

Syrian Family Project – Update

At the end of last year, the parish made the commitment to welcome a refugee Syrian family through the Government resettlement scheme. I am delighted to report that there have been many offers of support from parishioners. Twenty-five people have indicated their willingness to assist and from this group we have formed a Steering Group. We will be looking for people to assist in various ways for example: 1) Premises Management 2) Welfare of Family 3) Schools 4) Family Finances including rent, benefits etc. 5) English Lessons 6) Raising £9k (the amount it is estimated we will need to service the project).

Our priority at the moment is to identify a 3 (or possibly 2) bedroom house/flat somewhere in the London Borough of Merton. Before Christmas it seemed that we had two possible options. However, neither of the options materialised. Are you a landlord with a property we could rent from you, or do you perhaps know someone who is? The parish would guarantee the rent and would make sure the property is well looked after.

The plan is to support the family for 2 years by which stage the aim is that they will have become self-sufficient and encouraged to move on and into their own property, having become settled here. Our task is very much to assist them in making England their home and to enable them to make their own friends and connections. **PTO**

Once we have identified a property for our project we will make a formal application to the Home Office for acceptance. We will then begin fund-raising and setting up groups to manage the above tasks.

If you are not on our list of people prepared to help and would like to be, please let me know. And if you have accommodation to offer (or know someone who may have) please contact me so we can discuss.

Chris Larkman Project Leader chrislarkman@gmail.com

07950 642550