

Breaking through

Drop-in and find welcome

Our daily Drop-in is a place of connection where basic needs are met and long term solutions are found.

Back to school

Read about the work our Child and Family Centre team are doing in two local schools.

Preventing rough sleeping

Our Overnight Welcome Centre is being run out of our Crimea Street building and is offering a variety of solutions this winter.

Breaking through

Mission gives a shape to the ministry Jesus describes in the Gospels. No matter how dark the season, even when all looks lost and nothing is breaking through the Spirit is always active. In our respective missions we are tillers, we are sowers, we are nurturers, nourishers, pruners and we are harvesters when the crop is ready to be brought into the storehouses.

I was not raised with faith but it surrounded me from the earliest age. In our pre and primary schools of yesteryear we met often for assembly in the gym hall. In my own was the Lord's Prayer written in red large gothic script, a permanent feature of the top left corner of the hall. We were taught key Bible stories, characters, principles and were given a minimum biblical literacy. We learned basic hymns and melodies for which I am regularly grateful as the organ strikes up at a church preaching engagement. As I continue on my own faith journey, I more and more see the shoots of those seeds sown in my primary years coming into view. It has only taken 45 years! Who will be there to plant these seeds in our increasingly secular schools and pre-schools?

The light of God is breaking through across all of the Glasgow City Mission projects all of the time but rarely because of our design or force of will. As the snowdrops and daffodils break through this season we are reminded that God is never absent from life. Perhaps you have not seen a breakthrough that you've been asking for but there will be breakthroughs happening all around you, probably from seeds planted many years before. I pray that the Lord gives you the eyes to see and the ears to hear of all the good things He has done, and is doing, and that you remain encouraged.

Be blessed this season, as you are a continued blessing to us at Glasgow City Mission. Amen.



Charles Maasz
Chief Executive

Drop-in and find welcome

The ground floor of our city centre building is our Drop-in, serving lunch and dinner, and at other times being used for advocacy.

The food at the Drop-in is greatly appreciated, as it tastes great, is high quality and nutritious. Some of our guests, who are in hostels, might only have a kettle so are unable to cook a hot, healthy meal for themselves so they especially enjoy our food.

There are lamps on the tables, colourful napkins and an interesting background loop of pictures showing beautiful things from God's creation on the screen. We make the Drop-in look and feel inviting, because it is from the Drop-in we connect with people and then our project workers can go a little bit deeper with those who choose to engage further.

Lunch and dinner

Lunch and dinner are served Monday-Friday every week; lunch is at 1-2pm and dinner is at 6:30-8pm. Lunch might be a hot tasty curry, soup and bread, or homemade pizza. After lunch there will be a sweet thing, a cake, dessert, yoghurt or fruit. Dinner is always a delicious main and a sweet. We invite people to sit with us and eat with us. We are inspired by the ministry of Jesus who ate with people as they learned together.

At each meal, a volunteer hosts a table looking after our guests whilst sharing a meal with them. Our other volunteers help serve the meals and clear up afterwards. There is also an opportunity for churches to supply two of their members, who are not regular volunteers, each weeknight for a week.

Advocacy

Advocacy happens at set times before and after lunch. We separate advocacy from mealtimes, because meals are for spending time together and deepening relationships.

Some people use our advocacy service for support with their housing needs, some people come in to use showers, there are others who need to phone caseworkers, others come in for a cup of tea because they are cold outside and need a quick chat with someone friendly. All these people are important, and their needs are dealt with in a caring way.

Cooking

Denis is our chef and he cooks all the dishes with the help of volunteers and guest trainees. Our guest trainees are people who are looking for experience, and to pick up skills, which will help them towards employment. We are teaching guest trainees how to make bread; we bake focaccia, sourdough and we prove and knead dough. Amir and Chris, two of our guest trainees, have learnt how to bake lemon drizzle cakes, homemade granola, and other amazing desserts. Amir says, "I love working in the kitchen with the brilliant team of staff and volunteers. It makes me feel great when people compliment us on the food we cook. I've been involved with the Mission for over four years and to me it is a piece of heaven in Glasgow."

“I've been involved with the Mission for over four years and to me it is a piece of heaven in Glasgow.”

