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'I was a stranger and you invited me in'



Dear Laura,

'I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,' says Jesus in Matthew 25. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who is president of Church Urban Fund, has made waves with his interventions in the press and the House of Lords, denouncing as "[morally unacceptable](#)" the Government's Illegal Migration Bill.

If passed, it would see people who arrive in the UK without permission flown home or to a third country such as Rwanda and denied the chance to seek asylum here.

Jesus spent part of his childhood as a refugee in Egypt and later urged his followers to look after those people who are most vulnerable.

We read time and again in the Bible of the need to provide justice and sanctuary for those in exile. CUF is equipping churches to welcome people fleeing conflict through funding, resources and prayer.



to more than 70 churches so they can support Afghan and Ukrainian refugees with emergency basics and ways to integrate, such as language support and school uniforms. Last year these projects have helped, or will help, more than 7,000 people. And churches aren't just providing the basics: they're doing it with love and compassion.

Read about the projects



Taiba (not her real name), who fled Afghanistan with her husband and son, attended meals hosted by Chichester Quakers Local Meeting at which refugees are encouraged to share their culture, cook their traditional dishes, build friendships and integrate into society. Before long, Taiba, a law graduate, wanted to help out, and translated promotional flyers into Pashto and Dari to encourage other Afghans to attend.

Read Taiba's story

Church Urban Fund concerned at government plans for 9000 Afghan refugees

by PAT ASHWORTH
31 MARCH 2023

Refugees are being temporarily housed in 'bridging' hotels



CHURCHES have been responding "with love and compassion" to the needs of the estimated 9000 Afghan refugees who have been living in temporary "bridging" hotels for 18 months, the Church Urban Fund (CUF) said on Wednesday. It followed a government announcement that Afghan refugees would now have three months'



The Church Times has reported on these inspiring projects, and CUF's acting CEO Revd Adam Edwards explained why churches are ideally placed to reach out to refugees - because they are rooted in their community and in it for the long term.

Read the article



partners to consider how they and their local churches can provide an intentional welcome to refugees and people seeking asylum. We invited specialist Emily Shepherd, joint CEO of Welcome Churches, to deliver a keynote speech at our annual Together Network conference last week.

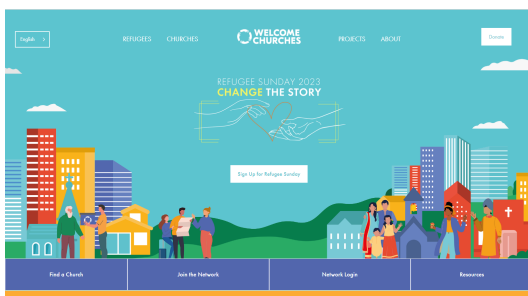
Emily said that “getting trained to offer a cross-cultural, trauma-informed welcome” has taken churches on “an amazing journey” of revitalisation. She also offered practical ways churches could extend that welcome.

[Read more](#)

You can also find a [prayer for refugees](#), a [list of resources](#) for churches supporting refugees, and if you would like to remember the work of CUF in your prayers, you can find [some pointers](#).

Our work supporting people and churches across England is only possible thanks to generous donations. If you are able to, please consider making a special gift today.

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If your church would like to mark Refugee Sunday, which is approaching on 25 June, you can sign up to Welcome Churches’ great ideas for ways to celebrate with refugees.

[Sign up here](#)

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