THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL SAINTS AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

KINGSTON COMMUN REFUGEE SPONSORS

Will you help?

he images of the violence in Syria have been horrifying, merciless and unremitting. It is estimated that the pre-war population of Syria was 22m; of that number 13.5m have been identified as requiring humanitarian aid. During the seven-yearlong conflict statistics show that around 5.6m have fled the country. World-wide, governments have stepped in to absorb the influx, and, as hostilities have intensified and the task become almost overwhelming, there have been waves of initiatives, driven by compassion and the need to do something, anything to help, gradually filtering down to local level. One of the latest is in our own Borough of Kingston: the Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship.

In line with government policy to encourage communities to sponsor Syrian families selected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to resettle in the UK, Kingston Council held an open meeting last August to further such a project. The scheme follows a successful Canadian model that has been running for a number of years. Community sponsorship leads to much faster settling in and integration of the new families. The procedures for setting up such a scheme, however, are rigid, demanding, and represent a significant undertaking.

Key issues

To become a community sponsor, an organisation must have status as a registered charity or a community interest company. Amongst other things, it must have demonstrable experience of working in partnership with support organisations.

Crucially, it is imperative that it has sufficient resources in place to support a resettled family, the minimum figure being £9,000, and to have suitable and sustainable housing for a period of two years. From an official point of view there are three main elements. Kingston Council will need to give their support to the proposed sponsorship and check that the housing on offer is up to standard. A formal application can then be made to the Home Office, which will perform 'due diligence' on the sponsor organisation before deciding whether to give approval; and finally, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



A new community-based multi-faith charity is being set up in Kingston to sponsor and support a Syrian Refugee family.

will help match a family to the offer from a sponsor.

Fortunately, these stringent requirements did not prove a deterrent. Talks began, and a group of Kingston faith bodies decided to collaborate. A committee representing a wide range of religious organisations was quickly formed which subsequently became the proposed board of trustees of the new charity. In the



evolving picture details of the constitution are being thrashed out; a statement of approach prepared as well as an outline plan for the Home Office; a bank account set up and an e-mail address for communication.

[Continued on page 3 ...]

From the vicarage

All Saints

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



St John's

by | Revd Vicky Maunder

Walk of wonder

I was reminded recently of being rung up by a good friend, not long after I was ordained and working in a parish, asking if I wanted to travel up to Scotland with some friends for Easter. "What do you mean?" I asked, a bit bemused. "You know," he said "drive up on Thursday, come back on Monday with a long weekend in the hills between." "Look pal," I replied "it's because of us that you get a blinking holiday!" It came to mind twice in the run up to Easter. First when someone was trying to arrange a time to meet with me about signing a form. "We could come on Good Friday in the morning," she said "as long as you don't mind meeting on a bank holiday." I had to point out politely that we were quite busy that day. And then, on hearing that the Kingston half marathon was to take place on Easter Sunday morning. There are a few of these, now, and we rejoice in them given that they encourage exercise taking which has to be a good thing, but they always interfere with other things going on, not least our Sunday morning services. We bear it with good grace, I hope. But I did take the time to point out that Easter Sunday was one of the two days in the year that, by law, significant trading is not allowed and that the Bank Holiday Monday might provide an alternative that wouldn't also interfere with what is, arguably, the most important day in the Christian year.

What all these stories say is something that we otherwise already know. Namely that Christian faith is not so central to the life of our society as once it was. What they don't speak of, though, is the wonder that people still have. On Good Friday we undertook The Walk of Witness around the Town centre with our friends from other Christian denominations. It is a simple, muted, undemonstrative affair with a crowd of 60 following a simple wooden cross. We talk a little, making new friends with members of the other churches, but also walk in silence remembering the procession up the hill to Calvary and the crucifixion that followed. We seek neither to be invisible nor to convince, simply to be there remembering something of importance. As I walked this year I noticed – several times – parents stopping to explain to their children, who had been wondering, what we were doing and then, as we paused outside the Bentall Centre to read the story, sing a hymn, say a prayer and pause to reflect, others joined us glad, I think, that we had made the effort. Religion may be struggling but spiritual yearning, innate to us all, lives on. Our part, if we have the faith, is only to hold out our hands flat so that the butterfly can land if it wants to - for grab its wings and we'll crush it.