Amir



Gathering on Fridays

The Gathering is a time to stop being busy, and focus on God. The Gathering happens at 2pm on Fridays, after lunch.

We start with an icebreaker to get to know everybody. We then discuss a short passage from the Bible, which is led by a staff member or volunteer at each table. Then there is an illustration, some chat and a reflection. The Gathering often finishes with a song, a prayer and a response.

A few weeks ago, during the response, one person was speaking about how God's love keeps pouring out. A second person poured water from jugs to lots and lots of glasses, inviting guests to get up from their chairs and come and take a glass of water to feel refreshed.

Simon says, "I was touched by how each person was invited to take a glass and give a glass to a friend or someone sitting near them. Some guests, who you might not expect to share, came to get a glass for themselves and a glass for someone else."

Come and see what is happening at the Drop in, and other parts of our building, on a First Friday tour.



Back to school

Our Child and Family Centre is developing positive relationships with two schools in the local area; one is a primary school and one a secondary school. While doing this we are connecting with children we would not normally meet and have found further connections between parents.

Corridor walks

Mags and James, our project workers, were invited to go into the secondary school for corridor walks; literally walking in and around the school during Wednesday lunchtime to be a physical presence and a friendly face. Mags says, "After the young people got their Prelim results, we talked with some of them about not getting the results they wanted. We discussed coping with disappointment and managing expectations." It is amazing, after a few months, the serious chats that we are having with some of the pupils.

Due to the positive response to the corridor walks, from both staff and pupils, our team was then asked to work with pupils from fourth to sixth year who are Wellbeing Ambassadors. They volunteer for these roles as part of their PSE (personal and social education) learning. We are supporting these pupils and encouraging them with their own personal wellbeing, which they can then pass on to other pupils. One pupil said, "We need to know and understand our own wellbeing to best help others."

Resilience talks

The school have identified Resilience and Wellbeing as areas we can support. James and Mags know that they have the chance to be good role models and encourage good choices. James speaks passionately from his own experiences on the theme of resilience to the pupils. He says, "This is a preventative measure with some of these young people. It could, for example, prevent some of them turning up at the Mission's Overnight Welcome Centre later in life."

Science after school

Our team also go to our local primary school to deliver Messy Science sessions once a week to the pupils and parents. Messy Science fits with the curriculum and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities for children.

Messy Science starts with a Bible story, which relates to the scientific theme of the day.

Mags says, "It's learning about God's wonderful world. The Bible goes hand in hand with science." One parent commented, "Today's session was really fun for the adults and children." Another parent said, "Enjoyed spending quality time with my child in a fun way."

In addition, we are finding that working in these schools is helping connections in our community. As the team got to know one dad and his family better through Messy Science, they realised that his wife was feeling very isolated at home. She is now engaging with the Child and Family Centre groups that are suitable for her, such as English classes, the sewing class and our Parent and Toddler group.

Another dad has made a new friend who he now realises is also a parent of a child at the school. He met him at a recent men's event at the Child and Family Centre. You can read more about this story on our website. Go to www.glasgowcitymission.com/news/ and search for the article from 23 December 2022.

Messy Science sessions use normal household items, so families can try experiments at home. On the next page, we invite you to join in with our Messy Scientists, by trying out 'Zacchaeus' big reaction' experiment, using Luke 19:2-10.



Why not try a Messy Science experiment with your family?

Zacchaeus' big reaction

Find it in the Bible: Luke 19:2-10
Messy Church does Science, chapter 9

You will need: A small 250ml water bottle, white vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, a balloon, a teaspoon and a funnel (or a paper cone, which you cut the end off).

The bicarbonate of soda and vinegar react with each other and make carbon dioxide (a gas). That makes the reaction you see.

Can you think of anyone who always makes you react well and become the sort of person you want to be? How did different people react to Jesus? How did people react to Zacchaeus before he met Jesus and after he met Jesus?

Messy Church does Science is a ministry of the Bible Reading Fellowship, BRF at brf.org.uk. Find out more at messychurch.org.uk/science.

Please pray that our engagement with the secondary school and our Messy Science sessions inspire the pupils and bring a greater understanding of our work in the Govan community.

