan took part in the Kiltwalk this May, walking all the way from Glasgow Green to Balloch. Susan says, "The walk was great and we were blessed with a dry day. We had trained quite well for it – though we both felt every step of that 23rd mile which never seemed to end! It took us just over seven hours in total, with a few short but welcome pit-stops. We were motivated to fundraise because as volunteers at the evening Drop-in and at the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter, we bear witness to the transformational work of Glasgow City Mission's practical and spiritual ministry."



Mini peaks

Beathan, 7, and Coen, 5, are two of our youngest fundraisers, taking on the inaugural mini peaks challenge. Their mum Suzanne says, "They started asking about homelessness and decided they'd like to do something about it. They love the idea and practice of charity, so we helped them invent their own fundraising challenge." Over the course of a long weekend, they climbed Dumgoyne Hill, Ben A'an and Conic Hill, which is a great achievement.

Knitting and sewing

Janice and Jean are crafters who sell their knitting and sewing at craft fairs and other events. Jean says, "We never thought it would take off as it has. We're motivated by seeing how well the things are selling, and knowing we're helping people. It's not just the money - it's the joy on people's faces when they find something they want, and knowing we're using the gifts we've been given to help people. It's about helping each other."

Get involved

If you have a great fundraising idea we'd love to hear from you. Or have a look at the fundraising section of our website for some inspiration:

www.glasgowcitymission.com >
how can you help > fundraise.



News round-up

> Making progress

We're delighted that 22 of our Urban members got paid jobs last year, in areas such as hospitality and care work. This is helping other guests to see what is possible. This year we've already had 49 people joining Urban. There has been a great uptake of guests engaging with Tracy, pictured, from partner agency Momentum Skills, who helps guests develop employability skills. It is our hope that all Urban members will engage with the activities we run and make progress with their lives. For some this will mean paid work, others will get into college and for some it will mean growing in confidence and feeling more hopeful.



> Weekend away

Children from our Child and Family Centre have had a great time at a Scripture Union (SU) weekend away at Lendrick Muir. The five children and Leanne our Project Worker joined children from across Glasgow at the SU outdoor centre for activities including mountain biking, archery, bungee trampolining, crafts and studying the Bible together. We hope to take more of the children we work with to SU camps.

Pray with us

- > Please pray for our international guests. Pray that we will know how best to serve them as they navigate the asylum system and build community in Glasgow having left behind family and friends in their home countries.
- > Give thanks for our new staff members, including James who takes up the new role of Men and Boys Worker at the Child and Family Centre; our new Marketing and Fundraising Manager who will soon be starting with us; and for Charles, our new Chief Executive. We have also started the recruitment process for the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter Manager and a new Pastoral Chef.
- > Give thanks for all the parents and their children who are benefitting from the Circle of Security parenting course, and pray that as families implement the learning they will see their relationships with their children strengthened. We give thanks for our partnership with the NSPCC.
- > As the summer approaches, both our city centre project and our Child and Family Centre will be going out on more trips. These can be rare and valuable opportunities to enjoy a change of scenery and forget about difficult situations for a short while. Please pray for safe travels and lots of fun to be had.

More online

Keep up to date with our latest news, events and prayer requests.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for up to the minute news of how your support is changing lives.

Visit our website:
www.glasgowcitymission.com



Respond

"I want to transform lives in Glasgow"

1 I'd like to set up a monthly donation

The sum of £3 £12 £24 £36 £50 Other £_____ every month

On the 1st 15th of every month, starting in _____ MONTH _____

Account holder: _____

Account number: _____ Sort code: _____

Charities Aid Foundation processes donations on our behalf and will send you a Direct Debit Guarantee and advanced notice letter before your first donation.



I'd like to give a one off gift of £ _____

I enclose a cheque (payable to Glasgow City Mission) Or Please debit my card

Card No: _____ Expiry: _____ Start: _____

Security code (last 3 digits on the reverse of your card): _____

2 Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Where did you receive this copy of Connect: _____

I want to make my gift worth 25% more at no extra cost.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

We'll not share your details with any third parties for the purposes of their marketing or phone you to ask for more money. We'd like to let you know the impact of your support but if you don't want to hear from Glasgow City Mission in the future, tick here .

3 Please send me more information about:

- volunteering
- fundraising
- leaving a gift in my will
- booking someone to speak at my church/group
- arranging a visit to Glasgow City Mission
- I want to receive prayer news by email

Email: _____

Completed forms can be posted to: 'Freepost, Glasgow City Mission'

OVER TO YOU

What could you do this summer to tackle homelessness and poverty?



sponsored cycle

- ✓ *bake sale*
- ✓ *sponsored walk*
- ✓ *host an afternoon tea*
- ✓ *dress down day at work*
- ✓ *ultramarathon*
- ✓ *sponsored hill walk*
- ✓ *host a garden party*
- ✓ *coffee morning*
- ✓ *car wash*
- ✓ *treasure hunt*
- ✓ *insert suggestion here...*

For inspiration visit: www.glasgowcitymission.com > how can you help > fundraise

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