

You & emmaus

News and updates from the Emmaus Bristol community

Summer 2022

A man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, stands in front of a vibrant, multi-colored abstract mural. The mural features swirling patterns of red, yellow, purple, and blue. The man is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

**Cover story: Seb's moving
on from homelessness**

**Special award for
Companion, Nigel**

**Fundraising for new
friends at an Indian
Emmaus community**

**Meet our 'vinyl volunteer'
and more...**

working together to end homelessness

A royal gift of Jubilee concert tickets



All smiles at the Party at the Palace. Malcolm's wearing sunglasses!

In June, our Warehouse & Logistics Coordinator, Malcolm, enjoyed a trip to London to attend the Party at the Palace thanks to The Duchess of Cornwall.

As the Royal Patron of Emmaus UK, The Duchess allocated tickets for Companions*, staff, trustees and volunteers from communities throughout the country to attend the event. Malcolm met up with people from the Cambridge, Colchester and Leeds communities to enjoy the concert – his favourite performance was Adam Lambert with Queen.

** Companions are formerly homeless members of our community*

Fundraising for new homes

We're fundraising to add new, affordable homes to our community and we're exploring several options including developing our own rooftop community and converting an existing non-residential building.

Every pound given to our fundraising campaign will go towards new homes. If you can support us, please donate at

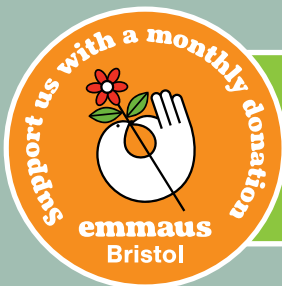
www.justgiving.com/campaign/EmmausBristol-NewHomes

Work with us!

We're hiring a Support Worker to help our Companions live and work in our community, develop skills and move on when they are ready.

The salary is £24,000 to £27,000 depending on experience.

For a recruitment pack, email fran@emmausbristol.org.uk



Emmaus Bristol provide accommodation and support all year round to help people rebuild their lives. If you're able to, please support us with a monthly or one-off donation: www.emmausbristol.org.uk/help-us/donate-money

Seb: moving on from homelessness

“Emmaus Bristol is good for getting back on your feet and moving on with life. It’s what they’ve done for me twice.”

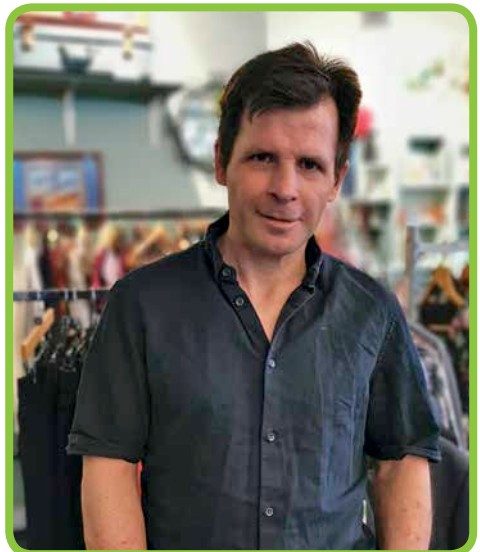
I joined Emmaus Bristol about six months after it opened in 2003 as one of the first companions. That time, I only stayed six months before finding a job in Pucklechurch where I worked for 11 years. Then some problems came up with the job and pay, and I found myself on the streets for five weeks. It was hard. I was worried and a lot of my stuff got stolen from one of the winter hostels. You can have all sorts of problems in hostels, with people taking drugs and drinking. It’s not a great place to be. I was lucky that someone was moving on from Emmaus so there was room for me to return, otherwise I would have been on the streets even longer.

The second time I joined Emmaus Bristol, I stayed for three years in the community house before moving into one of the move-on houses in St. George. It’s nice having my own space and I’m living with Nigel, who I’ve known for many years as he was also one of the first companions. I’ve been in my job for one year already working at a fruit market in St Philips and it’s going really well.

