

Welcoming a refugee family to safety in Godmanchester 2022

In 2019, some members of our community at Godmanchester Baptist Church (GBC) formed a group with the vision of welcoming a refugee family into our hometown and we applied to the Home Office's **Community Sponsorship Scheme** to help just one family navigate the difficult, bewildering, and costly process of rebuilding their lives in a new country.

Community Sponsors are matched with a family identified as vulnerable by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. This might include those requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, or women and children at risk.



*Karen Smith is our
Project Leader*



Our house in Godmanchester

The aim: to help them access housing, schooling, health care and other benefits; to help them find employment; to help them integrate smoothly into our community and become independent again.

The GBC community raised the money to purchase and furnish a house, and early in 2019 we welcomed a young Syrian family of five to Godmanchester.

Three years on, the family have settled beautifully into life in the UK, and they are about to move on independently - which frees us to make a second application and welcome a second family!

To support a second family for the first year of their new life in the UK, we need to raise around £31,000 – and this is where you come in!

Your gift will help pay for things like: -

- Furniture & household items for the house they will live in
- Initial family living grant until Universal Credit starts

- Interpretation services
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses plus childcare and travel costs
- Driving lessons if needed to enable the family to access work
- IT devices, school uniform, house contents insurance, tools and equipment for work

Every amount donated helps to free a family from fear and fills their lives with possibility.

The links below will help you find out more about what it means to sponsor a family through the UK Community Resettlement Scheme, and to understand the positive impact your donation can have: youtu.be/1M97twApz4A and [resetuk.org](https://www.resetuk.org).

If Prison Walls Could Speak is a new theatrical presentation written and produced by Artless Theatre Company in partnership with Release International. GBC is hosting a performance on 30 Sept 2022, raising money for this project: www.artless.org.uk/prisonwalls.



Learning good English is a key to successful resettlement

Donations towards the project can be made directly to

Account name: **Godmanchester Baptist Church**

Sort Code: **40-52-40**

Account No: **00023064**

Please use the reference '**CS2**'



John Pickersgill is the Lead Sponsor and Treasurer

Cheques can also be sent to **Godmanchester Baptist Church, East Chadley Lane, Godmanchester, Huntingdon PE29 2BJ** or given to John Pickersgill.