

You & emmaus

working together to end homelessness

Restoring a piece of local history

Unique coffee raises funds

**New business tenant gives
opportunities to young people**

How Nigel's life changed

Meet our newest trustee

Festive news and updates from
the Emmaus Bristol community

Winter 2021

The Roy Hackett mural

In August, we were very upset to lose the Roy Hackett MBE mural, which adorned one of the houses we lease from Bristol City Council, when part of the wall render collapsed. The mural was part of the iconic Seven Saints of St Pauls Heritage Trail, created by multi-award-winning artist, Michele Curtis to celebrate the contributions made by the Windrush Generation to the area.

However, we are delighted to announce that it will be reinstated!

The mural, featured Roy Hackett and others who were instrumental in the Bristol bus boycott of 1963, which arose from the refusal of the Bristol Omnibus Co. to employ Black or Asian bus crews.

The mural had to be removed for safety reasons. Now, Bristol City Council has confirmed they will repair the wall and leave it as a blank canvas for the mural to be re-instated. The work is scheduled to start this year and complete in April.

Our first priority was to make sure the house was safe for the tenants. We are pleased that the necessary building work has been agreed and would like to thank Bristol City Council for the assistance.

The Seven Saints of St Pauls murals mean a lot to us and the local community, so we're delighted to be working with Michele again to reinstate her beautiful and beloved mural of Roy Hackett.

Michele has created a donations page to raise funds for the restoration
www.gofundme.com/f/official-roy-hackett-mural-restoration



Emmaus Bristol coffee blend

We have teamed up with Blind Owl Coffee Co, the Bristol-based collective of coffee lovers and roasters, to create a unique hand-roasted coffee blend. Every pack of their 'Emmaus blend' coffee will support people out of homelessness, adding a little good will to everyone's morning cup of 'get up and go'.

Blind Owl has taken high-quality, well-balanced Arabica beans from Brazil and Vietnam, two of the world's top coffee-producing countries, to create our Emmaus charity-blend, 'Morning Motivation'.

The beans are expertly hand-roasted to a medium roast profile, producing a velvety, full-bodied cup of indulgence: chocolate orange marmalade meets almond shortbread biscuit! Our coffee is suitable for all home brew methods and is delicious black, with milk or milk alternatives.

Robyn Morley, owner of Blind Owl, said:

"We wanted to help address homelessness in our city. To us, the ritual of brewing and drinking a freshly made cup of coffee at home is one of life's purest pleasures that is so often taken for granted. We believe that by working with Emmaus Bristol, a community-based charity, we can help raise awareness of homelessness, generate significant donations, and make a real difference to people's lives."

A quality coffee at £6.50 a pack, 'Morning Motivation' will be available to purchase from all three of our shops and online. The product will launch in time for the festive season so could make the perfect stocking filler or gift for coffee lovers!



Find out more or buy online at:

www.emmausbristol.org.uk/shop-with-us/coffee

Welcome to Babassa

We're delighted to welcome Bristol-based social enterprise, Babassa, to our Business Incubator.

Situated above our Stokes Croft shop, the Emmaus Bristol Business Incubator, rents affordable desk and office space to small businesses, charities and social enterprises.

Since 2010, Babassa has supported more than 2,200 young people into work, education, or business. We interviewed CEO, Poku Osei:

What is Babassa?

"Babassa supports young people with their professional ambitions in a number of ways: one-to-one support, events that bring young people together with professionals, skills workshops, and mentoring schemes. We believe that young people's aspirations and opportunities should not be determined by their background. Babassa also operates as an inclusive and ethical recruitment agency, letting employers know that there is value and an advantage in diversity, and encouraging them to take young people from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds into their places of work."

Why did you choose our office space?

"We outgrew our previous office space. During the pandemic, we saw an increased need from young people for our services, so our team expanded. We were keen to find office space with an organisation that shares our values, missions and vision. That's why the opportunity at Emmaus Bristol was perfect for us. Both our organisations support people, give them a chance, and empower them to progress or get their life back on track."

Poku Osei holding the Queen's Award for Enterprise for Promoting Opportunity, awarded in 2020 for Babassa's dedication to bringing equal opportunity to Bristol


How can people support Babassa?

"Anyone who has built up skills and experience in any trade and wants to share them with a young person, can join our mentoring scheme, deliver a skills workshop, or come to one of our events.

Or, if people don't have the time but still want to support us, they can make a donation which goes towards helping young people join our programmes."

To find out more visit www.babassa.com





Simon's chosen challenge is to walk three miles a day to raise money

Emmaus Bristol's Lifesaving Challenge

This winter, our team aims to raise money through our Lifesaving Challenge to purchase a much-needed community defibrillator for the Stokes Croft area – and they need your help!

Our Companions and staff will be undertaking personal challenges – walking to work or eating less meat, giving up smoking or running a half marathon daily – to raise money to purchase a defibrillator, and training for its use, while improving their own health too! They are determined to raise £1,700 (£1,400 for the defibrillator and £300 for training).

