

How your support is transforming lives.



# Building blocks

## **One block at a time**

At our Child and Family Centre all the activities we run are like building blocks to help families to flourish.

## **A future I never saw before**

Our interns, James, Anthony and Barry look back at their internship.

## **My own wee castle**

Frances, a guest, shares his experiences after he moved on from the Overnight Welcome Centre.

# The Master Builder

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22-ESV)*

The household of God in the Christian understanding, as distinct from the houses of secular and ancient religions is built with people and not stone. We are all living stones in the hands of the architect of creation. A heart surrendered in the hope of salvation to Christ becomes the Holy-of-Holy's and so we are truly the temple of the Holy Spirit, who has chosen the chambers of our hearts in which to dwell! It is through this rag-tag bunch of broken and pitiful lives that we are the universal and immortal Church of Jesus Christ.

Jesus uses people, not stuff. To build the world's hope of tomorrow Jesus takes the rejected pebbles and stones of our lives, transforms them and uses them as the cornerstones of each respective ministry. Building blocks of heavens project, everything that the world counts as unworthy and useless, Jesus redeems and puts to good use.

Therefore, it is crucial that we continue to offer ourselves up to God in order that he can do even greater things with us in the building of His eternal Kingdom!

Charles Maasz  
Chief Executive

# One block at a time

**At our Child and Family Centre, we work with children from birth and their parents. All the activities we run are like building blocks to help families to flourish.**

The basics laid down in baby and toddler groups are built on as the children grow, all the way up to our Vibe Youth Club for teenagers and groups for adults. These clubs are weekly in term time, led by staff and volunteers.

## Mini Heroes

In all three groups, we have a weekly 'God spot'. For example, one week at Mini Heroes, which is for Primary 1-3, the leader used toothpaste to show you can pour out all these words, but you can't put words back in the tube.

During one Mini Hero session, Val asked the children if they would like to get a Bible to look at for themselves. Lots of children put up their hands and Bibles were given out. A few weeks later one of the mums told us that her child is so proud of her Bible. She hasn't had one before and takes it to the church service every week and opens it up when the pastor starts reading from his.

## We got S.O.U.L.

S.O.U.L. stands for Snacks, Optimism, United and Love and is the name the P4-7s have given to their club, as a great reflection of how they see it.

"As Christians we want to empower kids in different ways," comments Joy, After-school Activities Coordinator. "God is interested in our mind, body and spirit, so we have introduced a mini library so they can take books home. We are thinking about introducing a poetry club as we have some children who are really interested in poetry, and we may also develop a chess club because some of our kids get so much out of chess."



## Stacking the blocks

Through team working, staff can look out for children and young people who are struggling, and keep an eye out for ways to interact with the whole family. If a little brother or sister has just been born, we check in with parents and can help, for example, with nappies.

Some children are dealing with difficult issues like grief or addiction in their families. If a child is struggling, our family worker can connect with their parents or carers to see if we can offer family support. We can also refer parents to the counselling service we run at our city centre project.

We have whole families benefitting from our groups; one little girl who has just started toddlers has siblings in Mini Heroes and another in S.O.U.L. This family is experiencing lots of the building blocks stacking together in their family at the same time.

Follow our Child and Family Centre on Facebook for regular updates.

## Vibe Youth Club

This term, at Vibe we've been looking at social media, laughter and dealing with anxiety. The young people are finding this useful. One member said, "you get to do activities I've not done before." One young person calls Vibe, "a place where I can be myself." Another young person says, "I don't get bullied and it feels safe."

**“ A place where I can be myself. ”**

# A future I never saw before

## Our interns, James, Anthony and Barry look back at their internship.

At Glasgow City Mission these typically run from September until the end of May, which gives enough time for an intern to complete an SVQ in social or child care. During the selection process, candidates are interviewed, to help them develop their employability. It is a stepping stone to employment for people who might otherwise struggle to find a job.

### James

James says, “I see a future I never saw before. Before the internship, I had not worked since 2000, I was in prison a few times and sectioned a few times. In 2019 I started volunteering in Glasgow City Mission, and that step of becoming a volunteer was massive, because I had been going for jobs but nobody would take me due to my mental health and criminal history. The team here became my brothers and sisters. Volunteering and now the internship has built me up, in a place where I am serving Jesus. The internship gives me purpose, and I am training to have qualifications. All of my life experiences help me relate to people who come to the Mission and have those same issues. My faith is growing.”

### Anthony

Anthony says, “There are so many highlights; flying in a plane which was arranged as a special treat by the Mission, learning how to become a Support Worker. It is a highlight to work alongside professional people who love Jesus. I am being given a platform with legitimate tools to reach into the pit and pull people out. I was struggling with stuff in the past, but the internship has helped me gain a sense of security in who I am as a Christian and who I am as a professional.

