



The Syrian Refugee Crisis

A message from the Dean of Truro

Several people have asked what they can do in response to the refugee crisis affecting much of Europe. The scale of the problem has overwhelmed many places, and the upsurge in a sympathetic response to this crisis has been very moving indeed. A sense of powerlessness, though, can soon frustrate our innate desire to help people in dire straits. The Bishop of Truro has issued a statement in which he says there is no simple solution to the problem. But he also says: "I am wholly supportive of those individuals and parishes within the diocese who are taking action to help where they can. The compassion shown by Revd Jeremy Putnam and his parishioners at All Saints, Highertown, was a prime example of how people can provide tangible help, and quite rightly they received support from people all over Cornwall and further afield."

With this in mind here are some suggestions as to what we can do:

- Support the initiative of All Saints, Highertown, who are continuing in their efforts to offer support to people in Calais. They have already taken items to camps in Calais and are preparing for another trip in November. Please refer to www.asht.org.uk/refugee-crisis.html for further information about what materials are needed and where to take them.
- The Diocese in Europe is working on the frontline with refugees, and has asked the Anglican mission agency Us (formerly USPG) to be the official agency for Anglican churches in Britain and Ireland to channel donations for its work. Donations made to the Us Rapid Response Fund will be put towards emergency medical support, food, shelter and pastoral care for refugees. Initially, there will be a particular focus on the situation in Greece and Hungary. You can donate at www.weareus.org.uk/europe
- Christian Aid, established seventy years ago to deal with the refugee situation in Europe at the end of the Second World War, is also asking for donations to help cope with this humanitarian crisis.
www.christianaid.org.uk

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Bishop Tim also says it is important to pray “for all those caught up in the crisis – prayers for the safety of those who have left their homes; prayers for the politicians who have the difficult task of making decisions over how help is offered, and to whom; prayers for all those who come into contact with the refugees on their journeys, that they might find even greater depths of compassion and humanity; and also prayers for all of us as we consider how and when we might be able to offer some assistance.”

Because of the importance of prayer, we are making some dedicated prayer space available in the Cathedral for people to sit quietly and offer prayers for those caught up in this terrible situation. This is in the Jesus Chapel, the chapel on the left hand side of the entrance. There will also be a vigil service in the Cathedral on the evening of Sunday 15th November at 6.00pm, just before All Saints takes its next consignment to Calais. This will be something that will take many months and years to address, and therefore we must constantly keep our response to this crisis at the fore of our prayers and our actions.



The Very Reverend Roger Bush
Dean of Truro

A Prayer for the Refugee Crisis

**Heavenly Father,
you are the source of all goodness, generosity
and love.**

**We thank you for opening the hearts of many
to those who are fleeing for their lives.**

**Help us now to open our arms in welcome,
and reach out our hands in support.**

**That the desperate may find new hope, and
lives torn apart be restored.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
Your Son, Our Lord, who fled persecution
at His birth and at His last triumphed
over death.**

Amen