Some of my favourite memories of Emmaus Bristol are from the times after work when we’d all be downstairs watching movies together and playing

ping pong. I was happy to be there because I could get back on my feet and make friends. Now, I want to do everything I can to keep my job and have a normal life outside of Emmaus. I’ve had a fresh start and I don’t need the support of Emmaus anymore. I’m 49 now, if I don’t do something with my life now, it will be too late!

My next big plan is to go to the Philippines to see my girlfriend. I’m saving for the flight, and it will be great to see a new country. I’ve travelled to many countries in Europe, and I would like to see somewhere else in the world.”



Moving on from homelessness – Seb pictured in our Stokes Craft shop



Emmaus Bristol Companion Nigel has received deserved recognition of his long-standing involvement in our community.

Special award for Companion Nigel

This is the second year members of Emmaus have received Emmaus Founder's Medals. Selwyn Image, the founder of Emmaus in the UK, commissioned the award to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to the movement. Nigel's contribution was recently celebrated with the presentation of an Emmaus Founders' Medal – he was nominated by our Chief Executive, Jessica Hodge:

"Nigel is an experienced Companion who takes an active role in training new companions and helping them settle in. He is just a lovely person and incredibly kind. Emmaus Bristol would not be the same without him."

Nigel was one of our very first companions, joining our community in 2003 shortly after we had opened. He has lived with us and worked in our social enterprises for almost 19 years, following two years of street homelessness and sofa-surfing.

Nigel has seen a lot of changes at Emmaus Bristol over the years: Companions have come and gone, the staff team has completely changed, and we had no shops when he first joined. He's been with us throughout the development of our Stokes Croft, Bedminster and Gloucester Road shops – he feels proud to have played a part in making it all happen.



An experienced member of our community, Nigel enjoys showing new companions the ropes and has worked in all areas of our social enterprises. He's completed First Aid and Fire Warden training, and earned very high marks in a management course.

"Being involved with Emmaus Bristol for nearly twenty years has been brilliant and I really appreciate getting an award for the contribution I've made. I have always felt like I've been recognised by everyone at Emmaus Bristol, but it's nice to receive something tangible that I can keep. I'd like to thank Jessica for nominating me".

Clean water for Foundation in India

We're fundraising to buy and install a water purifier for the Emmaus Florence Home Foundation in Tamil Nadu, India. The groundwater has been contaminated with sea water and needs to be desalinated before drinking. We ask for your help to reach our target of £2,350 to bring clean water to the community.

In May, we welcomed Selva and Rachel from the Foundation to our Emmaus community and learnt more about their work – the organisation was founded by social workers in 1992 and became a member of Emmaus International in 2004.

The foundation runs vital programmes to support women and children from poor and rural areas. It has two hostels, one for 30 girls and one for 25 boys, and offers education for children in slum areas, sponsorship through university, and training and skills development for rural women, all supported by income from its organic farm. Through the pandemic, the foundation also provided local families with food.

The area of Tamil Nadu has had a water problem for decades. Erratic monsoons and climate change means the ground absorbs seawater, making drinking and cooking water salty. The 2004 Tsunami, which hit the Tamil Nadu coastline in south-eastern India, is also still having an impact. The rebuilding work importantly gave shelter to the survivors but, almost 18 years later, the groundwater is still affected by salinisation.

The water purifier will be installed at the Foundation's Killai Centre which, at present, supports more than 75 orphaned children, 25 women and 200 local families.



The Emmaus Florence Home Foundation community in Tamil Nadu



Selva and Rachel pictured with Taylor and Jessica at Emmaus Bristol

We take clean water for granted in the UK.

There are two ways to help provide access to clean water to the people at Emmaus Florence Home Foundation:

- Make a donation (link below)
- Start your own fundraiser through our JustGiving page to share with family, friends and colleagues!

