

## Trinity Methodist Church Long Eaton Refugee Support Coordinator Appeal – November 2024

### Background

Since May 2023, Trinity has employed a Refugee Support Coordinator, David Hawker, to work with asylum seekers in Long Eaton, to further our Christian desire to support this group who find themselves in a difficult and abnormal situation.

Charities such as Upbeat Communities in Derby and the Refugee Forum in Nottingham are actively supporting asylum seekers and refugees in and between both cities. Trinity is the only charity in Erewash directly funding work this group. The postholder has overseen a network of volunteers, charities, and other stakeholders in supporting the work across Long Eaton and beyond.

Some of the fruits of this work are:

- There have been several waves of new worshippers at Trinity and Christ Church Methodist churches in Long Eaton and other churches, with asylum seekers newly arrived in the area joining us as others are moved elsewhere in the country. Many have come consistently and are a regular part of our congregations as well as bringing friends with them and being involved in other aspects of church life.
- Six believers were baptised in July 2024. People testified how they became Christians before or after leaving their country and how God has given them hope when they were hopeless.
- There is a continuous outpouring of radical hospitality with our members welcoming those forced from distant countries into their homes for fellowship, meals and pastoral support. Our churched teenagers have been learning about their lives and culture. We have maintained relationships with those who have moved away.
- At the request of hotel staff and asylum seekers, we provided over 70 bibles / new testaments and other Christian literature for the hotel, in 14 languages, many of which have been used by hotel residents.
- We run a bible study in the summer for hotel residents, attended by several Christians who were not involved in local churches and did not know their bibles well.
- The support is provided to those asylum seekers with a Christian faith, Muslim faith or no faith. It is without bounds.

The focus of the work has changed since May 2023, with one hotel in Long Eaton still open and experiencing a more rapid turnover of asylum seekers. Much of the work since March 2024 has been focused on Beeston, where over 30 refugees with the right to remain are living in private rentals with no other funded support. It is anticipated in the future the work will continue evolving.

### David explains the main parts of this role at present:

“This role involves providing services to asylum seekers and refugees, through a network of supporters, including:

1. **Community engagement** - providing opportunities to link asylum seekers to the community in Long Eaton, by running a weekly drop-in session at the hotel; making community contacts and maintaining a network; making new arrivals welcome; meeting people in church and elsewhere in the community; facilitating voluntary work with charities; working with other charities for providing and repairing bicycles; assistance with opening bank accounts, securing bus passes, and other community integration; recruiting and engaging volunteers to work with asylum seekers; keeping supporters and volunteers informed; and responding to community concerns.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

[www.trinitylongeaton.org.uk](http://www.trinitylongeaton.org.uk)

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2. **Resettlement support for asylum seekers** who have left hotels, when requested, including maintaining contact with asylum seekers dispersed nationwide and referring and signposting to local services; providing references for asylum applications and support for reporting to home office immigration centres; maintaining a communication network for sharing information; providing and distributing basic household items and luggage.
3. **Resettlement support for refugees**, including providing and sharing information for refugees who have received the right to remain in the UK on how to secure income, accommodation, and employment; assisting refugees to move into privately rented accommodation in Beeston; sourcing, storing and providing household items; attending Job Centre Plus appointments and helping with other tasks necessary to retain universal credit income and pay rent and rent arrears; working closely with a private landlord providing accommodation and intervening to prevent evictions due to communication difficulties, rent arrears and delayed payments; communicating with and locating refugees, procuring and facilitating contact with interpreters; assistance with budgeting and sourcing low budget food, clothing, and communication; healthcare support - facilitating communication, registration and making appointments with primary and secondary healthcare providers; migration support, including help applying for mandatory e-visas and restoring lost residence permits; advice and support in managing bureaucracy, including applying for driving licences, travel documents, long-term housing, and regaining access to bank accounts; building a network of volunteers in Beeston and liaising with local charities to negotiate recruitment, supervision, training and service provision; introducing refugees to volunteers and local services; liaison with housing providers in Erewash regarding refugees resettled there.
4. **Clothing provision.** Responding to asylum seekers' requests for clothing and shoes, by directing to and liaising with other providers, and directly sourcing and arranging delivery to the hotel.
5. **Education support**, including recruiting and overseeing volunteers providing English language classes and informal English conversation drop-ins in the hotel; assistance with applying for college courses and liaison with providers; providing and distributing learning materials; securing provision of English classes and employment support training in Beeston, including liaising with providers, finding venues, referring students and monitoring effectiveness; securing and providing computers in conjunction with other charities; and helping asylum seekers develop skills of budgeting and saving to buy more costly items.
6. **Spiritual and pastoral support**, including involving asylum seekers in the life of Trinity Methodist Church; assisting other churches to welcome and support asylum seekers; liaising with faith leaders and hotel staff to support spiritual development; sourcing and providing bibles and exploring opportunities for bible study in the hotel; facilitating baptisms of individuals attending Trinity Church.
7. **Friendship and social support:** providing, and facilitating others to provide, social events and friendship connecting asylum seekers in churches and the local community.
8. **Facilitating user involvement and communication** to deal with problems and issues that arise, in liaison with hotel staff and housing providers.