1

Pour the vinegar into the small water bottle, until about half-full.



2

Add two teaspoons of bicarbonate into a balloon using a funnel (or make one using a paper cone).



3

Stretch the mouth of the balloon over the mouth of the bottle, being careful not to let the bicarbonate fall into the bottle.



4

Stand back a little as you lift the balloon and bottle completely upright so that the bicarbonate of soda in the balloon pours into the vinegar. Watch what happens!



Preventing rough sleeping

We opened our Overnight Welcome Centre (OWC) on 1 December 2022. The OWC will run for four months and its goal is to stop people sleeping rough during the worst of the winter weather.

This year, for the first time, we are running the OWC from our city centre base in Crimea Street. This allows us to create a safe place where people can present as homeless and wait comfortably for an emergency bed for the night. It also means we can offer our OWC guests a warm nutritious dinner served at our city centre project Drop-in between 6:30pm and 8pm before the OWC officially opens at 9pm. Ewan, our City Centre Manager said, “We are delighted with the opportunity this year to work so closely with the OWC team, it brings a consistency to the care of our guests.”

The OWC was hosted in a city centre hotel for the last two years. However, by operating out of our building, we can access an array of emergency accommodation across the city. During the first 50 nights of this year’s OWC we prevented 184 people sleeping rough, including assisting 18 to get to their home, 12 people back to stay with family or friends and one person into their own tenancy. Elyse, our Winter Project Manager said, “We provide a safe place for people to present through the night if they are in a moment of crisis and are at risk of sleep working.”

Relational work

We seek to go the extra mile for, and with, our guests. We take a holistic approach to the issues our guests face. Our Housing Settlement Officers (HSOs) go in pairs to hotels and emergency housing to knock on the doors of the rooms our guests are staying in, to check on their wellbeing. They advocate for our guests,

sometimes spending hours on the phone to different agencies as we seek the best accommodation solutions. Our HSOs are involved in helping turn a house into a home once accommodation has been secured. They ensure decoration, furniture, flooring and other necessities are in place.

They also help guests to accept accommodation offered e.g. one of our guests, Doris*, was wary of the accommodation that we offered her as it was in an area she did not know. In order to reassure her, our HSOs Morag and Alison took her on the bus to the south side of Glasgow to help her understand that it is not as far away from the city centre as she first thought. She now knows that, using the bus, she can go back and forth more easily than she imagined.

The joy of a job

One guest who has had a breakthrough recently is Sofia*. In order to get the support due to her, Sofia needed to get a job. Esther, another HSO, saw an advert for a role at a local fast food outlet and immediately thought of Sofia.

We helped her to translate her CV into English. After she was offered a job interview, we took her shopping for interview clothes. We accompanied her to the interview and helped with interpretation.

She successfully completed a work trial and was then offered a permanent contract, which she has taken up.

To keep up-to-date with the work of the OWC please follow us on social media. We will also release our annual OWC housing to the end of April, so look out for that on our website and social media channels.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity.



Value of volunteering

Our volunteers are the heart of Glasgow City Mission.

Giving my time: a volunteer's perspective

Liz is a retired doctor, who gives financially and volunteers at the Mission.

After retiring, Liz went to see Ewan, our City Centre Project Manager to talk about what volunteering might look like for her now she has more time to offer. She has fulfilled more than one role during her time volunteering and agreed to start in Urban, our moving on space.

Liz no longer lives in Glasgow but still travels more than an hour to get here. She says, "In terms of the travel time, it would be logical not to come, but I would miss it too much. The Mission is the one place that I feel comfortable, I enjoy being with all the people. I don't have any problems seeing what needs to be done and getting on with it. I feel I can relax in the Mission and know I am still loved."

Liz also says, "I am in a fortunate position in which giving financially to Glasgow City Mission is not really difficult. Giving my time is more difficult, with the journey to get to Glasgow."

"The assumptions that I make about the rawness of poverty are changed by going to the Mission. As a volunteer, I feel I can support the staff at the Mission, and by being part of the team, I have opportunities to be there for them."