My family and I have just got back from a lovely holiday in Gran Canaria. The weather was hot, the sky was blue and, unlike our prechildren holidays, we were content to spend much of the time at the hotel complex, hanging out at the two pools. It was a family friendly place and there were lots of children splashing around in the water and using the water slide and jets, so plenty of opportunity for our girls to make new friends.

Our older daughter, who is eight, made friends with a Norwegian girl of a similar age. We never discovered her name as she didn't speak English and my daughter doesn't speak Norwegian. But despite the language barrier they spent hours together: swimming, sitting at a table by the pool with drinks and playing in the playground. I was intrigued that they could spent so much time together while not speaking the same language, but they communicated through smiles, laughter and the odd bit of pointing. It was lovely to see them enjoying each other's company and making the effort to overcome the communication barrier. I wonder how many opportunities to connect with others that we pass by because we are not prepared to make the effort to communicate. Or perhaps because we are uncomfortable or intimidated or unsure of how to connect with those who seem different to us.

I was very moved by the short film "The Silent Child" which was shown on BBC1 over the Easter weekend. It is about a 4-year-old girl called Libby who is profoundly deaf and who struggles to communicate. Her hearing parents seem fearful of her disability and unable to understand her needs so she is locked in a silent, unhappy world until a social worker teaches her British sign language and builds a relationship with her. She is a bright, capable girl, but no one has noticed because of the communication barrier. It is a powerful film about the challenges and isolation faced by the deaf community. I was pleased to see that the film won an Oscar this year in the Live Action Film Category and the film's writer and actress, Rachel Shenton, used sign language in her acceptance speech so that the film's young star, 6-year-old Maisie Sly, who is deaf, would be able to understand.

To connect with others is one of the great joys of being human; to laugh, to cry, to share our lives. We all need this. And children have much to teach us in their ability to be open, unjudgmental and accepting of others whoever they are, and to laugh with and enjoy the company of others with easy pleasure. In our busy adult lives, how often do we make the time to introduce ourselves and get to know someone new? And how often does prejudice or fear get in the way of this if that person is different to us.

KINGSTON COMMUNITY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

[Continued from page 1 ...]

Raising capital

What is needed now is maximum support from the community, as groups and as individuals. The new organisation is operational but nothing can be firmed up until the finance is in place. The minimum requirement for the scheme is £9,000 but an initial assessment in the case of Kingston is £12,700. The Syrian family, when it arrives, will have immediate 'right to remain' which carries an entitlement to all UK benefits and the right to work. In year two it is anticipated that the scheme will probably be only responsible for paying rent. However, initially it will be a question of total support from the moment of arrival

in England. Family members may not be able to speak English or may be ill or incapacitated. Covering all costs will be essential. The more organisations which join the better, to spread the financial load. Individuals can play an equally important role by organising sponsored events and perhaps by giving practical help (for example, a stipulation of the scheme is that the accommodation offered has to be redecorated and furnished).

If all goes well, the scheme could be up and running by the autumn.



The Sponsored Syrian family in Ottery St Mary, Devon, with the church group that sponsored them

Faith organisations so far represented on the board of trustees of KCRS: All Saints Church, St John's Church, The Society of Friends, Kingston Liberal Synagogue, Kingston Methodists

Advice and help

Ambitious though the project undoubtedly is, the will to succeed is there. Moreover, there are other organisations which can offer in-depth expertise. The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, a government-sponsored scheme in which a borough finds accommodation and is reimbursed, has been running for just over a year. The maximum number of refugees has been set at 50. So far this year, Kingston Borough has covered the resettling costs of 22. Refugee Action Kingston will be of help as will Sponsor Refugees, a national

organisation which, although not itself sponsoring, will give advice to those which do. If a Syrian family member does not speak English, there are local charities which teach English as a second language who could well be able to step in to help.

Away from the violence and conflict that is Syria, with the commitment of the community in Kingston, at least one family of innocent people will be able to rebuild their lives in a safe and secure environment.



