



ST NIC'S IN THE CITY



March Spotlight

This year we will be giving a bit more profile to some of our St Nic's in the City partners. This month it's the turn of *Emmanuel House*.

March Spotlight

Emmanuel House



Founded on faith, *Emmanuel House* provides services for the most vulnerable adults in the city, seeking to meet their complex and multiple needs without prejudice or judgement.

As well as serving daily hot meals, *Emmanuel House* provides support relating to housing, benefits, mental health, drug and alcohol, social activities and access to medical services via the Homeless Health Team.

We caught up with Alistair Paylor, who works at Emmanuel House.

How does St Nic's support Emmanuel House?

St Nic's Church has made all kinds of contributions, from helping with the funding, subsidising meals for Sunday lunch, through to volunteers from 6:8 who come into a Wednesday session and cook a meal for 40-50 people, these volunteers are great at engaging with people making them feel welcome and a part of things.

With lots of news about Homelessness, how is Emmanuel House coping with the current situation?

It's an amazingly complex situation and there are lots of challenges facing us. Issues like the unprecedented levels of need, complexity in issues that clients face, problems with the wider scale use of mamba smoking which used to be a legal high. But we are responding really well, by working in partnership with other agencies and those that support us.

How can we support you further and be praying for you?

Our number one need is always money, we don't survive on a big council subsidy and we need to keep the doors open to anyone

whenever they need us throughout the year. The second big need is pants, men boxers medium and large, we never have enough pants.

Angus and Lorna Trimble from the 6:8 Missional Community volunteer at Emmanuel House.

What is 6:8 all about?

Angus: 6:8 is a missional community based on Micah 6:8 which is to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God. We aim to live along that verse and we help out at Emmanuel house as part of that.

How did the Emmanuel House link come about, why are you involved?

Lorna: Part of what we hope for our community is to be doing social action and Emmanuel House was a place that stood out to the group when it was first formed, so we go there once a month to cook a meal for the service users many of whom are homeless or just require extra support. We form relationships, hang out, often doing a bingo night to try and provide a fun safe place for people.

I heard someone dresses up for the bingo night?

Lorna: Neil dresses up in a tux.

Lorna, Tom and Angus (all are part of 6:8)



Angus: Neil goes all out and everybody loves it. If he doesn't wear it people aren't happy, they say it's not proper bingo without the tuxedo. What can we pray for?

Lorna: We'd like to get more people along to Emmanuel House who aren't part of the community. That's always been one of the main hopes because a lot of people can see it's a good thing and it's a way for them to engage with people in 6:8.

Angus: It's an easy thing to invite people from the work place to, or have conversations about once a month. People are rarely uninterested they always have questions, and just praying that those people come along. As some already have and they've enjoyed it.

When does 6:8 meet if people want to get involved?

Angus: We meet every Monday 7:30 for 3 Mondays in the month, the week we don't meet we go to Emmanuel House on the Wednesday. Anybody is welcome all ages from anywhere in the city. There is a mixture of ages.

Lorna: No experience of Emmanuel house needed, or anything like that.

To find out more, to volunteer, or to commit the work of Emmanuel House to your prayers, contact city@stnics.org



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