



Belonging

Holiday fun

Families in Govan enjoyed outdoor fun at our Holiday Club.

Tackling addiction

We're helping guests access rehab with a new project.

Thriving

Aryan has found a job and started college since arriving in Glasgow.

Invitation and integration

Every now and again one word seems to permeate almost everything I am praying about, thinking about and dealing with. I have come to see it as an invitation to move me into new territories of thinking and practice.

Of course the thing with invitations is whether to accept and, more crucially, whether one actually participates in the things we are invited to. The Message version of Romans 8:14 says:

God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

My word of recent months has been integration. A very good word for me during this season. The Bible is full of ideas which require integration or else they cannot make sense – first/last, weak/strong, dark/light, unclean/clean etc. Life is also full of things requiring integration.

Unless one leans in so as not to miss the invitations, then one can never truly integrate the aspects of our characters, our pasts, our prejudices, our failures, our victories and our calling in order to become the people we are called to be. We cannot benefit from the event if we missed the invitation in the first place! More importantly, the world does not benefit from our potential if we fail to attend to the invitations, or miss them completely!

Thankfully the invitations to participation in the work of the Kingdom never cease. Nor does the discipleship task of integration. How are you being invited today?



Charles Maasz
Chief Executive

Holiday fun

Families in Govan have enjoyed another great holiday club at our Child and Family Centre. During the first three weeks of the summer holiday, children and parents gathered in the park for games, crafts, picnics and chat.

We had a mini Olympics, a treasure hunt, a talent show and a big BBQ on the last day. Each day we also organised trips for small groups to places such as the Science Centre and ten-pin bowling. After a difficult year, it was good to be able to gather again. We saw some 300 people during the three weeks, with an average of 90 each day.

Helen came with three generations of her family. She says, "It was a lifesaver – it was more important this year than at any other time. There's nothing else in the area

that I know of where you can take primary aged children and toddlers. The great thing is we could take all our kids – it was just fantastic.

"The kids loved it. Everyone was made to feel very welcome, whether you were a new face or were known to everyone."

Debbie is a childminder and took the children she was looking after. She says, "I used to go to the toddler group, but that finished because of lockdown. Then Margaret phoned and said that the holiday club was on and to come down. It was amazing – I loved it. The staff can't do enough for you. It was brilliant for the children, I took different ones on different days. They made sure the parents were looked after as well. There was a nice community spirit."

The isolation of lockdown has been tough on our families. Helen says, "my grandson has struggled with the lack of social interaction. The holiday club was good for him. I'll take him to the toddler group so he can mix with children his own age."

New term

We're enjoying being able to run our term-time activities in real life once again. The morning nursery is running with 15 children. We have weekly toddler groups and the after school group is back for school age children on Tuesdays. For parents we have a weekly coffee morning, an internationals group and keep fit classes. We're also surveying parents to find out what activities would be of benefit in the coming year.



Tackling addiction

Our new service is designed to enable men and women to overcome addiction and flourish.

Scotland's drug-related death statistics make for concerning reading. According to the National Records of Scotland, 1,339 drug-related deaths were registered in Scotland in 2020, an increase of five per cent from 2019*. Greater Glasgow and Clyde had the highest drug-related death rate in Scotland.

There's a nationwide drive to tackle this. At Glasgow City Mission, we have set up a new Rehab Pathways Team, with funding from the Scottish Government. The team consists of David, Project Manager and Tim, Support Worker. They will soon be joined by one of our interns.

David says, "the guys are desperate for help and for change in their lives." After only a few months there have been some successes. One guest wanted to get into the Haven, a Christian residential rehab that we have a strong relationship with. He got an interview two days after we initially contacted the Haven, and was admitted a week after that.

Rehab is tough, especially the initial few weeks. David and Tim will continue to visit the guest. When he leaves, they will continue to work with him to help him stay busy, learn new skills and fulfil his potential. This might include volunteering at our city centre project, joining Urban, or taking part in our internship scheme.

However, it's not always this straightforward. Many of the men and women David and Tim are working with have experienced trauma in their lives and have poor mental health, but still need to navigate a complex system

with long waiting lists. Statutory services are stretched and our guests can face barriers to getting treatment, or don't always get offered their preferred choice of treatment.

It is part of our team's role to advocate for our guests and ensure they quickly get their preferred choice of treatment and to make sure their journey is as seamless as possible.

Please pray

Our prayers are vital to the success of this new project.

Give thanks for our relationships with the Haven and Teen Challenge and pray these continue to develop.

Pray for all the guests that Tim and David are working with. Pray that those who are currently in rehab will find the strength to stick with the programme. Pray that those who are not yet in treatment will quickly be found places.

Please pray for good relationships with staff in all addiction services. Pray too for a willingness amongst staff to overcome barriers and find creative solutions that accommodate the needs of our guests – and give thanks for where this is already happening.

Pray for the other services who have also received Government funding to tackle the drug deaths – pray that together we would see changes to the system over the coming year.



> David

> Tim

Drop in

This past year, more than ever, we have seen how important human connection is to our guests. Our daily Drop-in, where we build relationships over food, has become one of the central points of our work. It is running from Monday to Friday, 10am to 8pm.

