

How your support is transforming lives.

Onwards and upwards



Where we're going

Our new five-year vision is deliberately ambitious

Clean break

One girl's story of transformation and a fresh start

Generation to generation

Celebrating the impact of 30 years of families work

We choose to go to the moon

On 12 September 1962, former president John F Kennedy set out an ambitious, if not impossible, plan in his famous speech that set the clear objective of landing on the moon.

“We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organise and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win.”

This must have been questioned at all levels of government. Was it achievable at all, let alone within the timescale set?

On 20 July 1969, Apollo II landed on the moon.

Not all human ambition is necessarily good. However when God plants a vision, bold aspiration should follow. We should be willing to seek to serve and work with our Lord in making the vision a reality. Glasgow City Mission seeks to listen to God, to serve him, and to follow to the best of our ability.

Included in this edition of Connect is a summary of our latest plan. **“Who we are, and where we’re going...”** It is deliberately ambitious as a challenge to us all to rise to our full potential in God.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed significant growth throughout our services thanks to God’s blessing and your support. The need continues to be great in the city. We feel that God has entrusted us and equipped us to serve the poor and disadvantaged and we should aim to do it to the best of our ability, always looking for and praying for God’s miraculous intervention.



Grant Campbell,
Chief Executive

Where we’re going, how we’ll get there

Our five year vision is deliberately ambitious. We want to see our city and its people flourish, where people are accepted and can experience real change in their lives. Our service plan takes us through to 2020. There is much to be accomplished in that time.

The need

Almost 200 years after we were established, our ethos remains the same. All that we do is an expression of our faith as we unconditionally accept people and aim to bring out the best in them. The love of Christ compels us to serve others.

Relationships remain at the heart of all we do. Thanks to your support, we’ve already recruited additional staff at our City Centre Project and Child and Family Centre – allowing us to spend more time on a one to one basis with people, building relationships and helping them move forwards.

In the next five years we will also:

- > Launch a feasibility study into providing our own supported accommodation;
- > Make the case for issue-based advocacy to speak up for our clients facing difficulties;
- > Grow our services and partnerships to extend the reach and effectiveness of our work;
- > Ensure we have the right ratio of staff for one to one engagement with our clients to see real change in their lives;
- > Grow our Child and Family Centre to help strengthen more vulnerable families and give more children in our city the best start possible;
- > Ensure our staff and volunteers are well trained and supported to deliver high standards of care.



“**Our five year vision is deliberately ambitious. We want to see our city and its people flourish, where people are accepted and can experience real change in their lives.**”

Read more about our plans for the Child and Family Centre on page 8.

Read our full service plan on the ‘About us’ section of our website:
www.glasgowcitymission.com



“**We couldn’t do any of this without you.**

We are so grateful to you for partnering with us in God’s plans for transforming our city by praying, volunteering, giving and fundraising. Thank you.”



> Paula

Clean break

If you've had a criminal record since you were 16 and have regularly been in and out of prison, going to court is unlikely to be a positive experience. So when 26-year-old Paula recently appeared in court and heard the judge tell her well done and that he was proud of her, she was overwhelmed.

Paula says of her most recent experience in court, "It was brilliant. I was happy for a judge to say how proud he was of me. I was overwhelmed and shaking. I realised I didn't want my old lifestyle back."

She is part of the City Ambition Network (CAN). We're co-founders of this initiative in which agencies work collaboratively and intensively to ensure people with multiple needs are adequately housed and supported. It started in spring 2015.

"It was brilliant. I was happy for a judge to say how proud he was of me. I was overwhelmed and shaking. I realised I didn't want my old lifestyle back."

Thanks to CAN, when Paula was released from prison last year she went straight into supported accommodation. Before the existence of CAN, whenever Paula was released from prison, accommodation would not have been lined up. She says, "I would end up homeless waiting on accommodation for weeks and would feel like I was back at square one. I'd pick up my addictions and chaotic lifestyle again."

