



**emmaus**  
**Leeds**  
working together to end homelessness

# Join us

Find out more about  
joining **Emmaus Leeds**  
and how you can benefit.

“

It's helped  
sort my life  
out, big time.

”

working together to end homelessness

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## Basic outline

Emmaus offers you a home, work in a social enterprise and an opportunity for you to gain confidence, training and any relevant support you may need to live independently again. To join Emmaus Leeds you have to commit to volunteering 40 hours in the social enterprise but the rewards for doing so are great.

Emmaus Leeds is home to 26 companions - previously homeless people who are members of our community and work in our social enterprise. Emmaus Leeds is an independent charity but we are part of a wider federation of Emmaus communities in the UK and connected to a much larger international Emmaus movement. We are non-religious and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Founded in France after the Second World War by Abbé Pierre, there are now more than 350 Emmaus groups in 37 countries, working to help people in need.



“ I don't want to think where I'd be without Emmaus. It has given me opportunity. ”



## How Emmaus works

Emmaus communities are not hostels for the homeless; they provide a home for as long as someone needs it. For many, this support is like being part of a family, providing a safe, caring and understanding place in which to settle and re-build their lives. This is an opportunity to overcome issues such as addiction, get support with mental health or rebuild relationships with family and friends.

Social enterprise is central to the Emmaus model as it provides meaningful work for companions but also generates an income to maintain our communities. We are not reliant on funding or government handouts. We earn our own income through our social enterprises which allows us to do things differently to other organisations. Being self-sufficient is at the heart of the Emmaus ethos.

### **Our vision:**

A world in which everyone has a home and a sense of belonging.

### **Our mission:**

To work together to overcome homelessness and social exclusion.



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I had never been given this much support and help before and opportunities to better myself.

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## Living at Emmaus Leeds

When you join Emmaus Leeds, almost everything is catered for. We offer you your own bedroom with an en-suite shower, furniture, bedding, stereo, TV, digital box and wi-fi internet. This is your own space, secured for as long as you need it.

The Emmaus Leeds community building is situated in the heart of Leeds city centre and only 5 minutes away from the main bus station. Outside working hours the time is yours. You will have flexible access to the community building via a key fob.

The building also has a games room with a pool table, table football, dart board and access to computers. We also offer companions access to a local gym with swimming pool and sauna.

Emmaus Leeds has a communal kitchen and dining room where all meals are prepared six days a week. At Emmaus Leeds, you can expect a wide variety of healthy meals, using fresh ingredients.

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## Working within the Emmaus social enterprise



Companions say that working in the social enterprise at Emmaus gives them a focus each day. You will get to interact with other members of the community, local volunteers and members of the public. We have many different roles that you will be involved in.

Roles include:

- Van driving
- Customer service
- Administration
- Electrics PAT tester
- White-goods testing
- Building maintenance
- Waste/scrap sorter
- Books sorter
- Chef
- Kitchen porter
- Cleaning

For each of the roles you will be given full training and induction. Emmaus also funds essential external courses such as food hygiene, manual handling and first aid.

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Being at Emmaus Leeds has given me an optimism, a feeling of wellbeing, stability and the time to settle.

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# Benefits of Emmaus

There are many benefits to joining an Emmaus community. Help is available in things you wish to change in your life. This can cover anything – from training, career development, and support to live independently to help with drug or alcohol dependency, mental health and physical wellbeing.

The community building is a drug and alcohol free environment and we have access to alcohol and drugs support. Emmaus is a supportive place that helps people to learn to trust others and get out of the circle of distrust.

Other benefits include:

- 20 days holiday plus 8 bank
- holidays per year
- Travel and holiday money provided
- Money saved for when you leave
- Work clothing and safety equipment provided
- Basic toiletries provided

“ Emmaus has given me that opportunity to be able to push myself to break the stereotype of homelessness. ”



# Things you can achieve at Emmaus

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At Emmaus I was free and safe for the first time.

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- Learn, train and gain qualifications.
- Opportunities to take part in social outings and activities within the community.
- Regular support meetings with a dedicated support worker.
- Opportunities for family members to come and stay on days off and visit.
- Improve your physical health as well as your coping and social skills.
- Directly help others who are less fortunate – this could be a local project or international volunteering trip.
- Visit other Emmaus communities in the UK.
- Support obtaining a passport to enable you to travel to other Emmaus communities throughout the world and to see different places and cultures.
- Stability to enable you to make clear decisions about your future.
- Help to enable you to live independently.



## Contact us

To find out more, arrange an informal chat about joining Emmaus Leeds or ask any questions about joining our community please contact Katrina Mattock, Community Leader:

t: **0113 380 7845**

e: **katrina@emmausleeds.co.uk**

e: **info@emmausleeds.co.uk**

Find out more online at:

**[www.emmaus.org.uk/leeds](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/leeds)**

Connect:   

Visit our community at Emmaus Leeds,  
St Mary's Street, Leeds, LS9 7DP