Finally, there is constant demand for material purchases to benefit asylum seekers. Where possible, these are procured at minimal cost, in liaison with other charities, by donations, or by helping asylum seekers to budget for their own purchases. But on occasion it is helpful to have funds to spend. Requests in the last few months have included funds for clothes, trainers, football boots, essential travel, laptops, phones, SIM cards, backpacks and suitcases, books, bicycles, hair clippers, gym memberships, exercise equipment, and housing deposits.

**Trinity Methodist Church is making a new appeal for funds to support this important and urgent work.**

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## Refugee Support Coordinator Appeal - November 2024

Trinity Church Council is seeking to continue to employ David Hawker, initially for a further 12 months, for 12 hours per week as the Trinity Refugee Support Coordinator, with an additional £1500p.a. for sundry purchases for practical ways of supporting asylum seekers and refugees. We are planning that this work may well be necessary to continue for the next 3 years.

The total cost will be £15000 pa and we have identified possible sources of grants that may cover some of this.

### *Appeal to Church members*

We are well aware that for any grant application to have credence that as a church we need to show our own commitment.

We are therefore appealing to church members and others closely involved to give to this fund. We will then approach other external funds.

If you cannot afford to give financially, please do not feel under any obligation. Your prayers are an even more valuable support.

### *Appeal to local churches/ other organisations*

We made the appeal initially to the Trinity membership before asking other churches and charities to contribute. Trinity members have already donated £3000.

We are now appealing to other local organisations, charitable funds and individuals to raise the remainder. This is where we are asking for your financial help – either as an individual or an organisation.

We will keep the role under review and if there is the need, and the funding, will extend it as necessary

If you cannot afford to give financially, please do not feel under any obligation. Your prayers are an even more valuable support.

## Ways of giving

### **Donation**

Please put any gift in an envelope marked “RSC donation” and a completed copy of this form.

**Either** send to Tracy Bird, Trinity Treasurer, Trinity Methodist Church, Cross Street, Long Eaton, NG10 1HD [trinityletreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:trinityletreasurer@gmail.com)

**Or** by bank transfer, to

Bank account Name: Trinity Methodist Church  
Account number 01010034 Sort code 40-30-20

Please put as the reference the donation “RSC” and your name, again for gift aid.

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If you are a tax payer and are willing to donate using Gift Aid the government will give us another 25%.

### Regular Giving

If you are willing to make a regular gift, please complete the slip below and return it to Tracy Bird our Treasurer

Name	
Gift	
Single/Weekly/ monthly*	
<b>I am/ am not willing to Gift Aid this donation*</b>	

\*Please delete as appropriate

### Other ways to help

Prayers are an essential part.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Bradley or John Walton (07736 782996) or email [trinitylecommunication@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylecommunication@gmail.com)

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