Four months later Paula found herself on remand in prison for four weeks. Our Project Worker Linda is Paula's main point of contact for CAN and she continued to visit her in prison. This time on release, Paula went to stay with her sister. Thanks to CAN's influence, she was able to stay there until a

suitable flat could be found. While living with her sister, Paula was able to start tackling her addictions.

She was expecting all of this to be ruined by her most recent court visit – thinking the judge was going to put her back on remand. Instead, the judge recognised how much she has changed and how hard she is working to improve her life. She is in a good flat nearby to her family which is giving her the stability she needs to overcome her addictions. She's also looking into applying to college. She says, "I would like to build a strong relationship with my family. In time I would like to do a care or beauty course to help me stay focussed and give me purpose in my life. Most importantly I would like to stay clean, stay out of prison and gain confidence to move forward."

Linda has been working with Paula for the past four years, the last year of which has been in partnership with CAN. She says, "I always believed she could change. She lost her mum to addiction and her dad is dependent on alcohol and drugs. She got involved in drugs and alcohol in her teenage years to block a lot of her issues out.

"She's a young, talented girl and I knew she could change her life around with the right support. It meant choosing to still visit her in prison and to stick with her when she was chaotic, and then still being around when she's doing well. The highlights of the prison visits were her asking, "should we pray?" At the end of every visit we'd hold hands and I'd pray for her."

"At the end of every visit we'd hold hands and I'd pray for her."

Generation to generation

Generations of children have benefitted from 30 years of our Child and Family Centre. Now some of the first little ones to attend are parents themselves bringing their own children. Centre Manager Anne Scott has been there from the start.

"I had a desire in my heart to work with children in the community where I grew up," says Anne. She is now Project Manager for our Child and Family Centre, but more than 30 years ago she was a young girl attending our old mission hall in Govan.

Anne says of the mission hall, "The folks there welcomed me in. They had been praying for years for the community. They saw a need for work with young parents and their families. When I was 17, I got involved in the Sunday School. Then we started a playgroup a few mornings a week.

Best possible start

"We then started a nursery and saw a need for a parent and toddler group as well, so that parents would have somewhere to go and meet other parents."

Anne remembers children with additional support needs who we have worked with over the years, such as Ben. She says, "He had communication difficulties. Many people didn't think he'd get to [mainstream] school, but we believed he could. We got external agencies in. He went through mainstream primary and secondary school. We still see him about, he's doing really well."

Her colleague Fiona has been with the Centre for 15 years. She says, "One girl that sticks in my head is Beth. She couldn't speak, she hit other kids. We worked with her and her mum – for example modelling to her mum how to deal with her. She went on to school." This was a fantastic outcome for a child who had so many needs when she started at the nursery.

Life-long friends

Sarah Jane, now 30, and her sister Erin, 22, came to the Child and Family Centre in its early days. Her mum Frances says, "They loved every day of it. Every day you'd get different stories. They made lifelong friends."

Now Sarah Jane's daughter Savannah comes to our nursery. Sarah Jane says, "It means something to Savannah that I came here too, and it's been running so long you know it's successful."

Lee-Anne also came here when the centre first opened, along with her two brothers. Her daughter Ariannah is four months old and they're on the waiting list for our Parent and Toddler sessions. She says, "My mum said I could have stayed here all day. It made me confident. I had no problem going on to school. The staff were amazing – they're just like family. If you see them on the street they'll ask, 'how's your mum, how's your brother?'"

"We've been in Linthouse all our lives so to have this on our doorstep is brilliant. I want to be able to just drop Ariannah off and know that she's safe. Because I've been here, I'd never think twice. It's brilliant it's still running 30 years later. Ariannah will come here with her own family."

Sarah Jane says, "The activities that are on here bring people together – they create friendships. There's a community spirit in here."

