

# Community Newsletter

Spring 2022



**emmaus**  
Oxford  
working together to end homelessness



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## Anneliese Dodds MP visits Emmaus Oxford

Oxford East MP and Labour Chair Anneliese Dodds showed support for our charity with a visit to our Cowley site to learn more about the work we do.

On Friday 29 April, the Labour (Co-op) MP met with companions and staff for a tour of our community building, where 28 formerly homeless people live, and our second-hand store, where the people we support work full-time.

We're extremely grateful to Ms Dodds for taking the time to visit Emmaus Oxford. It was great for her to see first-hand the work we do in Oxford and hear from people on the ground – both those with lived experience of homelessness and our staff members who are helping people towards a better future. The visit was a pleasure, and we hope to welcome Ms Dodds back soon.

working together to end homelessness

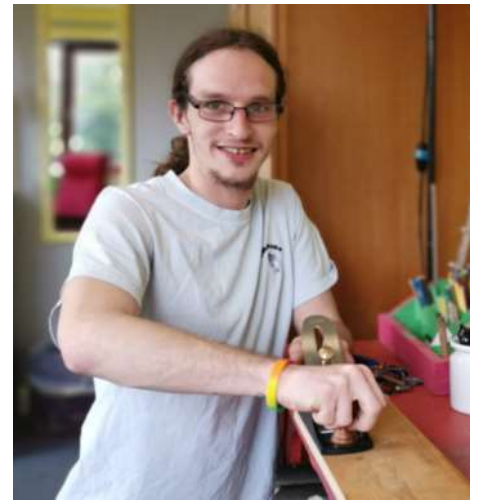
# Mayor's chosen charity

We're thrilled to announce that the new Lord Mayor of Oxford, James Fry, has selected Emmaus Oxford as one of his charities for 2022/23.

Cllr. James Fry is set to take up office as the 62nd Lord Mayor of Oxford, taking over responsibility from Cllr. Mark Lygo, who has served as Lord Mayor of Oxford since November 2020.

The Lord Mayor generally carries out more than 300 engagements each year ranging from Royal visits and leading the City's annual Remembrance Sunday service to small community group meetings and charity events.

It's a real honour for Emmaus Oxford to be chosen as one of the Lord Mayor's charities and we really appreciate the support. The last few years during the pandemic have been difficult for us as a charity and this is a great boost. We look forward to welcoming the Lord Mayor to our Emmaus community!



## Emma & Emmaus upcycle!

**We're building a brand-new workshop so we can upcycle and restore furniture.**

Alongside this, we're absolutely delighted to be working with a local upcycler, Emma Whyte, who will be teaching two of our companions, Shane and Karl, how to restore, repair and upcycle items. Currently, Emma is working with Karl and Shane on a series of oak dining tables that they rescued from a school. They will be taking them apart, restoring them, and in some cases, remaking the joints.

After the first session together, Emma said: "I came away absolutely bowled over by how Shane and Karl worked together. It was the most amazing, respectable collaboration that I've ever come across. Shane qualified as a cabinet maker while he has been with Emmaus Oxford, so that's working well because he is already highly skilled. I think they feel a bit frustrated about not being able to repair donated items that come in, so they are both quite enthusiastic."

We would like to thank an individual donor, who has funded the creation of our workshop, The Rank Foundation, which has given us the opportunity to work with Emma, and volunteers from our corporate partner, Penningtons Manches Cooper, who will be helping us to get the workshop ready.

## We're expanding!

We're in the process of increasing the number of rooms in our community so we can support even more people out of homelessness. Watch this space for an update soon!



## Phil's staff story

**I joined Emmaus Oxford as the Deputy Store Manager in October 2021 and enjoy seeing the difference my work makes first-hand.**

Over the last 20 years, I've worked in retail management for big corporate brands. Emmaus Oxford was my first venture into the charity sector and I've noticed huge differences. In corporate roles, it's all about the bottom line. Whereas, at Emmaus Oxford I feel like I'm giving something back and doing something good. I'm using my skills and experience to make a difference in a small way.

My role involves running the store, making sure the companions are looked after, customer service, stock rotation, and health and safety. I'm full-time and Jaime, the Store Manager, is part-time, so I cover some of what she used to do on a full-time basis.

When I first started, I was untrained in this sector and working with people who are classed as vulnerable. I've done quite a lot of training through Emmaus Oxford – my Mental Health First Aid, a course on Autism and I'm going to be doing a course on Addiction Counselling soon.

I really enjoy working with the companions. They're a good bunch and I think overall, enjoy being part of the team, interacting with the customers and the physicality of the work. I've made good

relationships with them, which I think is important because I'm working alongside them as well as supporting them. My favourite thing about the role is my colleagues, and I include the companions in that too. I enjoy that no two days are the same as well. Even if the store isn't particularly busy sales wise, we're always busy moving furniture, looking after customers and sorting out issues on the vans.

In store, we hope to have more promotions and sales coming up. There's also a new upcycling workshop at the community which is being kitted out and we've just bought another residential property which is exciting. We will have more move-on accommodation for people just getting back into work.

Recently, we've had quite a few people who have got jobs and moved out as well, which is really positive and what Emmaus Oxford is all about. I think working in the store gives companions the confidence to apply for jobs that they wouldn't have applied for before. The support staff help them with applications and interview techniques, but I think the day-to-day working in the store, dealing with customers, and problem solving means they naturally gain the confidence to apply for roles.

## Help us change lives

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







## Solidarity Sale for Ukraine

Emmaus Oxford is part of an international movement made up of 410 Emmaus groups and communities in 41 countries. Emmaus groups around the world have come together to support the Oselya and Nasha Khata groups in Ukraine as war continues to take hold in the country, as well as the Emmaus groups in Poland and Romania which are supporting people who have fled their homes.

To help, we held a Solidarity Sale on Saturday 19 March at our store in aid of Emmaus Europe's Ukraine Appeal.

We would like to thank all our customers and supporters who shopped with us or donated on this day. In total, we raised £1,371 in sales. This will be forwarded to Emmaus Europe and will be distributed to Emmaus groups in Ukraine, Poland and Romania.

## 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](http://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](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/support-us/donate)

## Get in touch

Call 01865 763698 or visit us at [emmaus.org.uk/oxford](http://emmaus.org.uk/oxford)

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Emmaus Oxford is a registered charity number 1066618

