

**INFORMATION ABOUT EMMAUS DOVER**

Emmaus Dover (originally registered as St Martin’s Emmaus Dover) is a member of Emmaus UK and affiliated to Emmaus International. There are 29 communities across the UK with more emerging. Emmaus is a world-wide organisation spanning 36 countries.

The company for Emmaus Dover was registered as a charity on 19th June 1995. The community is housed on the unique site of an ancient fort being owned by English Heritage and rented to Emmaus Dover until 2095 for a nominal amount. There are superb views from the site across Dover harbour to Dover Castle and a feeling of being in touch with the weather and the sea, an abundance of fresh air!

**At Emmaus people are valued and accepted:** homelessness occurs for many reasons, possibly a relationship breakdown, job loss, bereavement, debt, and drug or alcohol dependency.

Emmaus Dover’s door is open to all who are homeless, providing there is a vacancy. 26 single rooms are available in Dover with en-suite facilities, plus a communal eating area, lounge and “quiet room”. Each new member of the community or “companion” must agree to follow the community’s rules of showing respect for others and helping those worse off. No drugs or alcohol are allowed on the premises. Each companion is provided with housing, food, clothing and a small amount of money each week for personal use. A further amount is set aside as money to be available when the companion leaves. The ethos is that of a large family with companions being welcome to stay for as long or short a time as they wish. The age range of companions can vary from 18 to 75!

**There are no handouts in Emmaus:** companions need to agree to giving up their Job seekers allowance and only Housing Benefit is claimed by way of state benefits. Emmaus believes that self-respect is best recovered through independence.

The community lives on business from recycling donated goods, anything from clothes to furniture, bric-a-brac, books, plus electrical goods. These may be collected by a team of companions using one of our three vans; the goods are sorted, restored if necessary in our workshop and sold in our shops very little is wasted since companions will strip down items for scrap. We have three shops at the moment, one at the Fort, Canterbury and Ashford.

**Emmaus recycles furniture .......and lives:** our companions work a 40-hour week with 2 days off and they will undertake a number of different job roles which can include:

* Working in our shops, aiming to give customer satisfaction
* Driving or crewing our vans
* Unloading goods and moving goods into the warehouse
* Maintaining a flow of goods from the warehouse to the shops
* Restoring furniture and testing electrical goods
* Sorting clothing and bric-a-brac, keeping the shop clean and tidy
* Cooking for the community, plus kitchen portering
* Cleaning the communal areas
* Acts of solidarity in the local community, across the UK and internationally

The work supports the community financially, enables companions to develop skills, earn a living and ultimately rebuild their lives. Where possible training is provided in areas such as Basic Skills in Literacy and Numeracy, NVQ courses in Customer Care and Catering and Hospitality. First Aid, Manual Handling, Health & Safety Awareness and Fire Marshall.

New research by Just Economics forecasts that each year Emmaus Communities in the UK generate £11 for every £1 invested.