Anne's deep commitment to the families of Govan was recognised recently when the parents successfully nominated her for an Evening Times Community Champion Award for South Glasgow. The work of the centre has helped influence the UN. They visited last year to look at how governments can help end child poverty.

Anne says of her 30 years of service, "It's more than a job, it's a calling, showing God's heart. Staff that really care and love the community make a difference."

Some names have been changed to protect children's anonymity



“It’s brilliant it’s still running 30 years later.”

30!
YEARS

> Lee-Anne with Ariannah

A new hope

We are building on the last 30 years of our Child and Family Centre with our plans for the future, retaining all that is good and expanding our services. Child and Family Centre Project Manager Anne Scott says, "My vision then as now is to enable parents to give their children the best possible start in life, and to encourage the children and give them the opportunities that I never experienced."

"I want to keep showing the children and their families the love of Jesus through our actions and deeds, as we do what Jesus would do and act as His hands and feet."

We're committed to growing and expanding our work with children and their families in Govan. We believe that prevention is better than cure, and by investing in young families, we are reducing the likelihood of these families needing our services in the city centre in the future.

Going deeper with families is key to our vision. Recruiting Elaine, our new adult

worker, last summer was the first step in this expansion. Elaine is able to do more one to one work with parents, building deeper relationships with them. We've also started new services for parents. Elaine has been supporting parents to be able to run many of the classes themselves. Two of our parents will attend a course which will enable them to lead cookery classes for other parents.

We want to be able to work with children and their families for longer – expanding the age range we work with in response to demand, and because we know that the whole family is important. Our new after school club for children in primaries 1-3 is the start of this. In time we hope to be able to work with older children, for example with clubs for teenagers in the evenings.

As we see the results of 30 years of service in Govan and plan ahead for the future, we are thankful to God for all He has done and is doing. We are excited to see what is in store.



News roundup

> Doors Open Day

We're opening our city centre doors in September as part of this year's Doors Open Day Festival. Come on in on 17 September. Be welcomed into our award-winning building, take part in some art, have a coffee in our Urban café, hear clients' stories, and tour our gym, music studio and roof garden.



And on 13 September join us for a short seminar and tour of our building. This will explore how well-planned architecture and design can impact on people's wellbeing and on service delivery. This talk will be of particular interest to those involved in design or in running projects. Booking for the talk is essential.

More details are available on our website, or contact us for more information.

www.glasgowcitymission.com

> Football in the square

We're looking forward to the Homeless World Cup being held in Glasgow's George Square this summer, when 100,000 spectators will watch teams from 51 countries compete for the trophy. The annual tournament shines a light on homelessness. It shows that those who find themselves without a home have skills and something to offer, and that there's a way out of their situation. We took some of our clients to try out for the Scottish squad, and other clients hope to volunteer at the event. July 10-16, George Square, free entry.



> Jam packed with potential



Lime, chillies, rosemary and mint are just some of the ingredients our clients are trialling in their new jam-making business venture. A group called Inactus from Glasgow Caledonian University has been coming in each week to help the group develop. Matthew who leads the student group says, "We originally thought of doing candles and soaps, but feedback from the guys was they wanted to do jams and chutneys. It's going great. They're deciding on flavours and looking at branding."

"I'm hoping some of the guys would get employment out of it, or the opportunity to work in kitchens."

"I'm hoping some of the guys would get employment out of it, or the opportunity to work in kitchens." Chris is taking part in the group and says, "I enjoyed coming up with the flavours. I tried business in college but didn't like it. Here, instead of being told what to do, we get a big say in what happens."

News roundup

> Museums on the move

The men at our older mens lunch club have been enjoying all the fun of the museum. Mark and Elaine, from Glasgow Life, bring their mobile museum to the club. Each visit focusses on items from a different decade. Elaine explains that Glasgow's museums belong to its residents, and the aim of the project is to make those museums as accessible as possible.

