

ANDY WILSON

LEAD EVANGELIST

GLOUCESTER & FOREST COM



Andy Wilson

December 2019

The Launch

Well we launched the Gloucester Centre of Mission, Church Army's 25th Centre of Mission on the 8 September. I was licensed by Gloucester diocese at the same time as a Lay Leader in the diocese. It was a different type of launch, as I was interviewed by Bishop Robert, and I honoured with gifts a number of local leaders. The event was finished with a friend of mine who is a Christian magician who entertained, but then moved all who had stayed with an amazing simple, yet powerful telling of the Easter story as he escaped from a straight jacket, which the Bishop had helped secure him into. Over 60 people came from across Gloucester and Church Army and I was so honoured and thankful for so many great people there.

Prayer walking the area

Since the Launch I have been prayer walking the area with some others from the local baptist church, every Tuesday evening. This has been a great thing to do together, as well as putting prayer as the foundation for all that will happen.

Community Cafe

In the middle of Matson where we are based, there is a row of shops, in the middle of which is a community cafe. At least twice a week, Emma, my wife and I will be in there, chatting with people, listening to their stories, learning about them and the area. This is proving to be very fruitful, as we have built a good relationship with the people who run that cafe, and Emma particularly has built some good relationships there and is looking to use her creative skills with craft to start some new things there in the new year.

Building community

We are really starting from scratch in Matson in pioneering a new Fresh expression of church here. We have been starting to build community around meals, and have done this in a few different ways, by eating with another Christian couple, having an opportunity on the 4th Sunday of the month for people to come and enjoy bacon/sausage rolls, plus coffee and tea, with refreshments and games for kids. We have also been getting to know some of the people who attend a weekly lunch club where we have talked over many things.

A local homeless guy

A leader at one of the community centres in the area, has been trying to support a homeless guy in getting some housing and looking at helping him get a job. We have supported him, by ensuring he has a hot meal a day, and also paying him to do some gardening for us. It has been amazing to witness the change in who he is, and we hope that this relationship will be able to continue.

Christmas

For the first time, Matson is having a big community Christmas event this year. I shared a thought about having carols on the green outside the shops, but then others joined in with other ideas, and this has now become a very large Christmas event, with a lantern parade starting it all off. I have the opportunity to be one of the comperes, and also I will be able to give a short Christmas message. We hope that this will be the first of many of these kind of events.

Other opportunities

There is one pub in the area, and people are very open for conversation there, and these have ranged from Jesus washing feet, through to the roll of prayer. I have also joined a steering group which is looking at the future of Matson, economically as well as the fabric of the whole community. This has been a real honour place of being able to speak in Kingdom values into the area as people plan for the future.

Across the diocese

Part of my roll also includes exploring and supporting pioneer leadership, particularly Lay pioneer leadership. This is gradually starting to take shape, as I have done some training around evangelistic conversations, as well as looking forward to how we spot and develop pioneer leaders.



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GET INVOLVED

At this stage there are two main ways I'd love you to considering supporting me in:

- Prayer
- Financial support

PRAYERS

More has happened than I thought it might, and God is opening many doors. Specific prayer points would be:

Please pray for...

Developing rhythms and patterns of community life in the new year;

Recognising the right things to be involved in;

Deepening relationships with the local churches, particularly the Baptist Church;

A pioneer leader to join the centre of mission in Coleford;

A moving forward of all the conversations that are taking place;

A great, fun, but restful Christmas for us as a family as this will be our first Christmas here in Gloucester.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to make a regular or one-off gift to support me please complete and return the form overleaf or visit churcharmy.org/donate - quoting ref. **2018AWI**

I don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with me. I want to pray for you so please let me know how I can, by emailing andy.wilson@churcharmy.org

Thank you!

Andy

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Church Army



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