



EMMAUS Oxford

The newsletter of Emmaus Oxford

Spring 2006

The Road to Emmaus leads to success

A huge thank you to all who supported us by attending the concert held on 14 October 2005 at Christ Church Cathedral. The event continued the theme of Journeys following last years Carol Concert, and this leg of the Journey was to launch us on to the Fundraising Campaign to cover the costs of the Community building.

The evening proved to be a most intimate affair, with music from the Christ Church Cathedral Choir under the directorship of Stephen Darlington, Musical Director and with Organist Clive Driskill-Smith.

The evening was coordinated by our very own Events Committee, readings chosen by trustee, Moira Darlington. The evening was hosted by a number of high profile guests who read poems and sections from books on the evening's theme. Anneka Rice, Alexander Masters, Susan Hill, Sir Ian Blair and Ian Laing, High Sheriff filled each reading with their own inimitable style.

After this, Patron Hugo Brunner, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire provided the evening's address and outlined the very real need for such a



Above: Alexander Masters, author of *Stuart: A life backwards*

Community to provide opportunities to the homeless of Oxford to transform their lives.

Following the concert all guests were invited to join us for drinks and nibbles in the Great Hall, now famous as the Hogwart's Dining Hall from the Harry Potter films. This was an opportunity for all to reflect upon the success of the evening and the ways in which the Campaign would be able to move forward towards our target of £1.8 million in the most effective way. A number of key donations were made; taking the total raised to over £30,000 towards our target and helping us one step closer to building an Emmaus Community in Oxford.

Message

from the Chair

These are busy and exciting times for Emmaus Oxford! Now that we have final approval for our planning application, our thoughts inevitably turn to raising the £1.8 million we need to complete the building. Although at first sight this seems as massive target, it is important to remember what we have already achieved. Thanks to the help of a very active Events Committee and a well-connected Appeal board, we have raised just under £800,000 to date – and so have proved what we can do. We have broken the target down into more manageable chunks: £900,000 from individuals, £300,000 from local businesses, £400,000 from grants and Trusts and £200,000 from local churches. And we are not alone: we have tremendous support from Emmaus UK, helping us to draw up a more effective fundraising strategy and target potential individual donors. All we have achieved, and will do in the future, would not be possible without a huge amount of hard work from all of the trustees, our Events Committee and Appeal Board. Knowing we have the very best possible team on the case, I remain supremely confident that we will quickly achieve our immediate goal of getting an Emmaus Community built in Oxford and up and running in the not too distant future. Thank you all for your wonderful support!

William Alden, Chair, Emmaus Oxford



Giving people a bed... and a reason to get out of it



The Oxford sleep out



Twas the 26th November, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. Instead we were all participating in The Oxford Sleep Out 2005!

It was a sight to be seen – a mass sleep out in St Clement’s Churchyard, on the Marston Road. The Oxford Sleep Out, held every year, is a thought provoking event and helps to raise money and awareness for homeless charities in the area.

Emmaus Oxford trustee and veteran sleep-outer Jean Williams has been involved every year since it started in 1989.

‘I got involved because there is a huge gap between the dreaming spires and the physical and emotional distress people are experiencing on the street,’ says Jean.

This year Jean and Companion Geoff Wood worked as site wardens during the night, along with volunteers from other homeless support organisations, ensuring that everyone was safe and well and hot drinks were on offer for all.

As all the sleepers were relieved to get up, pack up their beds and return home, the thought occurs to me that the homeless are not so lucky. However, with a turn out of well over 50 people raising a total of over £15,000 in sponsorship, the evening was a great success in supporting those organisations who provide food, shelter and care for the homeless in Oxfordshire.

**Ginni Dernie, Project Worker,
Emmaus Oxford**

A taste of what is to come...

Over the past 2 years, the Events Committee, chaired by trustee Moira Darlington, have played a crucial role in driving forward the Fundraising Campaign by involving local individuals and groups in local Events. Having held 2 extremely successful concerts, plans are in place to hold another on 2nd December 2006 at Christ Church Cathedral.

Planning is also underway to run a series of high profile debates on issues of ethical or local interest. This provides an opportunity to hear influential speakers such as Richard Gardner and Sir Jeremy Greenstock speaking on their personal areas of expertise. Interested? Watch this space!