“Through my recovery journey I have discovered I have a profound passion for people. Seeing people develop makes me happy! For me, this internship isn’t just a job, it’s a vocation. The blessing it is watching people grow makes me feel like I am being overpaid. This work is part of my identity in Christ.”

### Barry

Barry says, “The highlight for me is seeing how the Mission works, everything that goes on behind the scenes, and helping other people. I used to be a service user. It has been a challenge to learn the procedures, learning how to phone immigration to help one of our guests, for example.

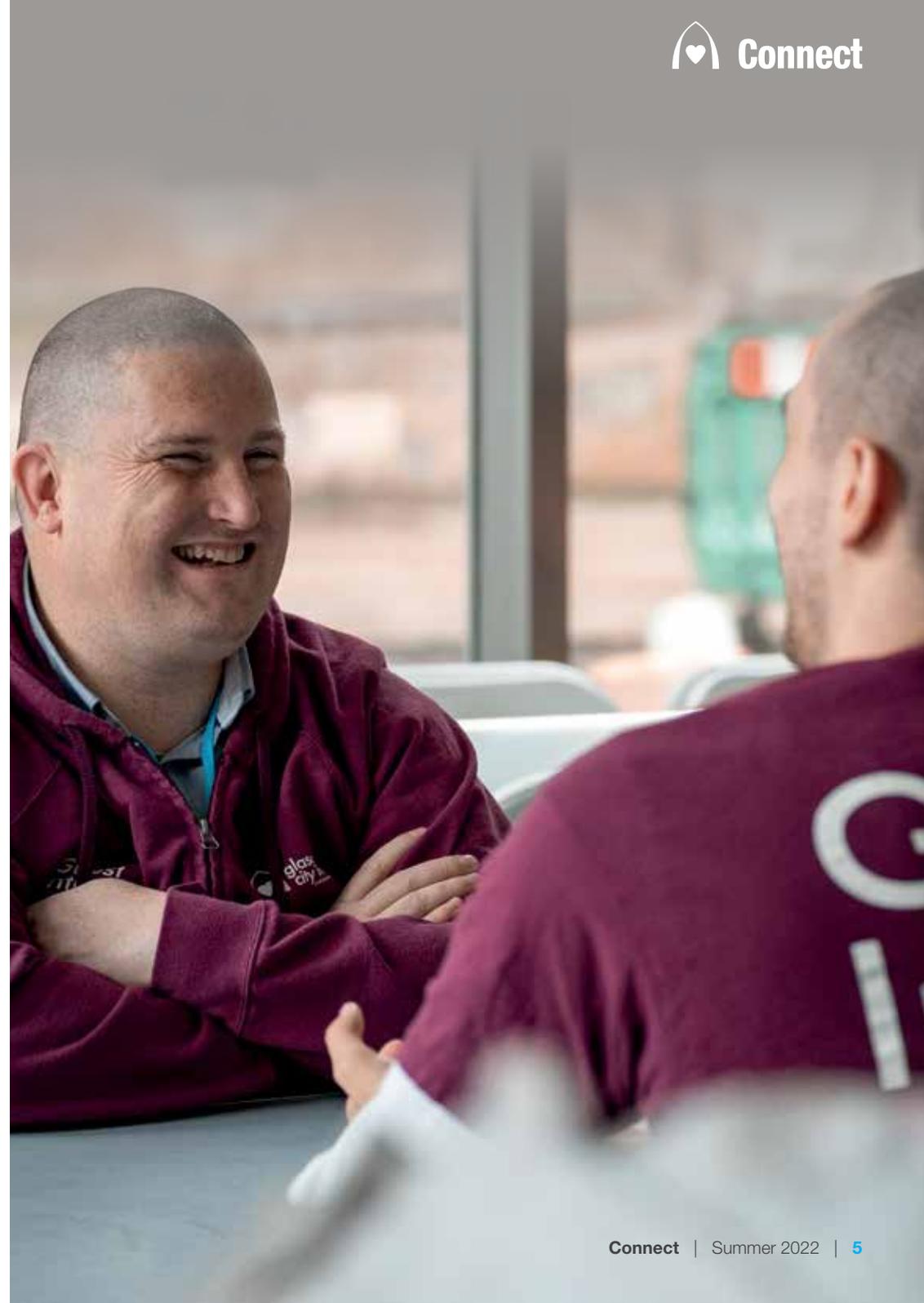
“I went away to Christian rehab and then to study, and I felt God called me to come back home. The internship has helped me grow in confidence, and gave me purpose. It’s amazing. I am learning how to love people. The people that come through the door, it doesn’t matter their background, I need to be there for them and see a future for them.

