



## Support for Migrants in Leeds



### The problem

The ongoing, terrible events in Ukraine have highlighted the plight of refugees in our world. Whilst the British people have responded generously & the government have pledged support for the plight of displaced women & children from Ukraine, there remains the ongoing issue of people seeking sanctuary and already here in Leeds, who have not attracted the same levels of support.

Since the pandemic, the number of people in hotels has risen sharply. Currently there are 500+ men being housed in 5 hotels across Leeds, one of which is within our parish and is housing 120+ men. They are not allowed to work & many are not receiving the basic £8 a week asylum support to which they are entitled, so have no money for essential items such as clothing, toiletries, bus fares, & mobile phone credit.

To address this, the OLK parish has set up a Friends of Migrants Support Group and has committed to engaging with the local hotel to offer practical & emotional support.

### Clothing needed

We are specifically launching an appeal for the following items which can be deposited at our churches from now until Sunday 24th April. The items will then be distributed to the men living in the hotel which is located within our parish.

- Socks - new only
- Underpants - new only
- Toiletries (e.g. deodorant, nail clippers, personal hygiene)
- New or nearly new trainers
- T shirts, sports shirts
- Sweat shirts, fleeces, jumpers
- Jeans / jogging bottoms
- Jackets / coats
- Hats

**All the above should be for men, in a small/medium size, and in good condition**

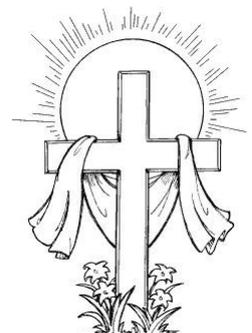
### Other help

There is very little for the men to do which results in deteriorating mental health & lack of confidence. Befriending and help with learning English would help them to integrate with wider society. To help with this, OLK, in partnership with the Refugee Council, would like to run a weekly conversation group at the hotel. If you are interested in volunteering to join the conversation group please contact:

Rose McCarthy tel. 07932063648 [roseatmccarthy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roseatmccarthy@yahoo.co.uk)

Volunteers would need a DBS check & to attend training.

If you are interested in joining the OLK Friends of Migrant Support Group, the next meeting will be Wednesday 13th April, 8 pm, Holy Name Church Hall.



“Seeking asylum is like waiting for the sun to rise,  
Let's help the Son to rise this Easter, in our parish.”