

Dear Friends

Thank you for all the support so far shown for the people of Ukraine. Please continue to pray and give, and now consider signing up to ACT.

Please continue to use my prayer pointers circulated last week and to encourage people to give money to two important appeals:

- [The DEC Appeal](https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal) (<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>) linking the international aid charities, and
- [The Diocese of Europe have partnered with USPG](https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/) (<https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>) to help the Anglican chaplaincies working in Europe offer humanitarian help with food, medicine and emergency cash.

This money is making a real difference as people in their thousands are fleeing Ukraine with nothing but what they are wearing.

It is really good to hear news of families and children in our congregations planning events to raise money for Ukraine, for example, Sunday morning toy swap or cake stall. Please consider how the ideas of others can be utilised and enabled (big or small), and whether your church could put on a community event to pray or raise funds or give the funds of an already planned event to Ukraine.

In order to ACT as the refugee crisis worsens, the UK government has announced it is developing a new humanitarian sponsorship programme that will allow an unlimited number of Ukrainian families to come to the UK. More details of this will be announced early next week.

Dr Krish Kandiah, who spoke at our online clergy day last year, is leading a rapid response initiative through his charity [Sanctuary Foundation](https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/) (<https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>) to find humanitarian sponsors from families, individuals, churches, community groups and individuals to sponsor Ukrainian refugees coming to the UK following his successful campaigns to support Syrian and Afghan refugees and newcomers from Hong Kong. The initiative will initially seek to identify those who are interested in sponsorship and to raise money which will be used to cover modest central costs and grants to churches and charities who help prospective sponsors. These grants will be used to help community groups, churches and individuals understand the government scheme, discern if they will sponsor a refugee and to navigate the process if they choose to proceed.

The diocese is therefore being asked to encourage individuals, community groups, churches, schools and businesses to register their interest in becoming a sponsor when the scheme is developed. Declaring your interest will greatly assist the development and acceleration of this vital provision for Ukrainian refugees. So please share the news far and wide.

Potential ways you could be involved include:

- welcoming a Ukrainian family to live in your community
- finding and possibly furnishing suitable accommodation
- raising of support funds (in previous sponsorships this has been £1k - £9k per family)
- befriending and integration support through volunteering your time.

If you believe you may be able to help, please fill in your details on the web site. With that information Sanctuary Foundation can encourage the government that there is public support for the project.

The charity will be working with [Reset Communities and Refugees](https://resetuk.org/) (<https://resetuk.org/>). The information you provide will be shared with Reset Communities and Refugees, and other partner organisations for the purpose of responding to the crisis in Ukraine or other similar crises. More details at [Sanctuary Foundation](https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/) (<https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>).

Thank you.

+ Kara Shebaine