

Community Newsletter

Winter 2024



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



Everyone needs a place to call home at Christmas.

Thanks to your support, we can expand our service in 2025 so more people can call **Emmaus Oxford** their home next Christmas.

Inside this issue:

- Emmaus President, Sir Terry Waite shares his Christmas message
- B&Q re-design the store
- Find out how to donate whilst you shop!

Working together to end homelessness

Janet's story

Telling my story has taken me a lot of courage, but by telling it, I hope to inspire others and remove the stigma around homelessness.



It's not always men with a troubled background that can become homeless, it can also be the result of a set of unfortunate circumstances.

I was 22, and a recent graduate in Law from Exeter University, when I came to Emmaus. I often scroll through social media to see my old schoolmates enjoying life, travelling or partying, but instead my life took a different turn. For that, I had to bear a tougher skin. It is not easy for a young woman like myself to go through something like this.

Emmaus gives individuals a clear mindset to think, to reflect and to plan ahead. Something that some of us might not have had before coming to Emmaus. I want my story to give people a sense of hope, that you can turn your life around if you want to.

I wish I'd known about Emmaus sooner, so I wouldn't have had to worry about becoming street homeless. With support from Emmaus, I can finally make longer term plans; I am learning to drive and I've been applying to volunteer at local organisations in order to gain valuable legal experience, which I hope helps with the next step in my journey to becoming a barrister.

Janet is preparing to take on a skydiving challenge to raise funds for Emmaus Oxford. You can give your support to Janet on here at [justgiving](#).



The Emmaus Christmas message

In his Christmas message, Sir Terry Waite, Emmaus UK President, highlights the isolation felt by many people experiencing homelessness and how it “becomes even more stark” during the festive season.

“..everybody should have the chance to experience the joy and hope of Christmas with other people”.

“For many Emmaus companions, their Emmaus community becomes their extended family. Others reconnect with their relatives and friends, thanks to the stability and opportunities they get whilst at Emmaus.” Over 300,000 people in the UK will spend Christmas Day without a place to call home but thanks to your donations, Emmaus Oxford can provide much more than a place to stay, but a community where companions feel welcomed, where they can rediscover the joy of connection and belonging this Christmas.

HOME-LESS art installation

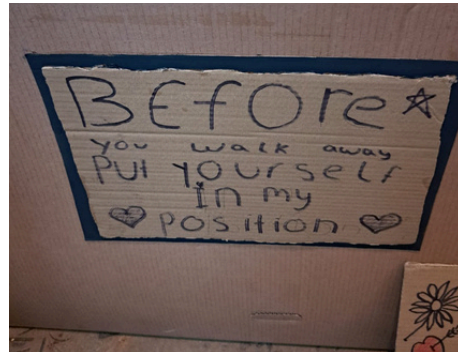


Artists Adrian Brooks and Tim Cook created the HOME-LESS art installation consisting of four cardboard boxes, symbolising the temporary shelters many homeless people rely on. On the outside, an alternative map of Oxford featuring organisations supporting homeless people, sites of buskers and Big Issue sellers in Oxford, as well as portraits and diaries of Emmaus Oxford companions.

“Before you walk away put yourself in my position.”

Artist Adrian shares his inspiration for HOME-LESS.

“My aim for HOME-LESS is summed up in one card I saw next to a homeless person in Oxford, ‘Before you walk away, put yourself in my position’. That is exactly what the installation invites people to do, put themselves in the position of a homeless person, (inside the cardboard box) however briefly, and then reflect. The portraits and stories are designed to share the experiences of those who are rewriting their own life stories with the help of Emmaus.”



**It is easy to shop and donate with
easyfundraising.org.uk**

Turn your everyday online shopping into donations. When you use the [easyfundraising](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) website or app to shop with leading retailers, the retailer sends us a donation at no additional cost to you.

Over 8,500 retailers including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Currys, Etsy, M&S, Boots, Dunelm, Waterstones, Tesco. Sign up today at easyfundraising.org.uk

Plus, for the next two weeks, every new supporter earns us a £1 bonus donation!

News from our store

Thank you to the fantastic team of volunteers from B&Q Oxford who gave their time and skills to transform part of the Emmaus Oxford Store. They did a wonderful job designing and building a chic boutique style to our clothes, books and bric-a-brac area. In keeping with the Emmaus theme of reuse and recycle, they took reclaimed materials,



such as wooden pallets and scaffold boards to create stylish clothes rails, shelving and display tables. Please visit the store soon to admire their work whilst you shop.



Support Emmaus Oxford

Donate to us

We depend on donations of good quality second-hand items that we can sell on to support our community. We can collect items from your home or business or you can drop them into our store.

Shop with us

We sell unique and amazing items at great prices. By shopping with us you're not only likely to pick up a bargain, you'll also be helping to provide a home for people who have experienced homelessness.

Volunteer with us

Volunteering with Emmaus can be a great way to gain work experience or just get involved in a vibrant and bustling community. Contact us to sign up and see what volunteering roles we have available.

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

Donate

on our [website](http://emmaus.org.uk/oxford)