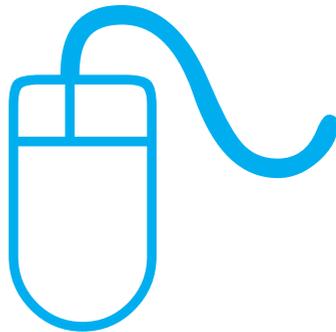
At 60s week, pictured, a red VW Van opened out to reveal old money, newspapers from the decade as well as clothes, a radio and kitchen utensils.

Joe Campbell, our Project Worker, says, "People might feel intimidated about going to museums, so this is a way of giving them a taste of that culture. It brings a sense of fun to the club, with the men laughing and reminiscing."



Pray with us

- > Give thanks that God is giving Glasgow City Mission opportunities to be involved in tackling homelessness in Glasgow.
- > Pray that through our new service plan, God will continue to bless and lead us all as part of His transforming plan for the city.
- > Give thanks for all the children and their families who have been impacted by 30 years of our Child and Family Centre. Pray that all the families we're currently working with will have opportunities to fulfil their potential.
- > Pray for our younger men, many of whom feel hopeless about the future despite being full of skills, abilities and potential. Pray they would encounter God and experience life in all its fullness.



More online

Stay up to date with all our news, events and prayer requests.

Visit our website:
www.glasgowcitymission.com

Like us on Facebook

Or

Follow us on Twitter

Respond

"I want to transform lives in Glasgow"

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of Connect and have been inspired. It is the generosity of our supporters that is allowing us to go deeper with those we serve and which will see lives transformed. If you join us, we can do even more.

1

I'd like to set up a monthly donation

To the manager, bank/building society

Account No: Branch:

Please pay Glasgow City Mission, account no: 00401095, sort code: 80-54-01, Bank of Scotland, Gordon Street, Glasgow, G1 3RS

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

On the day of every month

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

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr):

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

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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.

3

Please send me more information about:

volunteering

booking someone to speak at my church/group

fundraising

receiving your prayer and e-newsletter

leaving a gift in my will

arranging a visit to Glasgow City Mission

4

Signature: Date:

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

Thank you

Reg Charity SC001499

16SUM

Bear City Strollers Give a Little Love

Jill Morrison of Bearsden Baptist Church reveals why she and some friends swapped the TV for the track and made a big difference to those needing help at Glasgow City Mission.

A group of us who attend Bearsden Baptist were keen to improve our fitness. We signed ourselves up as The Bear City Strollers for the Buchlyvie 10k run.

“Knowing we were running for a great cause and trusted charity proved to be a real motivator.”

Glasgow City Mission is a charity close to our hearts. Some of us have personally been involved as volunteers along with many others in the church. Sometimes living in a place like Bearsden you can shut yourself off from the realities that many in our city experience. As a church however, we've chosen to get involved. As well as volunteering, we also regularly pray for and contribute financially to the Mission.

Knowing we were running for a great cause and trusted charity proved to be a real motivator, particularly on cold, wet evenings. We were conscious that whilst we may be a little damp during our training, people in our city who are homeless would be sleeping outside in the same conditions.



We raised £866 – much more than we expected.

Crossing the finish line was a fantastic feeling. We each felt we'd personally accomplished something, but we also knew we'd made a big difference in helping people who rely on Glasgow City Mission's services.

We ran with the Gang

Team member Laura said, "Running as a church family meant raising as much as possible for a great charity while keeping fit. Glasgow City Mission is a fantastic charity with Christ and love at the centre. So if you are looking for a motivating factor to get active, Glasgow City Mission is most definitely it!"

Get involved

There are lots of ways you can fundraise. If running is your thing, check out the Events section of our website. If the thought of getting sweaty fills you with fear, we're blessed to have fundraisers who enjoy holding bake sales, quiz nights, music events and more.

Download our Fundraising Toolkit at www.glasgowcitymission.com
> How Can I Help > Fundraise.

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