

EMMAUS Oxford

The newsletter of Emmaus Oxford

Spring 2005

Stars come out to support Emmaus Oxford

Thanks to everyone who attended the Carol Concert at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday 11th December 2004 and helped make it such a splendid success. The readers and choir, under the direction of Dr Stephen Darlington the Director of Music and the organist Clive Driskill-Smith, had a full house to address and they filled the Cathedral with music and voice.

The readings were chosen by Emmaus trustees Moira Darlington and The Very Reverend Robert Jeffery and read by Terry Waite CBE, Jeremy Paxman, Emma Watson, Niamh Cusack, Mark Thompson and Hugo Brunner, the Lord Lieutenant of

Oxfordshire.

Terry Waite, the President of Emmaus UK, talked movingly about the history of Emmaus, how he took over the presidency from his friend and mentor, the late Archbishop Robert Runcie. He then explained why it is important that Oxford has a Community to help address its homelessness problems and the difference an Emmaus Community can make to the wider community.

There was also an exhibition of sculptures by Alec Worster that sets out to use art as a tool for change on behalf of homeless people everywhere. Exiles in their own land, citizens yet excluded by the city, homeless people



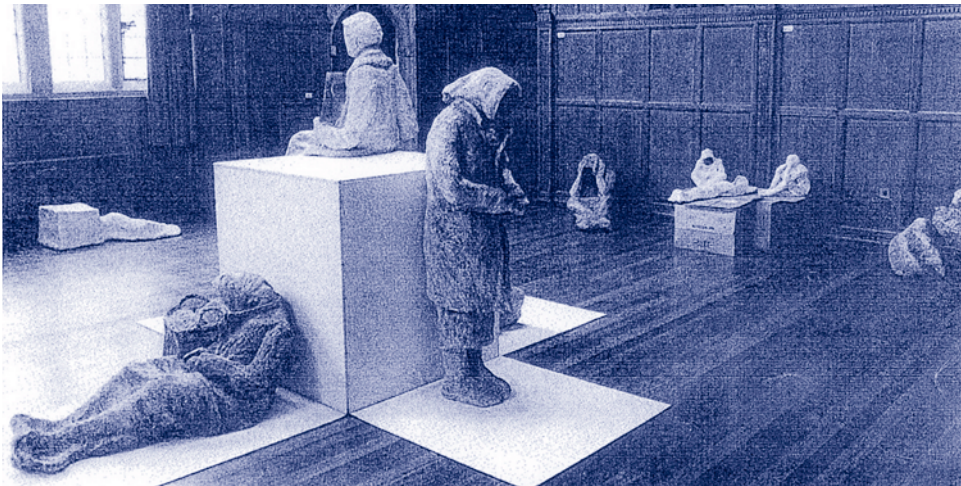
Above: Emma Watson

Below: 'Monument' by Alec Wooster

are an inescapable presence, however much we try to ignore them.

The different pieces were placed around the Cathedral and were very moving. The sculptures were displayed in the cathedral throughout the Christmas period.

At the drinks afterwards everyone who had been involved relaxed and had informal talks on how to further the achievements of the concert. This took place in the Great Hall, famously known around the world as the dining room in the Harry Potter films, and the Deanery of the college. Further key donations were established and in total the carol concert is thought to have raised over £30,000 with a pledge of £25,000 for a Companions room, all of which will go a long way to help us in building our Emmaus Oxford Community by 2006.



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



St Andrew's lends a hand

The congregation of St Andrew's Church Linton Road in North Oxford took up the Emmaus cause for their Harvest Festival project and with enthusiasm raised a considerable sum of money to go towards yet another Companion's room.

Not only have they done this but they are very keen to have an ongoing relationship with Emmaus Oxford and their youth group, SAYGO, have recently been up to help with the decorating of the Emmaus Oxford office and future Community Leaders home. I have also been led to believe they may return to help tidy up!

We hope this might become a model for other Churches and local community groups.

On behalf of myself and the trustees thank you for your continuing support and help.

Above: The St Andrew's Church Youth Group get stuck in
Below: Mr Wingfield Digby presents Emmaus Oxford Chairman Bob Jeffery with a cheque



The Emmaus Oxford Office and Community House

The process of refurbishment is taking place to the Emmaus Oxford office and house adjacent to the secured site for the Community on Oxford Road.

Currently a builder is working on the remodelling of the premises to establish an office and separate flat with help from CRASH.

This refurbishment will also take into account that at a later stage the house will be used as a home for the community leader and their family once the main site is completed. Until then the flat will be rented to help cover revenue costs of the Charity.

Rough sleeping at school

On November 25th last year, 44 Dragon School pupils together with 14 members of staff spent the night sleeping out at their school. The event was part of an awareness raising programme on local and international issues and was inspired by guest speaker Jeremy Paxman at a Prize Giving ceremony. Another impetus for the event is the experience of a current member of staff who lived on the street for several years.

Wrapped warmly against the cold, those taking part slept in sleeping bags on cardboard boxes. Hot soup was provided before everyone settled down for the night and staff took turns to patrol. After a cold night everyone emerged from their sleeping bags at dawn feeling very relieved that they would spend the next night in their own bed. This could never be more than a token experience of the misery of homelessness but everyone involved felt it had deepened their understanding of the problem.



Changes and Progress on the Emmaus Project

Charles Powell and Selwyn Image have both resigned as trustees of Emmaus Oxford and will be focusing their support and attention on the fundraising for the project. Both of them have been with Emmaus Oxford from the very beginning. Charles has contributed a lot of business and fundraising expertise and Selwyn was the man who brought Emmaus to England and is deeply committed to the cause.

We would not have got the project off the ground without them.

The trustees would like to put on record their gratitude to both of them for their long term support and their instrumental efforts in raising the initial funds, organizing events and attracting new trustees and donors. Both Charles and Selwyn have offered their continuing help and support for the project.

We would also like to welcome to the board of trustees

two new members – David Cole, partner at Morgan Cole Solicitors and Ed Trehwella, Marketing Director of Oxford Brookes University.

Both our new team members have proved invaluable, with their advice and experience of the law and marketing already being put to good use.

David has also kindly agreed to accept the Vice Chairman's role previously held by Charles Powell.



Selwyn Image



Ed Trehwella



David Cole



Charles Powell

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

David's on top of the world!

David Lee has been a Companion at Emmaus Leeds since the Community opened in November 2003. In January this year David took part in a sponsored climb up Mount Kilimanjaro, helping to raise £300,000 for Emmaus.

'I felt a rush of emotion when I got to the summit,' says David. 'There I was, at the sign which states that I had reached the very highest point in Africa. I forgot the struggle it had been to get there. I forgot the bad weather and the lack of sleep. All I could think about was that we had made it. I know I couldn't have done it without the support and encouragement of the rest of the team. It wouldn't have been anywhere near the experience it was if I hadn't had those people to share it with.'

David Lee





Latest developments

- We are expecting to submit the plans for our Community to the planning office in early March after a few updates to the design to keep us within budget.
- Emmaus Oxford now has a new website which is being constantly updated. If you have any information or links you would like us to add that are appropriate please let us know. Or if you spot any mistakes!
www.emmausoxford.org
- I would like to thank Colin Rugg Easey, cre design 01865 201365, for providing his design services and website development for free.

How you can help...

Volunteers needed for just a few hours a week

Volunteers needed for data entry, filing, gardening, general site clearance, painting and decorating.

Contact Sara Partington on the office number 01865 402073 or email emmausoxford@tiscali.co.uk

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Emmaus Oxford

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- More information on Emmaus Oxford
- To give a donation

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Account no. _____ Sort code _____

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