



# You & emmaus

working together to end homelessness

**Our festive stall at  
Bristol Christmas  
Market**

**Clearing with  
compassion**

**In-house up-cycling**

**Companion  
development and  
moving on**

**We'd love your  
bric-a-brac!**

**Plans to expand our  
accommodation**

Festive news and updates from  
the Emmaus Bristol community

Winter 2019

# New affordable accommodation

As homelessness continues to rise in Bristol, we continue to look for ways to expand our accommodation in order to help more people. With land costs and house prices rising, we're looking for innovative solutions for expansion.

During an informal chat with local architect Craig White, Jessica (our Chief Executive) asked whether it might be feasible to build upwards to add accommodation to the roof of Backfields House. This building, which we own, is the centre of our operations. It hosts our office, warehouse, workshops, our biggest shop, and our business incubator.

An innovative, light-weight eco-home system called a TAM (Transportable Accommodation Module) was designed by Craig specifically to fit into odd spaces in our city: on roof tops, at the side of semi-detached houses and in back gardens.



**With your  
support we  
can provide  
more homes**

**If you wish to make a donation to Emmaus Bristol to help  
more vulnerable people, you can do so by sending a cheque to  
or by visiting our Just Giving Page: [www.emmausbristol.org.uk/just-giving](#)**

It's easy to set up a regular donation through Just Giving – see [www.emmausbristol.org.uk/just-giving](#)

TAMs are produced locally, giving Companions an opportunity to get involved in both building the units off-site and fitting them out on-site.

Homes England, a non-departmental government body, has provided funding for a feasibility study and, if feasible, to submit a planning application and produce detailed design drawings. We now know that the project is technically feasible and are beginning work on financial viability. We also need to compare TAM costs to building from scratch, and to buying and converting an existing building as we did with Shaftesbury House, our communal accommodation.

We're continuing to explore other, quicker ways of expanding our accommodation, such as leasing from private landlords and the local council, to help more people out of homelessness.



We plan to expand our accommodation to produce at least an extra eight bedrooms. The feasibility study will look at the cost and practicality of adding between seven and fifteen individual homes with communal outside space to our roof, and compare this with the cost of building off-site.

Architect's drawing of the proposed south-west elevation at Backfields House.

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**Support projects that are essential to providing homes for  
by sending a cheque addressed to 'Appeals Team',  
[www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol](http://www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol)**

Simply enter the amount you'd like to give and click 'monthly'.

# Back to life

Companions can use the workshop in our Stokes Croft warehouse to revamp donated wooden furniture. Pieces are sanded, waxed or varnished, painted bright colours, or become 'canvases' for their artworks. It's a lovely opportunity for our team members to practice and develop their talents and skills – and for our customers to choose a truly unique piece of furniture.

“Given the opportunity, I love to up-cycle the old, battered furniture donated to us. Up-cycling a scratched, chipped, tired piece of furniture to make it special again, in a new way, is a chance to use my creativity and brings me back to myself – reminding me that I have skills and talents. I give something to the piece of furniture and it energises me too – it's an exchange... and it's very satisfying to see someone come in and buy it.”



# Turning goals into realities

Although Emmaus Bristol offers a home for as long as it's needed, we're always pleased when Companions<sup>1</sup> feel they are ready to move on to independent living outside of our community – we support them throughout this process.

## Moving on

Other Companions opt to take a step forward within our community by choosing interdependent living in Emmaus Bristol's 'move on' houses. In contrast to life in our 21-bedroom communal home, in these smaller 3–4 person houses Companions have more day-to-day responsibilities such as sharing chores and buying food.

## Tailored support and training

We never forget the invisible barriers to moving on from homelessness. Trauma is one issue that can hold back many people who have been homeless. Our Support Team works hard to find and introduce Companions to services and therapies that can help resolve past difficulties, and empower individuals to see their future and pursue their goals.

Those goals include acquiring academic qualifications, or vocational certifications, in order to gain better employment and afford to move out comfortably into the economically challenging Bristol environment.

Companions are encouraged to recognise how enhanced work skills are key to finding secure, better-paid work which safeguards us all against the likelihood of poverty and homelessness.

Many Companions are taking advantage of the excellent employment training, advice, and placements that our Support Staff arrange through West of England Works and N-gage Training. One Companion is currently training for forklift truck certification, another Companion is taking a word processing course, and a third has completed courses to boost their confidence.

Experienced IT mentor and dedicated Emmaus Bristol volunteer, Kevin Brown is always available to help Companions write CVs and apply for work online.

However, personal development is not only about academic or vocational qualifications – it's also about having fun and learning for pleasure. Companions are taking writing courses, learning Hindi, attending conferences and concerts, local music nights, national Emmaus planning events and volunteering locally.

**From high-level computer qualifications to medical anatomy courses, Companions are getting ready to move on.**

We recently heard from a former Companion who has found work in Bristol and moved into his own digs. He told us he is very grateful to Emmaus Bristol, and that he loves his new home and 'still' enjoys his job!

