

Community Newsletter

Spring 2021



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



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Growing our online sales

Covid-19 has impacted retail in several ways, with shoppers moving to online stores. We had always planned to grow our online sales, but the pandemic and lockdown periods have made that vital for us to ensure we generate the funds to support our companions.

With funding from Emmaus UK, Community Spaces and Templars Square Shopping Centre, we are embarking on an exciting new online expansion. We are training our staff and companions to take high quality photographs of our stock, investing in a photo studio and image editing software, increasing our offering on our eBay and Depop stores, and hired an Online Sales Supervisor.

Last year, we also launched our Click & Collect service through Facebook which has received great feedback so far.

You can shop with us online by visiting www.charity.ebay.co.uk and searching for 'Emmaus Oxford' or on Depop: [emmausoxford1](https://www.depop.com/emmausoxford1).

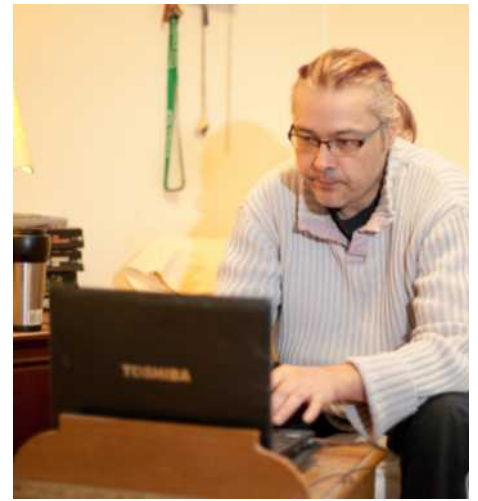
working together to end homelessness

Helping rough sleepers furnish permanent homes

We were delighted to start 2021 with a £57,000 boost from Oxfordshire Freemasons to help people who have been homeless move into permanent homes.

Our Resettlement Support Fund is available to former rough sleepers in temporary accommodation across Oxfordshire. It helps them to furnish and equip more permanent homes and in so doing help them to move on with their lives for the better. We provide packages of furniture and household goods from just a few items to everything needed to equip a home, all free of charge to the client.

We're inviting all agencies across Oxfordshire who are supporting rough sleepers to apply for this support today by visiting www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford and selecting 'Resettlement Support Fund' under our 'What we do' tab.



Supporting companions' learning in lockdown

Emmaus Oxford funds companions' education and training courses whilst they're living and working with us, helping them to move closer to paid employment.

We have had to adapt how we do this in the face of COVID-19 and we're asking for our supporters' help.

Previously, we would have paid for companions to attend courses at college. We're now hoping to provide more people with the chance to learn online. That's why we're asking for unwanted laptops, or for sponsorship to buy some.

Sam, our Progression Worker says: "A few companions are ready to go with online learning. We'd be really grateful for any help we can get to support them. I'll be working with companions to help them learn the essential IT skills they need to take their next steps in life."

To help, please contact fundraising@emmausoxford.org or visit our Good Exchange project page.



Companion Shelly on film

For 12 years, Shelly worked part-time at a school for children with disabilities, while raising her own five children who eventually all left home to lead their own lives. When Shelly's debts started to pile up, she couldn't afford to pay her rent and was evicted.

Shelly slept on her friend's sofa, and feels fortunate she didn't end up vulnerable on the streets - but she still needed help.

Since being at Emmaus, Shelly has obtained many qualifications. She is qualified to use a forklift truck and achieved an NVQ Level 2 in Warehousing and Storage, Level 3 Food Hygiene and Level 3 First Aid. Shelly now also has a diploma in Special Needs Education and is working to complete a course on Children and Young People's Mental Health.

We would like to thank Stories for Change and Lloyds Bank Foundation for working with us to make Shelly's film, as well as two others. Each film helps us to share the inspiring stories of our companions and the work we do at Emmaus Oxford.

Scan the QR code below to hear Shelly tell her story in her own words!



Help us change lives

If you would like to help us continue our work supporting formerly homeless people like Shelly turn their lives around, you can donate online at: www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/support-us/donate



Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon app to generate donations.

smile.amazon.co.uk



Support us and Smile!

Did you know that you can support us while you shop on Amazon?

AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of eligible purchases made to your chosen charity at no extra cost to you.

All you need to do is select your charity by visiting smile.amazon.co.uk and going forward, remember to shop via AmazonSmile rather than the normal Amazon.

Shopping on the app? Make sure to turn AmazonSmile ON in the app after you have chosen your charity.

Support Emmaus Oxford

Donate to us

Depending on government restrictions, we may be re-opening in April and will accept donations of good quality unwanted household goods. To get your donations ready, please clean all items and bag or box and label smaller items if you can. In the meantime, keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on our donation process and re-opening.

Shop online

We are listing new items daily on eBay, Depop and our click & collect page through Facebook. For vintage, retro and antique finds, visit our eBay store, for clothing and accessories, check us out on Depop, and for furniture, visit our Facebook page. All store links can be found at www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford-our-shops

Become a friend

Making a regular donation of any size really helps us to plan and maintain our services. We appreciate donations of any size, and if you can give £10 a month or more we'll invite you to become a Friend of Emmaus Oxford. Find out more here: www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/support-us/donate

Get in touch

Call 01865 763698 or visit us at emmaus.org.uk/oxford

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Emmaus Oxford is a registered charity number 1066618