“All the bad experiences I had, I can use them and God can use them for good. I work alongside Tim and Davie on the Rehab Pathways team. I would love to continue being part of their team.”

### Please pray

Pray for Barry and his daughter. He hasn’t seen her in five years.

Pray for each of the interns, that when they move on they grasp new opportunities.



# My own wee castle

**Now that the Overnight Welcome Centre has closed for the season, Frances, a guest shares his experiences since he moved on from the service.**

Frances was a guest in the Overnight Welcome Centre near Christmas time. He became unwell with Covid when he was in the Centre, but this helped as his isolation stopped Frances relapsing into addiction.

Frances shares, “I was quite broken last year and one of the boys in the Mission noticed. He stopped and asked me if I wanted to talk, and during the conversation he offered to pray for me. I started meeting regularly with David Harper, Rehab Pathways Team Manager. I was staying in hotels at this time. I overdosed a few times and woke up in the hospital, not knowing where I was.

“I was trying everything to find a way out, but I couldn’t on my own. David Harper helped me to get a place in rehab. I had nowhere to go after I came out, so I went into the Overnight Welcome Centre.

## Unwell at Christmas

“I caught Covid, so I was isolating in the Centre. I was still talking to David, and I was offered a temporary house in Knightswood, and I jumped at the chance. I hadn’t had my own place for two and a half years.

“Then David spoke to me about one of the Housing First flats owned by Glasgow City Mission. I moved into the flat on 9 March, I feel really house proud. My home looks right onto the park.”

## Home

After Frances was allocated this flat, the refurbishment involved many members of Mission staff. Pam and Morag, the Housing Settlement Officers sourced all the furniture from Castlemilk Furniture Project and charity

shops. It was a real Mission team effort to get the property ready for Frances to live in. The Interns were involved in painting and one of our Project Workers fitted new doors. We felt strongly that the flat should be finished to a high level, to communicate to Frances his worth.

Frances says, “I lost my way and I was trying to survive one day to the next. If I hadn’t come here and been prayed for, I probably wouldn’t be here.”

## Llamas and futons

He says, “I am in regular contact with my daughters. My daughter loves llamas so when she stays over I have to take her to see the animals two or three times a day.” Pam and Morag sourced a futon so his daughter can stay over.

Frances is looking to get a job. He has interviews this week.

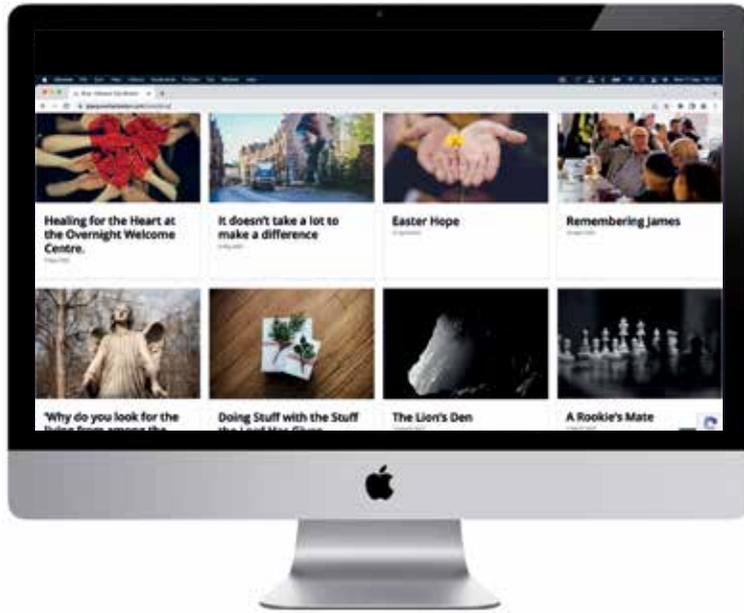
The Kingsize bed that Pam and Morag sourced is a highlight of Franny’s new home.

“When you’ve stayed in some of the places I’ve slept, where the beds aren’t fit for purpose, or sleeping on the streets, getting a good night’s sleep is a gift.”

**“ If I hadn’t  
come to  
the Mission and  
been prayed  
for, I probably  
wouldn’t be here.**

Frances Coats





# Staying connected

**For some time now, we've been providing supporters of Glasgow City Mission with the means to stay up to date with the latest news and events happening across our three projects by using a variety of social media platforms.**

Following a major shift in how we provided our services as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, what didn't need to be done in person, wasn't. In a bid to stay engaged with our guests, regular videos were posted, quiz nights were hosted and online gatherings took place on our Facebook and Instagram pages, providing our guests with the much-needed opportunity to stay connected.

