

BISHOP ETON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Lots of activity throughout July and August means that we have some wonderful news to report back to you today.

A HOME FOR THE FAMILY

We have finally secured a tenancy on a home for the family in our parish. We were the first to the estate agent on the morning the house went on the market. The landlord is renting the property at a very reasonable price and has also agreed to allow the tenancy to continue for at least the first two years of the family's life in Liverpool. The estate agent has also agreed to waive the renewal charges when the family finally arrives and the contract transfers from Bishop Eton to the family. The house is perfectly positioned in the midst of our community. We are absolutely delighted. Thanks to everyone for helping in the search for a property and to those who have prayed for a successful outcome.

MEETING WITH THE HOME OFFICE

Three members of the Home Office travelled to Bishop Eton on Monday 6 August to interview members of the Steering Group, including Fr Tim, to assess whether or not Bishop Eton is a fit and proper host sponsor. We were joined from Nugent by Liz Jackson Director of Operation and two of her staff, Bishop Tom Williams, Sean Ryan from Caritas and two officers from Liverpool City Council. The Home Office staff were delighted with our plans, which were described as 'fantastic and strong'. It was a lively meeting with quite a few challenges. However, the Steering Group was well prepared, knowledgeable and secure. The civil servants were delighted that so many parishioners, of all ages, are supporting the project in so many ways; attending meetings, undertaking tasks, joining visits, making financial contributions, prayerful support; and that the whole community is behind the plans. We were asked to tweak some of the details in the plan and also to complete a series of further forms. Our resubmitted plans and forms are now with the Home Office Community Sponsorship Board which will give us its verdict in the coming weeks. After that, if we make it through the final hurdle a family will be with us in 6-8 weeks. Thank you so much for your prayers on 6 August

NEXT STEPS – making the property into a home

We need your help in one way or another – by either donating items or helping set up the house

Donating items: Firstly, thank you to all those people who have contacted Romina and the Home Making Team with offers of furniture and household goods – they have all been much appreciated. There are, however, quite a few things that we still need. Please can you help?

This is how.....We have re-organised the Home Wish List by removing all of the items we have already received or been promised. The list of items that we **really need as quickly as possible** is on the parish website: www.bishopeton.org.uk

- Click on the Resettlement icon on the right-hand side of the home page
- Click on Home Contents Wish List icon

A copy of the Wish List is also in the church porch.

Setting up the house: We would like a team of about 12 to help us on the weekend of 8th and 9th September to do specific jobs - a bit like a mini DIYSOS.....

Saturday 8 September: Tasks – sorting out the back yard, relaying some of the flags (which are too uneven for young children), sorting out the front garden, planting lots of greenery, cleaning inside the house, fitting curtain batons and poles, doing a little painting, fitting a few small items.

Do you have the skill or energy to help with any of these jobs please?

Sunday 9 September: Tasks – driving around the parish picking up the furniture which has been offered, furniture removal into each room and making up/setting up each room. *Can you help?*

We need a `man with a van` on Saturday and/or Sunday 8/9 September – can you help or do you know someone who can?

We have told the Home Office that the house will be ready from mid-September. If there is anything, no matter how small, which you have and would like to donate to the Home Making team. Please look at the Wish List and contact Romina on homemaking@refugee.bishopeton.org.uk or leave a message for her at the Monastery (0151 722 1108)

If you can help us with the removals and home making please contact Romina – details above

FUND RAISING

A very special thank you to Gabrielle Gavin, who asked her family for donations on her 6th birthday instead of presents. She gave us a cheque for £170! We were overwhelmed with the selflessness and thoughtfulness shown by such a young parishioner.

The Ladies Afternoon Tea in Fisher-More Hall to celebrate Ladies Day at Wimbledon on 15 July was a great success. The Fund-Raising Team worked really hard. The hall was transformed and everyone commented on how beautiful it looked. Thank you to all those who attended and to many local businesses who sponsored a table or gave raffle prizes. Almost £1600 was raised.

PS – *Can the guests who attended the Afternoon Tea and offered donations for the house please send their contact details to Romina so that collection can be organised*

Presentation by a professional Life Coach – will take place in October and be of particular interest to parents. Details to follow nearer the time.

Finally, I would like to finish by once again saying very many thanks to everyone for your continuing involvement, interest, support and prayers for this project and for the safe arrival of `our family`.

With best wishes

Ann
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