David has been coming to the Drop-in five days a week since having a breakdown in the homeless accommodation he had been staying in. He says, "I wasn't coming down for meals or eating and drinking. I just stayed in my room and the staff were worried."

"Someone told me about here, so I started coming and it's been much better. There's a good crowd in here and the staff are helpful. I go to Joe's walking group. It clears my head. If we go to a park you can listen to the birds." He also comes to the Gathering – our interactive church service – each Friday afternoon. He says, "I love it. It helps me think about God. I used to go to church before I had my breakdown."

We enjoy getting to know our guests. We found out that one of our regulars, Eric, had a birthday coming up, so had a celebration for him with cake. He says, "It was a good wee lunchtime. I suffer with my mental health and I stay by myself, so one of my friends suggested I come here. I'm in the walking group as well – you're in the fresh air with company."

Prior to lockdown, we ran a daytime Drop-in several days a week and an evening Drop-in each weekday evening. As restrictions eased in the summer of 2020, we were aware of the impact of the increased isolation on our guests and opened our Drop-in each weekday. The opening hours have gradually expanded.

Point of connection

Simon, Assistant Project Manager, says, "We provide a warm welcome in a safe environment where people can belong. It is great that we are open consistently – we are able to build better relationships and people know we are always here. Volunteers and staff are great at chatting with guests and having a laugh or offering a listening ear to those who need it. The Drop-in acts as a busy hub and the means for Project Workers to connect with guests who need support."

The Drop-in also provides volunteering opportunities. Anthony has been volunteering for about two months and, at the time of writing, is due to start on our Internship Programme. This will include a nine-month paid contract and support with his SVQ qualification. He has been part of a community rehab programme at Hope for Glasgow.

He says, "Volunteering gives me a purpose – I can give back and work with people similar to me – it feeds my spirit. I get on well with the guys, you get to know them and hear their stories."

Visit our website

www.glasgowcitymission.com/covid-19/ for the latest news on our services.

“ We provide a warm welcome in a safe environment where people can belong. ”



Thriving

Aryan arrived in Glasgow from Iran two years ago, aged 18, alone and without his family. He says, “I had some difficulties in my country and had to leave.”

Once in the UK, he studied English as a foreign language at college and is now studying for an NC in electrical engineering. It’s a one-year course and if he passes he can progress to an HNC. He’s also working part time at IKEA, has passed his driving test and attends a local church. He says, “I didn’t want to sit and do nothing [in the UK]. I want to have a useful life.”

He started coming to Urban because he was lonely. Aryan says, “I found good friends here. Before, I had so many thoughts in my head and I was afraid, because I didn’t know what would happen. At Urban, people listened to me and spoke to me. It made me feel very good. I played chess and started guitar lessons. It’s good when someone cares about you – it makes you feel like a person.”

During lockdown, when we weren’t able to meet in person, Susan, Project Worker, and Clare, Urban Coordinator, phoned Aryan and sent him cards for his birthdays and a houseplant as a gift. He says, “This was very nice to me. Sometimes [during lockdown] I felt very alone and desperate.”

Susan has helped him to work out what he wanted to study. “I was having problems deciding on future studies. She searched different courses. Now I’m studying electrical engineering – this is what I love doing.”

Employability support

As well as Aryan studying engineering we have guests studying nursing and hairdressing. Another is starting their university degree and one is studying engineering at Masters level. We can help with applications, provide references for our guests and help with finding scholarships and grants.

One guest has recently started work in a bakery. Two guests are now working in restaurants and two as cleaners, and another two are volunteering in charity shops. We celebrate their achievements with them.

The college classes that we run in partnership with City of Glasgow College are back in person, including basic IT skills and employability. We have run these courses in term time throughout lockdown – in person when this was allowed and online the rest of the time.

