

## Welcoming Refugees from Afghanistan

### Homes for Refugees

Please spread the word amongst landlords and second-home owners that you might know. There is a particular need for three and four bedroom homes with good access to towns. Encourage local landlords to get in touch with the relevant local authority.

There are no requests for spare bedrooms at this time.

Video: Jenny, a landlord in Wiltshire, shares her experience: [VPRS Jenny 02 Anamorphic - YouTube](#)

### Support local authorities

Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole: [Supporting Afghanistan \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Dorset Council: [Dorset Council appeals to landlords in support of the government's Afghan relocation scheme - Dorset Council news](#)

Wiltshire Council: [Wiltshire Council Leader thanks residents for offers of help as preparations continue to welcome Afghan refugees to the county - Wiltshire Council](#)

### Donations of Clothing and other items

The Care4Calais group has built up good network and lots of experience in handling clothes, sleeping bags, etc: [Aid Donation Drop Off Map | Refugee Aid Donations | Care4Calais](#)

Local collection points are:

- [The George and Dragon pub in Salisbury collection point suspended due to need to sort through the very generous amount received]
- Blandford Cares: [Blandford CARES - Calais Aid, Refugees, Europe & Sudan | Facebook](#)
- Immanuel URC Bournemouth
- Email addresses on the Drop Off Map for collection points in Marlborough and Poole

### Donations of Cash

Inevitably some things need cash. Used clothing is much appreciated but it is expensive to sort, store, and transport to where it is needed. And local charities that support refugees and asylum seekers have ongoing costs as well as expenditure on specialist language teachers and case workers.

International Care Network: Based in Bournemouth [Home - ICN](#)

Harbour Project: Based in Swindon [The Harbour Project – We aid refugees and asylum seekers across Swindon](#)

Christian Aid: [Afghanistan: our response - Christian Aid](#)

## Reflect and Pray

Video: Syrian family share their experience of life in Dorset: [New Dorset home for refugee family fleeing Syrian civil war - BBC News](#)

Website of the Jesuit Refugee Service provides information and ideas on supporting asylum seekers and refugees: [JRS UK | Jesuit Refugee Service UK](#)

O God of mercy and of peace,  
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.  
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day  
Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic  
Be their true home to all who have been displaced  
Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views  
Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.  
Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,  
Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care  
Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and  
Hold us all in your unfailing love.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen

*This prayer was written by Ramani Leathard, Christian Aid's Head of Region for South East Asia and Afghanistan.*

New Book from the Iona Community: [Refugees from Eden: Voices of lament, courage and justice – new Wild Goose book of reflections, poems and prayers written by those supporting refugees and by refugees themselves, edited by Rosemary Power - The Iona Community](#)

Consider having your local church work towards being a Church of Sanctuary: [Church of Sanctuary](#)

Updated booklet by Inderjit Bhogal for churches of sanctuary: [Hospitality and Sanctuary for All \(ctbi.org.uk\)](#)