Kingston Town Centre Chaplaincy

I had a dream to offer a chaplaincy ministry to those working in retail in the borough of Kingston. A friend of mine offered to help to bring this dream to fruition with the support of the YMCA. We told the ministers at All Saints, Kingston United Reformed Church and John Bunyan Baptist Church and they agreed to be our supervisors and advisers. We visited existing town centre chaplaincies in Manchester, Derby, Watford and Winchester. The primary purpose of the ministry was to offer a listening ear, support, and encouragement to retail employees in Kingston, though we are open to engage with other users of the town centre if approached by them. We hoped that our ministry might expand over time to cover the whole retail area of Kingston and perhaps other retail areas in the borough. Our aim is to make our borough a more pleasant place in which to work for retail employees, which we believe to be God's aim for us as his disciples. We offer prayer if requested and are clear about



our work being a part of our Christian faith. However, we are conscious that we are guests in the workplaces we visit and, therefore, do not preach or try to get people to come to our churches unless they first express a wish to do so. We take God's love out into our town centre by expressing our concern for those working there. This ministry is open to all Christian churches in the borough and the current chaplains come from Kingston United Reformed Church, St Matthew's Anglican Church Surbiton and St Joseph's Catholic Church New Malden.

A pilot for this service was launched in 2015, initially with two and expanding to four chaplains. We went out in pairs on Tuesday afternoons each week to visit those working in retail outlets in the area surrounding the market and in Eden Walk. We very quickly found that our visits were welcomed and appreciated. So in 2016 the four of us were inducted as chaplains at the United Reformed Church in Kingston and we have continued the ministry since then. Last year one of us had to stand down due to health issues and this leaves three of us. We believe that God wants this ministry to continue but we need more people to join us. With more workers we could cover more of Kingston shopping centre.

We believe that God calls us to provide this support, and this belief has been encouraged by the reception we have had from those we visit. Sometimes the conversation is of a general nature - about how business is going, about the work they do and such matters. Sometimes people talk about their family life and how their work impacts on this. Sometimes problems are discussed such as family issues, relationship difficulties and work issues. Sometimes we are asked directly to pray about issues, and at times we have agreed to seek prayer from our congregations for people. Working in retail is not always easy and some of the issues we have discovered are around lone working, working on zero hours contracts, travelling long distances to work, having to be available to work seven days a week, insecurity of employment in this sector, and many others. In our time of ministry we have seen several retail outlets close and have been available to support workers during this difficult time.

The requirements to join us in this work are primarily a feeling that God is calling you to it and a genuine concern for others. We are pleased to take people out with us if they want to see what we do. It involves a commitment of two or three hours a week and perhaps another few hours a year in meetings etc. We currently go out on Tuesday afternoons because these are a quiet time in the shops and workers in the shops have time to talk to us. It really is not difficult and we can provide any training you need. All those joining us would go out with one of us to show them the way. We always go out in pairs and we wear a tabard and a badge so that we are easily recognised. We feel that we get more out of it than we give, so please contact us if you are even a little bit interested and find out more about it. You can contact Maddie Anlezark on 07760417338 and we can make arrangements for one of us to meet with you. If you cannot join us please remember our work in your prayers.



David Condry - Director of Music at All Saints Church

by | Isabel Isaacson

I met up with David Condry at All Saints café to talk about his recent appointment as Director of Music at All Saints. Our starting point was the obvious one: what his priorities might be. David is well aware that recruitment is a key factor in maintaining the strength and quality of the choir. The strong historical link with Tiffin and links with Kingston Grammar School are well known but David's knowledge of the Kingston area means that he is also well placed to identify other local schools with whom to establish relationships. This will widen the net for potential recruits and enable increased inclusivity. He feels strongly that the general musicality of young members should be encouraged and that theory tuition and working for RSCM medals can help with this. David has wide experience in encouraging young musicians: for example, this includes the founding of the boys' choir at Hipperholme Grammar School in Halifax, increasing the treble line whilst at Bradford and working with the choir at the Yehudi Menuhin School. He can very quickly identify signs of promise (a spark of brightness, an enquiring nature) in children as young as eight or nine.

David is conscious of the importance of valuing, supporting and developing the abilities of the existing choir members, several of whom are of long standing, alongside a rolling recruitment programme. He is a great believer in the maintenance and development of the necessary professional skills and undertakes regular tuition himself in singing and conducting to make sure that his own skills are kept in good shape.

The location of All Saints Church in the commercial centre of the town prompts David to liken it to a cathedral – people will often come to the church from distances rather than from a traditional residential community on the doorstep. The quality of the music draws in people from beyond the Parish boundaries - an added incentive to broaden and develop its appeal where possible.