**That is surely all one can ask for...**

<sup>1</sup> Members of our community are known as 'Companions'



**Please support us with a monthly donation: [www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol](http://www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol)**

# Taking pride in our work

*“I was really pleased with the house clearance service provided by Emmaus Bristol. The entire process, from point of enquiry, through to the actual clearance was efficient and professional at all times. The team on-site clearing the property were incredibly empathetic – recognising the emotion and difficulty that comes with clearing a deceased relative’s property. With huge thanks, I’m delighted to be supporting such a worthwhile cause as a result of using Emmaus.”*

A note received from Jo in South Bristol in September 2019

More than just a ‘job well done’  
**Our House Clearance team regularly receives high praise from customers who’ve used the Emmaus Bristol House Clearance Service. This is always a real boost for our team members, many of whom have lost confidence due to the challenges and stigma homelessness brings.**

**Sensitive to customers’ needs**  
Often our customers need to clear a property due to a family bereavement. The task of sorting through a loved one’s personal effects is invariably emotionally challenging. Equally daunting is inviting a team of people into a home to pack and remove items that hold memories and represent shared experience. Our experienced House Clearance team are sensitive to bereavement, work respectfully, and as unobtrusively as possible to clear a property.

**Minimising waste**  
The work of the House Clearance team continues after the last item is removed from the property. Back at the Emmaus Bristol yard, every van load is sorted through and separated, firstly into items suitable for re-use and re-sale in our shops, and then items that can be recycled. The team works to break down items to strip out any recyclable



materials such as wood or metal springs in furniture. In this way we significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

**Emmaus Bristol offers a professional and courteous service that acknowledges both our customers’ circumstances and environmental concerns, as well as providing opportunities for our team of Companions to move on from homelessness.**

For more information, or to book a clearance, call us on **0117 954 0886, option 2**, or email **socialenterprise@emmausbristol.org.uk** with your contact details.

Photo: A volunteer strips down unsaleable furniture into recyclable parts

Cover story:

Front cover photo: Retail team member, Daveed, sorting through clothing and accessories at our shop in Stokes Croft.

# Your pre-loved items sustain our work

**98% of the social enterprise income that helps sustain our work is generated through the sale of pre-loved items that you donate.**

As the festive season approaches, make space for your guests and all your Christmas gifts and decorations by donating your once-loved treasures to Emmaus Bristol. Every item you donate will be given a little polish and put on sale in one of our retail shops – in Stokes Croft, Bedminster, Bishopston and on-line.

We are proud to be part of the re-use sector, with a focus on giving new life to the no longer wanted bits-and-bobs that we all collect over time.

You can make a real difference to our work by taking a little time to sift through your cupboards and shelves (and under the bed!) and passing on any unwanted items that fill your home – books you read years ago, DVDs you've watched a hundred times, clothes that no longer fit, gifts that you never really liked, and ornaments now just gathering dust.

Please bring your pre-loved items to one of our Stokes Croft or Bedminster shops or, if you have a bulky object or a lot of items to give, contact us to see if your donation qualifies for our free collection service.

**We hope you'll enjoy your newly de-cluttered home this Christmas!**

Phone: 0117 954 0886 (Option 1)

Email: [reuse@emmausbristol.org.uk](mailto:reuse@emmausbristol.org.uk)

**Stokes Croft shop:** Backfields House,  
Upper York Street, BS2 8QJ

**Bedminster shop:** 72 Bedminster Parade, BS3 4HL



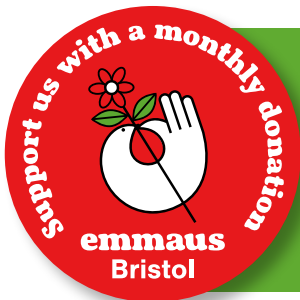
@emmausbristol



@emmausvintagebristol



Nigel amongst donated bric-a-brac



## Not just for Christmas...

Throughout the twelve 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. Please go to [www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol](http://www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol) click 'Donate' and then 'Monthly'. Thank you so much.

# Freedom of movement

Earlier this year we were loaned an electric bike (e-bike) by TravelWest. It proved so popular with Companions that we have just made the decision to buy our own 'pool' bike which may be used by any member of our team. We've been encouraging everyone to cycle or walk, both as our contribution to improving the environment and to improve personal fitness and well-being.

*"I have found the electric bike really valuable. Having access to the bike means I can go further afield. I can get to places I'd normally need a car to go to, or expensive travel, and see friends I might not have the opportunity to visit without it. The main benefit for me is feeling safe when cycling on the nearby bike trail: if I pass a group of people I'm anxious about, I know that on the e-bike I have the speed to escape potential problems regardless of how tired I am.*

*E-cycling has opened up a more active social life, allowed me to connect with the outside world, and means I can also go out to see a friend in the evening if I want to. That is a real gift."*

Female Companion, September 2019

# Festive fun and gifts



From  
9th to 22nd December we're  
part of the vibrant Christmas  
Market in Broadmead

You'll find us in the space between the  
Halifax Building Society and HMV, at Chalet 22,  
from 10am to 6pm each day  
Our stall will be brimming with bric-a-brac and, of  
course, if you buy a Christmas gift from us you're  
giving twice – once to your friend, and once to  
help end homelessness.

**Come and say hello!**

Photo: Companions Isaac and Nigel wrap up  
warmly ahead of our stall at Bristol  
Christmas Market



[www.emmausbristol.org.uk](http://www.emmausbristol.org.uk)

Backfields House, Upper York Street, BS2 8QJ.

Tel: 0117 954 0886 · Email: [info@emmausbristol.org.uk](mailto:info@emmausbristol.org.uk)

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

working together to end homelessness

Please support us with a monthly donation: [www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol](http://www.justgiving.com/emmausbristol)