Fortunately, many of our services have now resumed in person. However, we have learned that there is great value in online communication, and while we no longer ask our ever-faithful project team to dig

out the sequins, dickie-bow and star-rimmed sunglasses from the dressing-up box and give their best 'Brucie' impression in the name of entertainment, we do maintain an online presence and the means to stay connected.

## Blog

Each week we post a blog on our website. Our blogs are written by different members of the organisation and aim to provide a regular insight into our work across our three projects. Charles Maasz (CEO) and Marion Carson (Chaplain) are regular contributors, and write about the complexities and challenges of life through a faith-based lens. New blogs appear on our website at 10am on Mondays, and access is provided via Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. We also provide the means to receive the blogs in a monthly email by signing up to our mailing list on

our website. If you want to sign up, scan the adjacent QR code and submit your name and email address. For those who prefer to listen, we provide the blogs in an audio-only format that can be reached on all major podcast streaming platforms.

## Daily Reflections

Daily devotions have been a part of the rhythm of life at Glasgow City Mission for a number of years. Prepared each week by a different member of the team, they are circulated amongst our staff and volunteers who use these devotions as part of their own personal prayer life. Since September 2020, these have also been provided as short videos. A member of the team presents the reflection to camera over soothing music with a measured pace and tone. Released daily, Monday to Friday at 6am, each week covers a different passage and theme, with each day exploring a new verse within the passage. Our Daily Reflection videos are available to everyone and can be found on our Facebook page, our website, and our YouTube channel where those who value the benefit of a reminder can 'subscribe' and receive a notification each time a new video goes live. Audio-only versions can be found on Spotify, Apple

Podcasts and Amazon Music. The Daily Reflection Videos are a fantastic way to stay connected with the spiritual life of Glasgow City Mission.

If you would like to stay connected and engage with our regular online content, please scan the QR codes below. Alternatively, send an email to [stuart@glasgowcitymission.com](mailto:stuart@glasgowcitymission.com) for any further information or assistance in accessing our content.

**Blog**

Scan the QR Code to access the Blog.



**Daily Reflections**

Scan the QR Code to access the Daily Reflections.



## News round-up

### > Child and Family Centre refurbishments

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a contractor to undertake the refurbishment of our Child and Family Centre. The majority of the work will take place during the summer holidays and the cost is already 70 per cent covered by a legacy, a church donation and two personal donations.

### > Maternity cover at the Child and Family Centre

A new worker at the Child and Family Centre, Danielle, who is providing maternity cover, attended the nursery as a child. Danielle remembers sitting on the carpet listening to stories. Now she is a mum herself and delighted to be back in the nursery helping the next generation of children.

### > NRPF Support Workers

We have just hired Lorna and Kirsty who will be Support Workers specifically for guests who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). These are guests with unclear asylum status or who have been denied asylum. They were put into hotels because of Covid, and are not typically eligible for housing. We are working, for their benefit, in close partnership with Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.

### > Volunteers

We held a Volunteer Catch-up on Saturday 14 May. We gathered volunteers together, from many different projects for a time of worship, prayer and some updates about where we've been and where we're going. The vision for the day was to welcome back people who haven't been able to volunteer during the pandemic, to kick start our next season by re-centring ourselves together on the person of Jesus.

### Pray with us

- > Pray for wisdom and good decision making as the work with families in Govan develops. Pray for the children from Mini Heroes who recently took home Bibles.
- > Give thanks for interns James, Anthony and Barry and pray for their next steps as they finish the internship. Pray for the process of recruiting new interns, in July 2022 applications will go out, and in August we will interview candidates.
- > Pray for our guests impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. We have concerns about the impact of the crisis.
- > Some of our international guests have applied for mainstream college for August. Pray with us for college places and funding, and give thanks that two guests have already got placements.
- > Pray for guests waiting to hear back from the Home Office about asylum interviews and decisions. One gentleman has waited 11 years for a positive outcome in his case.

### More online

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

[www.glasgowcitymission.com](http://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): \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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
- I want to receive prayer news by email

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reg Charity SC001499

SUM22

**RETURNS  
FOR 2022!**

# The **BIG** Arran Challenge

**Saturday 17 September 2022**  
[www.glasgowcitymission.com](http://www.glasgowcitymission.com)

Save the date for our first Big Arran Challenge in over three years! We will be climbing and cycling on the island to raise funds to help those affected by homelessness and poverty.

For more information and to register your interest; please go to [www.glasgowcitymission.com/event/big-arran-challenge-2022](http://www.glasgowcitymission.com/event/big-arran-challenge-2022) or scan the QR code.

**Book now: [www.glasgowcitymission.com](http://www.glasgowcitymission.com)**

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