Above: Moira Darlington

London Triathlon

Some of you may remember supporter Matthew Newman, pictured right, took on the enormous challenge of participating in the London Triathlon last year. After a great deal of training with one or two set backs – including a strained ligament – Matthew and his friend Andy Gordon managed to raise a fantastic £568 in support of Emmaus Oxford. Emmaus Oxford would like to thank both Matthew and Andy for all their support and to those who chose to sponsor them!



Above: Matthew Newman

Key features

of an Emmaus Community

- Everyone has their own room and lives as part of a Community
- Full time work for all Companions (those who join the Community)
- Alcohol, drug and violence free environment
- Family atmosphere
- Independent of State Benefits
- All needs met plus spending money
- Environmentally friendly
- Surplus profits and recycling programme used to help others who are disadvantaged

Local businesses support Emmaus

Emmaus Oxford is a regional project and once open will have a huge impact on the local community, both through the accommodation provided; reintegration of the homeless into the working community; and the provision of quality affordable household goods redirected from landfill, through the business aspect of the Community.

Emmaus is unique in working towards establishing self-sufficiency through social enterprise, and is inviting local businessmen, who recognise their duty to invest in the local Community, to identify with Emmaus' unique solution to social exclusion as an alternative to state financed schemes.

Emmaus President Terry Waite and Patron Hugo Brunner, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire hosted a Lunch on 17th March for senior managers of Oxford-based companies in order to rally their support for Emmaus Oxford and discover how local businesses can support our project. We received £10,000 and three further £10,000 pledges.



We need to raise £1.8 million

Building and Landscaping	£700,000
Services and Fees	£200,000
24 Companion Bedrooms	£600,000
Disabled Access	£40,000
Community Kitchen	£50,000
Fitting Out	£180,000
Library/Training Room	£30,000

Left: Terry Waite, President of Emmaus in the UK

Security and continuity

Leanne, 21, a Companion at another Emmaus Communities writes:

Two years ago I had my own home and was living with my then fiancé and training to be a nurse. But with the stress of the job I started drinking and I had a problem. I started taking days off, then I couldn't pay the bills. My fiancé and I split up and I went to the council because I was homeless.

The shelter I was put in was awful. There were needles in the showers and the mattress was wet with urine. It was chaos

there and felt safer to sleep on the beach.

But at Emmaus I have security and continuity. They have helped me through my problems and the people here have offered me so much support and friendship.

I feel physically sick when I think of people out on the streets with nothing and nobody. Most people on the streets would rather die than be there. There are not enough places like Emmaus and we cannot help everybody.

A new addition

With a background in publishing and consultancy, Peter Saugman is an exciting addition to our Oxford Team, and will be working closely with the Project Director on publicity for Emmaus Oxford to attract new supporters of the project and place us firmly on the map.

Peter is well connected and will also be working to expand the Emmaus Oxford Appeal Board in order to increase our potential for attracting major individual donors. We would like to wish Peter a warm welcome onto the board and look forward to working with him towards our goal of establishing an Emmaus Community in Oxford.



'Somewhere along the line I became confused and desperate. I was lost and had no one to turn to. Then I heard about Emmaus and for the first time in my life I'm starting to find my way.'

'I used to go to bed and pray I wouldn't wake up. Emmaus has saved my life'

'When you are on the streets, most people walk right over you, as if you're not there. But we're just human beings who have had problems'

'You see it is the self-respect, the dignity that's so important. When you leave Emmaus you feel as though you have been put together again'

Yes, I am interested in the work of

Emmaus Oxford

I would like:

- More information on Emmaus Oxford
- To give a donation

By cheque/CAF

I enclose a cheque/voucher for £ _____
(please make cheque/voucher payable to Emmaus Oxford)

By standing order

To the manager _____

Branch address _____

Postcode _____

Account no. _____ Sort code _____

Please pay Emmaus Oxford the sum of _____ (figures)
_____ (amount in words)

At Barclays Bank, Oxford City Centre Branch
(Sort code 20-65-20; Account no. 30068179)

Starting on / /

Monthly Quarterly Half yearly Annually

(Please also complete the details form below)

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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If you are a UK tax payer:

I want Emmaus Oxford to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

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You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations

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