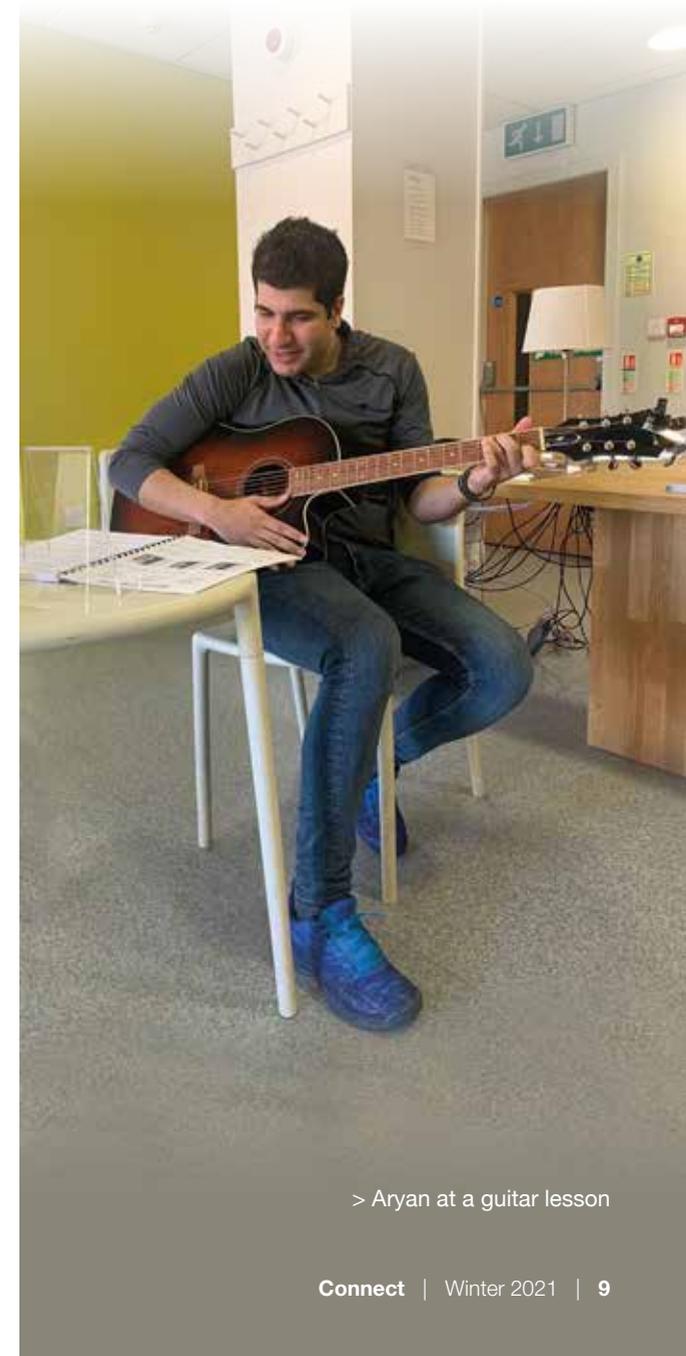
The camera club have been enjoying taking photos on location in places such as Ayr and Rothesay. Our music teacher, Graham, is doing a mixture of in-person and Zoom classes. Aryan fits in an in person lesson when he can, and when he can’t make it into the building Graham takes the lesson on Zoom. Our gym re-opened in July.

“ At Urban, people listened to me and spoke to me. It made me feel very good.

Open door

Relationships are at the heart of what we do. Clare says, “We call Urban our ‘moving on’ space. Nonetheless, it is important that people know they can return any time – with good news or bad. Several years ago we worked with a guest who was struggling with addiction. He was keen to stay busy and often used the gym, thrived in our creative writing classes and built excellent relationships with the volunteers.

“After a serious overdose, he worked incredibly hard, got clean and then started college. He kept in touch and recently asked to meet with me. He told me he had suffered a relapse and was devastated and ashamed. Working with David, our Rehab Pathways Manager, we have been able to affirm him and remind him that he is loved. I love that he knew this was a safe place to come back to and that he would be treated exactly the same as he was before.”



> Aryan at a guitar lesson

News round-up

> Overnight Welcome Centre re-opens

The Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre is due to re-open its doors on 1 December until 31 March. This is the second season of running our emergency winter accommodation as a 24-hour hotel service. Once again we will be providing a safe place to sleep for those at risk of rough sleeping during the coldest winter months. Working with partners, we will be helping guests to move on to suitable accommodation.

> Kiltwalk



The Kiltwalk is back! After a successful virtual Kiltwalk earlier this year – the event is returning for an in-person fundraiser on 26 September. The funds you raise will be topped up by 50 per cent by Sir Tom Hunter's Foundation. Starting from Glasgow Green, chose from the Mighty Stride at 16.5 miles or the Wee Wander at 3.5 miles. Find out more on our website: www.glasgowcitymission.com/news/events

> Volunteer with us!

Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers who have kept our services running during the pandemic! We are looking forward to welcoming back more of our teams as projects continue to reopen and expand in the coming months.

We need more volunteers though. If you or someone you know is interested, please head to our website for more information or get in touch with us.

www.glasgowcitymission.com/support-us/volunteer

Pray with us

- > Please pray that the new intake of children to the Nursery at our Child and Family Centre will settle in well and that we will be able to provide them with all they need to flourish.
- > Pray that all the guests who attend our Drop-in will have a sense of belonging. Pray too for wisdom for volunteers and staff as they listen to our guests and seek to connect them to relevant support.
- > Pray that Aryan would continue to enjoy his college course.
- > Pray that as we re-start more in person activities at Urban, we would know how best to support our guests to meet their goals.
- > Please pray for all the planning and preparation that is currently going into the Overnight Welcome Centre.

More online

Stay up to date with our latest news and plans on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

www.glasgowcitymission.com



Respond

"I want to transform lives in Glasgow"

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

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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): _____

Please tick here if you do **not** require a receipt and please be assured of our thanks.

2 Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

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

Email: _____

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



Scotland's kiltwalk

Sunday 26 September

Kiltwalk 2021

The Kiltwalk is back in real life! Why not sign up and choose Glasgow City Mission as your charity?

Everything you raise will be topped up by 50%.

**For more info visit our website:
www.glasgowcitymission.com/news/events**



0141 221 2630

info@glasgowcitymission.com

www.glasgowcitymission.com

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