David grew up in a musical household. His father is the organist at Mortlake Parish Church and David and his brother began playing the organ from the age of twelve. Singing in church choirs has been a regular part of David's life

Brief Biography

David was born in Kingston and raised in the area. He attended Southborough School and then went on to read music at Leeds University. Whilst at University he joined the choir of Leeds Parish Church, now Leeds Minster; on graduating David spent five years at York Minster where he was contracted to sing the daily services, and where he met Helena, whom he married in 2016 at St Mary's Bourne Street. He left York to become Assistant Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral. In 2012 he returned to South West London to focus on his professional singing career.



and these include Leeds Parish Church Choir, York Minster Choir, and the choirs of Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral and the London Oratory. He and his wife currently worship at St Mary's, Bourne Street in Chelsea (where they were married). As well as his career as a professional singer, he teaches singing, conducting and organ; he also trains lawyers in presentation skills and performance through music lessons, whether or not they are singers. The role of Director of Music at All Saints is a very good fit with David's range of interests and experience.

It is clear that a large part of David's life is focused on and connected to music. He admits that he sometimes finds it difficult, at the end of a music-filled day, to relax and simply enjoy listening to music. So, what interests does he have away from music? He is studying for his private pilot licence and would have been flying the day we met had the weather not been overcast. He finds learning to fly such a complete and absorbing contrast to his life in music that it 're-sets' everything and he returns to music with renewed enthusiasm. David is very much looking forward to his new role. As part of the recruitment process, he experienced preparing the choir for, and conducting them in, a service at All Saints (Evensong on 4th March). Standing in the Church, conducting the Choir at this service, David said it felt right to be there – and didn't hesitate to accept the role when it was offered to him.

Come and join us for David's first service as Director of Music - on Sunday 6th May.

Stephen Westrop

Stephen Westrop's last Sunday as Director of Music was 22nd April. Although Stephen was in this role for just three years, he has a long association with All Saints' Church dating back to the 1960s when, as a pupil at Tiffin School, he sang in the choir under David Nield and played for occasional services. Stephen's last act as All Saints' organist was to play the voluntary at Evensong on 22nd: Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 541 by Bach.

A party was held at All Saints' Church after Evensong to give the many who wished to, the opportunity to say farewell to Stephen and to wish him well for the future. He was presented with a facsimile edition of Bach's Mass in B minor, BWV 232, (and can be seen appreciating it in one of the accompanying photographs).





Stephen will be back at All Saints' Church to give an organ recital for the Monday lunchtime concert on 11th June.





May Events

Thu 10th All Saints: 7.30pm Ascension Day Choral Eucharist Thu 10th St John's: 2pm St John's School Ascension Day Service St John's: 7.30pm Holy Communion for Ascension Day Sat 12th St John's: 10am-2.30pm Book Fair and Church Café Sun 13th All Saints: 9.30am Baptism of Frances & Henry Hone Sun 13th All Saints: 6.00pm Special Evensong Service for Christian Aid

Mon 14th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert Gemma Kateb (piano)

Mon 14th All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert – The Artesian Quartet play Beethoven, Mozart, Wolf and Webern

Wed 16th All Saints: 7.00pm Music with Soul

Thu 17th, Fri 18th, Sat 19 All Saints: MIND Marquee on North lawn to raise awareness of mental health during Mental Health Week.

Thu 17th All Saints: 1-2pm Topical Lunch Keeping Kingston town centre safe and welcoming, day and night: Chief Inspector PENNY MILLS, Kingston Police; PAUL RIORDAN, Kingston First

Sun 20th All Saints: 3.30pm Donald Trunk Book Reading **Sun 20th St John's:** Pentecost Services: 9am Holy Communion; 10am Sacred Space

Mon 21st All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert Carla Rees (flute)

Fri 25th All Saints: Practise your English conversation **Tue 29th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert Armorel Trio – Plus two

Thu 31st All Saints: 11am-2pm Activity Day Arty Party

June Events

Sun 3rd All Saints: 9.30am Baptism Edward Maurice Besly-Quick

Mon 4th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert Piano Trio Wed 6th All Saints: 6-7.30pm Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship – Launch Event

Sat 9th All Saints: Thames Philharmonic Choir 7.30pm Byrd Four Part Mass, Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine, Fauré Requiem. Sat 9th St John's: 10am-2.30pm Book Fair and Church Café Sun 10th All Saints: Baptism Edith and Maggie Hill Sun 10th St John's: 10am Parish Communion with Holy Baptism of Mikhail Volkov; 12noon Holy Baptism of Grace

Mon 11th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert Stephen Westrop (Organ)

Wed 13th All Saints: 7.00pm Music with Soul

Sat 16th All Saints: 2pm Kingston Samaritans 50th Anniversary Celebration Service; **All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert Linos Piano Trio

