

WELCOME



BISHOP ETON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

APRIL NEWSLETTER

We are making wonderful progress due to the hard work and support of so many people in the parish.

More than 100 Year 5 and 6 children from Bishop Eton Primary School entered 'Design a Logo' competition. Congratulations to Gabriella and Isabel, year 5. The excellent parts of their winning entries were amalgamated by a parishioner, a design expert, to produce the wonderful logo above.

Funds are increasing on a weekly basis due to the generosity of individual donations and those who have set up standing orders. Eton Place was packed for the Syrian Night last week – good company, lots of laughter and great food led to a grand total £801 towards the fund. This was further enhanced by the generous donation of £500 from Penny Lane Mosque. Thanks to everyone.

We are overwhelmed that the owners of the excellent Liverpool School of English, a parishioner and former parishioner, have offered English language lessons to the parents free of charge for a year.

March newsletter sent out an appeal for storage space and volunteers to work on the DWP/benefits preparations. By the end of 8.30 Mass, on the day the newsletter was distributed, we had the offer of a garage! Later that week we had set up our new Employments/Benefits Team of four volunteers, who in intervening time have made incredible progress with this aspect of the plan.

HOME OFFICE APPLICATION

As a result of rapid progress, having spoken with the Home Office, Nugent Care and Caritas, we took the decision at last week's Steering Group meeting to submit our application in two stages. In May we will submit our Resettlement Plan with everything in place concerning legal, education, healthcare, employment/benefits, fund raising, finances, home-making and welcome. We have met with officers from Liverpool City Council, the police and councillors. We have received a wonderful letter of support from Church Ward Councillors. The Home Office will assess the first stage plan, visit Bishop Eton to interview the Steering Group and decide if we are fit and proper sponsors 'in principle' to host a family.

The big thing which is missing from all of this is – A HOUSE!! Until that is also in place Home Office's hands will be tied. By sending the application in two stages we a) will know whether or not we are approved 'in principle', b) can focus on finding a house and c) will not waste the funds in rental whilst we gain approval. Once a house is in place, we will submit the second stage and hope to receive our family sometime September/October.

HELP!!THE HOUSE.....

Rental property in the parish and roads nearby is scarce and expensive. We are looking for a 3-bedroom house, preferably with a small garden or outside space for the children, which the family will be able to afford, as close as possible to our parish boundary.

Therefore, **the appeal this month** is – Do you have property to rent which fits the criteria above? Which could be made available to rent from September/October? Do you know anyone who can help us secure a property? Do you have a 'for sale' property which we could rent in the meantime?

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support

Ann

Chair Resettlement Group

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News from the HOME-MAKING TEAM

The Home Making Team will ensure all furnishings and equipment needed to run a family home here in Liverpool are in place before the family arrives.

Our most immediate concern is understanding what we need to provide for our family so that they can settle in quickly, with items needed for family life in the UK as well as things which are culturally appropriate.

The Home Making Team has put together a room-by-room inventory setting out what we see as essential for any family. We will be working on refining our list once we know more about the size of our family and age of the children. We will then try to provide materials that will make the house feel more immediately like their family home.

Between now and the arrival date we want to ensure that we can source a wide range of items from beds, to kitchen crockery, to cushions and pillows. We are asking parishioners to help in any way they can. We are going to put up a '*WEDDING LIST*' on the Resettlement Project page of the parish website. We are looking for parishioners to look at the list and at this stage simply to commit to supplying one or more items that we need. We have already had some wonderful contributions from keen early starters. There will be some items which will have to be brand new, but there will be lots of others which may be high quality previously owned.

We are *not looking for individuals or families to buy or donate right now*. We are simply looking for people to commit to buy/donate in time for the arrival date of our family once it is known. Hence the 'wedding list' approach.

Therefore, please look at the Wedding List and if you see something that you could help with on the list let us know and we will mark as secured. We will let you know a couple of months before the family arrives so that you can then donate the items. We do have some storage for larger items.

So, although our most active period will come shortly before and then beyond arrival day, we have a lot work to do to ensure that our family will be able to start their new lives in Liverpool.

With many thanks

Romina

Home Making Team Lead

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