"Our Chaplain Marion and Simon from our Project Team did a course on prayer. Something that touched me was a phrase Marion shared, 'Pray the way you can'. I think as a team we are living out the idea of Mission the way you can; everyone has a part to play at the Mission."

We are extremely thankful to Liz for sharing her perspective with us and to all our volunteers, whose support ensures we can continue to offer our full range of services to our guests.

Qualities of a volunteer

We look for volunteers with a heart for helping those in need, whether practically, relationally or through offering support and prayer. We look for people who are inspired into action by their faith, following the example and teaching of Jesus. Our volunteers work well as part of a team and are happy to join in to make our projects run. They are good listeners, compassionate, reliable, and a blessing to our guests and to us.

If you are interested in volunteering, we will meet with you to discuss your interests and gifts in order to find a placement that suits you best. We have a large variety of roles available - from preparing and serving food at the Drop in, helping guests in Urban with their college courses or art classes, or doing street outreach where we engage with those on the streets of Glasgow.

Availability

Most of our volunteer roles look for a commitment of one 3-4 hour shift per week, with shifts available in the mornings, afternoons or evenings. However, we are happy to be flexible and talk about what will work for you. We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us in our work!

Heath Reynoldson, our Volunteer Coordinator says, "Volunteering is a huge help to the guests we work with, but it is also very rewarding for the volunteer. We regularly see volunteers deepen their faith and enrich their lives through the relationships and community they develop at Glasgow City Mission."

If you are interested in volunteering with us then please follow this link to our volunteering page on our website: www.glasgowcitymission.com/support-us/volunteer/ or email Heath Reynoldson, at heath@glasgowcitymission.com.



“ I feel I can relax in the Mission and know I am still loved.”

Liz

News round-up

> Church partnerships for our women's work

In our winter 2022 edition of Connect we told you about our developing women's work. We are delighted to confirm that we have now partnered with two churches who will supply venues where we can meet with vulnerable women and their children.

> Homework Drop-in at our Child and Family Centre

In addition to the exciting schools' work we told you about we have also started a Homework Drop-in on a Monday after school at our Child and Family Centre. After seeing secondary school pupils hanging around the area instead of heading home, we opened our doors to allow them to come in to connect with their fellow pupils and us. Hot drinks and snacks are available as the pupils relax and interact with each other and our staff. It also gives us a chance to tell them of the other activities we run.

> Corporate lunchtime volunteers

We are now partnering with businesses as they come in to volunteer at lunchtime to serve, eat and chat with our guests. Each business signs up for a week and supplies two volunteers a day. This helps them with their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitments and has great benefits for our guests. If you work for a company that may be interested in this one-off volunteering opportunity, please email jack@glasgowcitymission.com.

> Glasgow Central Station Collection

We will be at Glasgow Central Station for a bucket collection on Friday 24 March. If you are passing through the station on that day please drop by our stand, which will either be at the Gordon Street entrance or in the centre of the station, to say hello!

Pray with us

- > Give thanks for interns Ashleigh and Lee, who are a huge blessing to our guests and staff. Pray that their time with the Mission equips them well for the next steps in their lives and careers.
- > Pray for our Rehab Pathways Team as they continue to work with those in addiction. Pray for good health, resilience and stamina as they navigate a complex system on behalf of our guests.
- > Pray for our regular volunteers, that they live out their faith in a practical way and feel the pleasure of the Lord as they help the marginalised in Glasgow.
- > Pray for wisdom and discernment for our Board and Management Team as they collate our 2023-26 vision document. Pray for the Lord's leading and blessing on the future work of the Mission.
- > As the Overnight Welcome Centre ends on 31 March, please pray that our guests get settled accommodation. Pray also for our staff that come to the end of their contracts, give thanks for their love, professionalism and care and ask the Lord to continue to guide their working lives.

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"

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.

giftaid it

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 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'

Reg Charity SC001499

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First Friday Tours!

Join us in 20 Crimea Street on the first Friday of every month to see first-hand the impact your support has on our work with those affected by homelessness and poverty in Glasgow.

This free guided tour of our five-storey building will include refreshments and a Q&A session.

Book online at
www.glasgowcitymission.com/news/events/
or scan the QR code



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We look forward to
welcoming you to
Glasgow City Mission.



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