

Community Newsletter

Autumn 2022



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



In this issue

Double your donations for the Big Give to help us expand

Goodbye to Steve, our Community Manager

New partnership with Sovereign Housing

Christmas cards on sale

The Mayor's visit

Healthy Hearts for our companions

In May, we launched a new project thanks to funding from Public Health Oxfordshire via Oxfordshire Community Foundation, with the aim of helping our companions get more physically active and quit smoking.

The Healthy Hearts grant we received earlier this year has allowed us run weekly football sessions for our companions, enlist the help of a personal trainer, and has enabled us to provide vaping equipment and vouchers as incentives to help them give up smoking.

According to Homeless Link, homeless people have worse physical and mental health than the rest of the population, and Groundswell's study found that approximately 85% of homeless people smoke, compared to just 18% of the general population. Given the vulnerabilities of some of our companions, we knew physical health was an area we could support more with, and we are now seeing results!

Since the project started in May, 12 companions are regularly participating in weekly football and PT sessions, seven companions have switched from tobacco smoking to vapes, and two have given up smoking completely. Well done to all!

working together to end homelessness

The Big Give

Thanks to a generous donation we purchased an adjoining property to our community earlier this year. We now need your help to raise £20,000 during this year's Big Give Christmas Challenge to transform it!

It's a semi-detached property, currently arranged as two flats and we're aiming to renovate the whole property, and the neighbouring semi-detached house at 169, which we also own. We will use the two houses as 'move on' properties for companions beginning employment or training and who are looking for greater independence. We will offer affordable rent and some support to these people as they prepare to move onto pastures new. We aim to add at least four ensuite rooms, taking us from 28 rooms to 32.

Eddie Blaze, Chief Executive at Emmaus Oxford said: "This much-needed additional accommodation will provide greater levels of independence to our companions who secure employment or training opportunities. There is a lack of move on housing for vulnerable people in Oxford and this is part of our solution to that problem."

The Big Give takes place from midday 29 November to 6 December and all donations will be doubled!



Emmaus Christmas cards

Our very own Christmas cards, designed and printed right here in Oxford, are on sale again!

We have two designs; a classic holiday wreath with fruits and foliage and the second design is inspired by the Emmaus logo and depicts a white dove in flight holding a red poinsettia flower.

The cards are available as sets of 2 for £2.50, 6 for £6.50 and 12 for £12, with free standard delivery. As always, all proceeds will go directly to our charity, which helps homeless people here in Oxford. A huge thank you to Paulina in our Online Sales team for creating the beautiful designs! Buy yours by visiting ebay.co.uk/str/emmausox

New partnership

We're delighted to announce that we are partnering with Sovereign Housing Association to offer their vulnerable tenants the chance to shop in the Emmaus Oxford store for essential household items.

Sovereign provides supported living, extra care and temporary housing across the South of England. The Sovereign team will identify vulnerable tenants and can refer them to Emmaus Oxford so they can shop in our store, with Sovereign covering the cost for the items they choose. Sovereign have given us an initial budget of £5,000 and we're looking forward to being able to support those in vulnerable situations with essential items so they can make their living arrangements feel like home.



Goodbye to Steve, our Community Leader

At the end of November Emmaus Oxford says goodbye to our long serving Community Leader, Steve James.

Steve has been at the heart of Emmaus Oxford since before we even opened to companions and has 14 years' service. Having been around while 171 Oxford Road was being built and overseeing the first companions joining us, Steve has been a key individual in the growth of Emmaus Oxford. Steve has seen the community through many ups and downs and seen many companions come and go, with many moving on to more settled lives. Emmaus Oxford has grown beyond expectations and Steve is leaving with the community in a very strong position. Steve has risen to all challenges including seeing the community through the pandemic and has also made a large contribution to the Emmaus federation in the UK.

Steve is leaving us to set up the 'Cornermen', a mental health support service for men in Didcot and we wish him luck with this.

Taking over the reins from Steve, will be Hannah Hutchings, who is moving from the role of Head of Fundraising to become the new Community Manager.

Steve will be greatly missed by all our companions, staff and volunteers and we all wish him well in his new role.

Help us change lives

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





Lord Mayor of Oxford and Councillor Pressel tour our community

On Thursday 13 October, we welcomed the new Lord Mayor of Oxford, James Fry, and Councillor Susanna Pressel to our Emmaus community. As the 62nd Lord Mayor of Oxford, James Fry selected our charity, along with Aspire and Asylum Welcome, to support during his 2022/23 term.

During the visit, we gave a tour of our community, which is home to 28 people rebuilding their lives after experiencing homelessness, before heading to our store so they could learn more about how we provide meaningful work for our companions. It's a real honour for Emmaus Oxford to be chosen as one of the Lord Mayor's charities and we were delighted to share more about the vital work we do supporting people out of homelessness. We look forward to a year of support!

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 our website and clicking on 'book a collection'.

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. Like the rest of the country, the cost of living crisis has affected our charity, which supports 28 people. We appreciate donations of any size, and if you can give £10 or more we'll invite you to become a Friend of Emmaus Oxford. To donate, visit www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford and click on our 'donate' button.

Get in touch

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

Emmaus Oxford, 242 Barns Road, Oxford, OX4 3RQ

 [emmausoxford](https://www.facebook.com/emmausoxford)  [emmausoxford1](https://twitter.com/emmausoxford1)  [oxfordemmaus](https://www.instagram.com/oxfordemmaus)

Emmaus Oxford is a registered charity number 1066618