Any donation, however small, is greatly appreciated and can be made on our JustGiving page

Why a defibrillator? In the UK, only 10% of people survive cardiac arrest outside of a hospital, partly because CPR and

defibrillation cannot be started quickly enough. Sadly in 2019 there were an estimated 23 deaths of homeless people in the Bristol area; Stokes Croft acts as a hub for the homeless, and we want to ensure that there is an accessible defibrillator in Stokes Croft to help save lives, in both the homeless and wider communities in the area.

To get involved, either sponsor us, or set up your own challenge on Just Giving, and improve your health while raising sponsorship.

Throughout the challenge, we'll update you on each person's progress, trials and tribulations – be sure to follow us!

Support our efforts! www.justgiving.com/campaign/EBdefib

“Where people help and support each other”

Nigel talks about how he found Emmaus and how much our community means to him

“I joined Emmaus Bristol during the week it opened as one of the very first Companions. That was a long time ago now, in 2003, after I had spent two years street homeless and sofa-surfing.

At 17, I went into the RAF and I was there for ten years. I enjoyed it, and I think a military background helped me to survive on the streets but, like many ex-military personnel, I got used to not having to pay bills and having all meals supplied for me. It hit me hard when I came out.

After the RAF, I worked in a hotel for thirteen years and that’s when my drinking got bad. I found the work very stressful and lost the job and my accommodation. That’s how I ended up homeless in Bristol.

On the streets

I didn’t want anyone to know I’d become homeless and it was a difficult time. I didn’t get much sleep at night because I never felt safe and was in fear of someone pinching my stuff. I used to get food and clothing from churches, day centres and soup runs. There was a night shelter I got food from too, but I didn’t like staying there. I felt safer on the streets, as weird as that sounds.

When someone from an outreach organisation explained everything Emmaus does and that there was a community opening up in Bristol, I thought it sounded too good to be true. But I spoke to an Emmaus staff member, moved in as the third Companion and the rest is history!

A changed perspective

When you’re on the streets, you get tunnel vision looking out for number one. I remember thinking when I first arrived at Emmaus that I didn’t have to worry about that any longer. I suddenly had my own room, support from the staff, and friendly faces.

I’ve seen a lot of changes over the years: obviously Companions have come and gone and the staff team has completely changed from when I first joined. A new Emmaus community has to grow and learn, and we have definitely done that!



We are fundraising for more affordable move-on homes. A donation of any size will help us to support more people on to independent living.
CAN YOU HELP?

Showing off our wares in our Stokes Croft shop. Nigel has great customer service skills and is a key member of our retail team.

Pride in our development

We didn't have a shop when I first joined. When we got our first showroom near the community house, we thought there was no way we were going to fill it. As soon as we put the word out for donations and started doing collections though, we thought it wasn't big enough! Since then, we have opened our Stokes Croft, Bedminster, and vintage shop on Gloucester Road. I feel proud that I have been here through all of it and played a part in making it happen.

Sense of purpose

What I like about Emmaus Bristol is that we are a working community, where people help and support each other. It's not like a hostel, we have work to keep us occupied which gives us meaning and a sense of purpose. I've worked in all areas but my favourite thing to do is work in the shops and I help to show new Companions the ropes. I've also done my First Aid and Fire Warden training and completed a management course which I got high marks on and was happy with.

At Emmaus Bristol, I've been able to get my self-esteem back and it's given me a sense of purpose again. **To me, Emmaus means care, support and meaning."**



In each issue of **You & Emmaus** we invite you to meet the staff, Companions and volunteers who make up our team.

Trustee's story:

Luke McCreery talks about volunteering on our Board of Trustees

"I became a trustee at Emmaus Bristol to give something back and make a positive difference. After learning about Emmaus Bristol's work, I knew it was something I wanted to be involved in.

I started my career as an apprentice plumber when I left school in 2005 and qualified as a gas engineer in 2008. I still work for the same company. Having done various managerial roles over the past 15 years, I was recently appointed as a Director.

What I enjoy most about being a trustee at Emmaus Bristol is working with the Chief Executive, Jessica, and the rest of the team. The work ethic and care they have for the Companions is amazing to see.

What Jessica and the team are doing is truly making a difference to so many people's lives, often when they need it the most.

In five years' time, I would like to see Emmaus Bristol working on a larger scale so we can help even more people. I think housing development is key as there simply aren't enough affordable properties in Bristol.



To sum up Emmaus Bristol in one sentence, I'd say: **Emmaus Bristol makes a real difference to people's lives."**



Not just for Christmas...

Throughout the 12 days of Christmas and all year round Emmaus Bristol is a home for as long as it's needed. A monthly donation helps us do what we do all year.

www.emmausbristol.org.uk/help-us/donate-money

www.emmausbristol.org.uk

Stokes Croft shop and office: Backfields House, Upper York Street, Bristol BS2 8QJ

Bedminster shop: 72 Bedminster Parade, Bristol BS3 4HL

Emmaus Vintage: 332 Gloucester Rd, Bristol BS7 8TJ

Online shop: www.ebay.co.uk/str/emmausbristol · eBay app: search 'seller: emmausbristol

Emmaus Bristol is a charity registered in England and Wales: 1071538 and a registered limited company: 03579001

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