

Community Newsletter

Summer 2021



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



In this issue

Hannah's marathon challenge for Emmaus Oxford

Donated vase sells for £1,938!

Gary's story - "I love this place and everyone here is passionate about it as well."

New computer room at Emmaus Oxford

Donations needed for weekly rough sleeper outreach

Every Thursday, Emmaus Oxford companions run outreach sessions for people who are street homeless or in temporary accommodation. During the sessions, companions hand out essential items and hot and cold food.

The outreach sessions rely on generous donations from local businesses and individuals. If you would like to help, we need the following items: sleeping bags, foam roll mats, pop up tents, small 2-man tents, winter jackets, fleeces, walking boots, trainers, gloves, hats, rucksacks (various sizes), socks, underwear, small packs of baby wipes, and toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Items can be dropped off at the Emmaus Oxford store on Barns Road in Cowley Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 5pm or Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

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Mammoth marathon challenge

Emmaus supporter, Hannah, is back with more marathon and fundraising goals in aid of Emmaus Oxford.

In 2020, Hannah had a place at Manchester Marathon, but it got postponed due to Covid-19. Hannah hit her fundraising target of £1,000 for Emmaus Oxford and still ran the 26.2 miles on the day the marathon should have taken place.

Hannah's place at Manchester Marathon is valid for this year and she will also be running two other marathons in less than a month, totalling 78.6 miles! Hannah will again be fundraising for Emmaus Oxford, and we are so grateful for her support! The runner's challenge starts with Richmond Park Marathon in September and the London and Manchester Marathons, both in October.

To support Hannah's challenge, search for 'Hannah Grayson' on JustGiving.



Donated vase sells for £1,938 on eBay!

After completing an Emmaus Oxford house clearance service, companion Mark bought a vase to our eBay team thinking it might be valuable – and he was right!

Our Online Sales Supervisor, Paulina, researched the vase further and found a similar one on eBay that had the same markings as the donated vase we received.

From there, Paulina was able to accurately call it a Kangxi Vase dated within the Kangxi period (1662-1722). Porcelain from this period is one of the most recognisable of Chinese ceramics and can be found in collections and museums all over the world.

Paulina listed the item on eBay starting at £150, and the auction ended at £1,938! A week later, it arrived to a very happy customer in the USA.

This example just goes to show that there are many hidden gems that can be discovered on our eBay store. Every penny we generate from our store and online sales goes towards our community home and supporting our companions. We are delighted to have raised a substantial amount from just one item!



Gary's story

I have lived at Emmaus Oxford since 2017 and I like that it does change people's lives. It's not a night shelter where you're in and out, there is always hope and prospect that you can have a better life.

Before Emmaus, I had spent six months sleeping rough in my car. Every day living in my car felt like a week, and it was during a really hot summer. Even at 11pm at night, sweat would be dripping off me. I tried sleeping outside in fields to stay cool, but worried that someone might break into my car, which had everything I owned inside.

It got to the point that I was smoking and drinking to get through the day, and I had no fuel or money left. I knew I couldn't go on like that and went to the job centre for advice. Within a week of finding out about Emmaus, I was accepted at the community in Oxford, and I've not looked back since.

I work in the store, mainly in our beds area. Beds sell really quickly in the store, so I like to keep on the ball with rotating stock. I also work on the vans collecting and delivering items and enjoy helping with the eBay shop. I've done a lot of training too and have an NVQ in Customer Service, Warehousing and completed a first aid course. I'm now learning how to use a computer in our new computer room. That's been my biggest hurdle to overcome but I'm getting there.

After being at Emmaus for about a year, I started to feel like it was time to give something back. I had repaired and healed, but I knew there were others in need in Oxford and this area of Cowley in particular. I bought up the idea of a homeless outreach evening at a community meeting, everyone agreed we should do it, and it went from there. My fellow companions and I now give out essential items and food parcels every Thursday to anyone who needs it. Items can be anything from winter sleeping bags, hats, gloves and scarves to toiletries, torches, and toilet roll. People have really started relying on us and thankfully we have had a lot of generous donations from individuals and businesses to keep it going.

Emmaus Oxford has done so much for me, but it's time to look forward. I've just signed up to the over 55's housing scheme called Anchor Housing. They put you on a list and there are various options all around Oxford that are affordable. It could take up to a year, but there's no rush. When I leave, I'd love to volunteer at Emmaus Oxford. I love this place, and everyone here is passionate about it as well.

Help us change lives

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





New computer room for companions

When people join our community as companions, they have the opportunity to access education and training courses funded by Emmaus Oxford. This is to help them move closer to paid employment, build up their CV and learn new skills.

During Covid-19, we had to adapt the way we offer this. Previously, most companions could attend courses at college, but the pandemic moved a lot of the education and training courses online. In our Spring Newsletter, we asked for our supporters help by donating unwanted laptops or providing sponsorship for us to buy some.

We were delighted to receive a grant for computers and a very generous laptop donation in response to our newsletter. We also gave our computer room a spruce thanks to the help of companion Shelly, who added new wallpaper!

Support Emmaus Oxford

Donate to us

Your donated items help us to generate the funds needed to run our community home and support people out of homelessness. If you have items to donate, please call our store on 01865 763 698 before visiting to check we have enough storage space. If you have larger items to donate, you can book a free collection by visiting www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford.

Shop with us

By shopping with us you're not only picking up a bargain, you're also helping people who have been homeless. Please visit our store at 242 Barns Road, Cowley, OX4 3RQ. We're open Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 5pm and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. We also sell our special and quirky items on eBay and DePop, so please check those out.

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

