

Pilgrim Parishes Refugee Support

April 2022

Most of the residents at the local hotel have been there since last August waiting for their asylum claims to be processed. A few have been moved to alternative accommodation (known as dispersal accommodation) which could be a flat or house share anywhere in the country whilst still waiting. Asylum claims can take months to process. There are occasional new arrivals who need basic items such as shoes and clothing but the support being given now by Care4Calais (C4C) is helping to improve the quality of life of those stuck for months in the asylum system such as organising recreational activities and helping with visits to lawyers and medical appointments etc. More help is still needed to arrange and chase up appointments.

Could you help from Home?

Care4Calais are looking for volunteers who could help from home by phoning dentists (and occasionally opticians) to make appointments for refugees. This would involve:

- Using NHS websites to identify local dentists who are accepting new NHS patients,
- Phoning dentists to register new patients using the personal details supplied by C4C
- Booking appointments and chasing up appointments
- Liaising with C4C so they can arrange transport and ensure appointments are not missed

Although you would not be in direct contact with the refugees you would need to have a current DBS as you would be handling personal data. If you don't have a DBS C4C can help to get one at no cost to you.

Buffy Bus

The Buffy bus now makes a regular weekly visit to help keep the younger children (and their parents) entertained.



Easter Party

C4C organised an Easter egg hunt for the children and party food for the evening. The Easter eggs and food had all been donated and the cooking was done by a refugee family recently moved to dispersal housing and with access to a kitchen



Rwanda

The Government's latest attempt to deter asylum seekers from coming to the UK is the proposal to send them to Rwanda. Initially we were led to believe that this would be temporary whilst their asylum claims were processed but it is now clear this is a one way journey with the aim of settling refugees there. Anyone arriving now in the UK 'unofficially' (i.e. without the correct documentation) is liable to be deported to Rwanda.

You can only claim UK asylum once you are in the UK. There are no safe official routes into the country if you don't have a passport and a visa, so asylum seekers inevitably arrive unofficially (sometimes described, erroneously, as illegally). If you are fleeing war or persecution you may have no choice - but as you have entered the UK 'unofficially' you may now be liable for deportation to Rwanda.

This has split public opinion, and undoubtedly something needs to be done about the broken asylum system, **but is this really the way we want to do it?**

Follow this link bit.ly/c4c-rwanda to see C4C's response to the Rwanda proposals

What you can do to help

- Please don't donate any items at the moment, but consider donating to the Pilgrim Parishes Refugee Support Fund:

Scan the QR code with your smartphone



Or click on this link:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/ac292570-dc01-45f7-90f2-7aa5458516f3>

Please **Gift Aid your donation if you can**. Your donations enable us to continue to purchase basic items for those most in need.

- In your prayers remember asylum seekers worldwide, those housed in local hotels, those who try to help and politicians who have to make difficult decisions.

Thank you for your continued support

Mike and Cath Studd