

## **St Peter's Sanctuary Welcome Hub**

St Peter's, in conjunction with Winchester City of Sanctuary and Churches Together held our first welcome hub on May 4th and opened the doors to approximately 35 - 40 people and children from Ukraine.

St Peter's Welcome Hub will be inclusive and opens its doors to all refugees from any country living in the City of Winchester and its surrounding areas. At the moment the need is for people from Ukraine to get together but in time, we will be reaching out to communicate with people from all nations.

We continue to open every Wednesday and regularly welcome between 10 and 20 guests together with people offering expertise, advice and specialist support. We are supported by a large number of volunteers from St Peter's and further afield and guests and volunteers chat, form friendships and eat cake!

People seeking sanctuary in the UK are often deeply traumatised and they need people and services to help them make sense of their experiences, draw on their resilience and strength to start to to recover and rebuild their lives. Refugees also suffer other problems including worrying about money, clothes, accommodation, schools and there is a constant concern about loved ones being left behind. We are very very proud that St Peter's alongside other Churches are contributing in a small way to help people who need our support.

Our home is their home now.

A huge thank you to all the committed volunteers without them, the hub would not be successful and also to all of St Peter's staff who have been so generous and accommodating with this initiative.

For further information please contact Lesley Sheldon - Browning  
lesley.Sheldonbrowning@outlook.com on behalf of the St Peter's Refugee Welcome hub.

Please do reach out if you would like to offer help or support.

Lesley Sheldon-Browning