Donate online:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/EmmausCleanWater

Continuing development

Emmaus Bristol's Social Enterprise Manager, Xanne, has just completed the School for Social Entrepreneurs' Procurement Readiness Programme, developed to help social enterprises understand how to bid for, and win, public and private sector contracts.

Xanne told us: "The course was hugely insightful – it focused on developing our impact reporting and recognising the significance of our social and environmental value to major contract holders. The course came alive with excellent speakers and engaging peer-led tasks that kept us all focussed. Sponsors, Brewin Dolphin demonstrated its commitment to social enterprise by getting involved in some of the course's content to make the programme one of the best I have ever attended."



Xanne receives her course graduation certificate. Pictured with Richard Buxton, Group People and Sustainability Director at wealth management company and course sponsor, Brewin Dolphin (right), and Josh Babarinde OBE (left), Liberal Democrats Councillor, social entrepreneur and former youth justice worker.

Emmaus Bristol represented at Emmaus World Assembly

In May, our Premises and Vehicles Coordinator, Taylor headed to Uruguay for the Emmaus World Assembly.

The Assembly happens every four years in a different location. Taylor was one of 384 delegates from 34 countries in attendance. There was a packed schedule of workshops, discussions and cultural events, with everyone coming together to decide on the 2021 – 2025 guidelines to strengthen the Emmaus movement.

Taylor speaking at the Emmaus World Assembly which took place 9th–14th May 2022



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

Steve's Story

Steve started volunteering at Emmaus Bristol just before Christmas 2021

"I started volunteering through my friend Julian, who works at the charity. We play music together and he asked if I wanted to help sort out the donated records. It's the sort of thing I do at home anyway, so I thought why not? It will be fun, and I can help out a charity at the same time.

For the first couple of weeks, I worked through a big backlog of records. I ditched the stuff that I knew no-one was going to buy, and Emmaus got the vinyl value for them at a place in Bristol that recycles records. All the ones worth selling went in the shops or on eBay.

Helping with the records is a nice mix of using my knowledge of music and learning new things. I'd never used eBay before – I've learnt how to research records before pricing, take good photos, and list the vinyl on eBay. Now I know how to manage an eBay site, I've been thinking that I could set one up and sell my own records too. I've also learnt how to star in silly videos to help promote Emmaus Bristol!

All the people at Emmaus Bristol are lovely. There's generally a really nice atmosphere and as far as I know, people are genuinely happy here. My partner volunteers with me at Emmaus too and really enjoys it.



Homelessness is becoming more and more of an issue. If people are wondering how to help: donating, and helping to spread the word about the great work Emmaus does are good bets, and to anyone thinking about volunteering at Emmaus Bristol, I'd say give it go! You'll be amazed at what you get out of it. The whole point is to do something good and do it for free, but regardless of that, it will also be fun and you'll enjoy it while you're there anyway.

I'm lucky because I'm doing something I'm interested in, but there's not much at Emmaus Bristol I wouldn't enjoy doing."

COULD YOU HELP? We're looking for an Online Listing Volunteer to join our eBay team. It's a great role for people with basic IT skills and a love for eclectic pre-loved treasures!

Name our pods!



We're delighted to say that construction work on our eco holiday pods is complete. We're now working on furnishing the interiors, and then we're ready to launch!

Like little treehouses in the heart of Stokes Croft, our eco pods are an ideal sleep-spot for visitors wanting to make the most of the buzzing cafés, bars and eateries in the area. We'll be running them as a social enterprise to generate income for the charity and provide work experience in the hospitality sector for Companions.

To celebrate the end of the construction phase, we're asking you to get involved and think of names for each of the pods. Names could be inspired by Bristol, by the Emmaus movement or by the fantastic history and personalities linked to the area of St Paul's. If you'd like to name one of the pods, simply email your suggestions by 1st September 2022 to reuse@emmausbristol.org.uk

If you're able, please support us with a monthly or one-off donation:
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

on eBay mobile app, search for seller: emmausbristol

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

working together to end homelessness