

ST THOMAS' ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORT NETWORK

At St. Thomas, we offer a support network to asylum seekers in Lancaster. Although we are unable to predict at this stage exactly how we will have grown in a few years' time when the "Heart of the City" community building is completed, we do expect to be continuing to offer the support below, hopefully on a greater scale.

Welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into our church – we support them both in practical and spiritual ways.

Befriending asylum seekers and refugees – making them feel part of the local community.

Offering 1:1 and bible study groups – we try to accommodate specific needs until the person feels ready to slot into one of St. Thomas' bible study groups.

Liaison with leaders of life groups (bible study groups) – to explain how to welcome asylum seekers and refugees into their groups.

Language assistance - to make the church a more accessible place for asylum seekers, refugees and other foreigners, for example, by having bibles in foreign languages, translated sermon notes etc.

Social and fundraising events - to support asylum seekers and refugees, linking with other groups working here in Lancaster to support this group of people. For example, through the Autumn Fiesta.

Networking - to build bridges and network with other Lancaster groups involved with asylum seekers and refugees.

Communication - to organise and use a group e-mail network to inform church members of any donations required or practical support that is needed, as well informing them of any events.

Web page - to keep information regarding asylum seekers and refugees up to date on our church website.

Our main aim is to facilitate a sharing of information, as well as pointing people in the right direction when they want to help this group of people through practical involvement or donations.