Sat 23rd All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Philharmonia

Sat 23rd St John's School: 12noon-3pm St John's School fête

with barbecue, bar, bouncy castle and lots more

Fri 29th All Saints: 12-2pm Practise your English conversation **Sat 30th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Orchestra

July Events

Sat 7th All Saints: Ordination Service

Sun 8th All Saints: 9.30am Baptism of Montague George

Sun 8th All Saints: 12.30pm-4pm Interfaith Forum fête in All Saints Church grounds

Sat 14th All Saints: 7.30pm Teddington Choral Society – Music for Royal Occasions

Sat 14th St John's: 10am-2.30pm Book Fair and Church Café **Sun 15th St John's:** 10am Parish Communion for St John's Church Dedication Festival

Tue 17th All Saints: 7pm Tiffin Boys Choir Concert Wed 18th St John's: 2pm St John's School Leavers Service

Thu 26th All Saints: 11am-2pm Activity Day **Sat 28th All Saints:** Rock Choir Workshop

All-Year-Round Events

All Saints: The church and cafe are open daily and visitors are welcome.

On weekdays and Saturdays from 11am to 12.15pm trained listeners are available to offer pastoral support to people who wish to speak with someone in confidence. Little Saints toddler group is on Tuesdays & Fridays.

St. John's: The church is open for Little Groovers toddler group on Tuesdays.

All Saints Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Sung Eucharist (with Children's Church). 6pm Sung Evensong

Weekday Communion Services

Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon Common Worship; Thursday 10.30am Book of Common Prayer; Friday 11.30am Praytime - brief songs and prayers for Toddlers and Carers; 12 noon Silent Prayer

St John's Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month: 10am Family Communion 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 10am Parish Communion with children's church 3rd Sunday of the month: 9am Holy Communion 10am Sacred Space with children's church Morning Prayer is said in Church at 9am on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

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PARISH PEOPLE



All Saints

Market Place, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1JP www.allsaintskingston.co.uk www.WhereEnglandBegan.co.uk

Team Rector of the Kingston Team:

Revd Jonathan Wilkes 020 3132 8717

jonathan@allsaintskingston.co.uk

Non-Stipendiary Priests:

020 8546 1997 Revd Sandy Cragg sandycragg26@gmail.com Days off Fri/Sat

Revd David Bell

revdhbell@gmail.com

Readers:

020 8940 1710 Peter Hann Martin Corner 020 8546 8412

Church Wardens:

020 8941 6597 Jennifer Pearce jennifer.pearce2010@gmail.com Liz Deller - lizdeller@blueyonder.co.uk 020 8390 5332

PCC Secretary:

Isabel Isaacson - isabel_isaacson@yahoo.co.uk 020 8974 8275

Honorary Treasurer: Alastair Deller - treasurer@allsaintskingston.co.uk

PA to the Rector:

Katarina Hardy - info@allsaintskingston.co.uk 020 8546 5964

Office open Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm

Heritage and Learning Officer:

heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk

020 8541 5371

Appeal website: Keith Long - klong@whereenglandbegan.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Philip Walker - pwalker535@gmail.com

Amanda Bullen - amanda.bullen@hotmail.co.uk

Organist and Director of Music: David Condry - contact via PA to the Rector

St John's

Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2SU www.stjohnskingston.co.uk

020 8546 9882 Team Vicar: Revd Vicky Maunder vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk Days off: Mon, Tue, Sat

Church Administrator:

admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk 07952 085 661

Readers:

Isobel Robinson 020 8546 5931 Mick Cooper 020 8286 2929

Church Wardens:

Frances Hazelgrove - f.hazelgrove42@btinternet.com

Julie Bishop - jpbishop3@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

Sarah Price - contact c/o Church Administrator admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk

Tony Hardy - tonyhardy@fifty3.net 020 8549 7572

Church website:

Anna Gorrell annagorrell@outlook.com

Safeguarding Officer (Children):

Anna Gorrell annagorrell@outlook.com

Safeguarding Officer (Vulnerable Adults):

07946 389126 Chris Fowles - cfowles@blueyonder.co.uk

All Saints & St John's are part of an Anglican Team with St John's Kingston Vale and members of the Local Ecumenical Project in Kingston Town Centre with their partners Kingston United Reformed Church, Eden Street, & Kingston Baptist Church, Union Street.

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DEADLINE FOR AUG/SEP/OCT 2018 9TH JULY

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