

Quick Guide to Welcoming New Arrivals

There are some very good existing schemes for new arrivals such as drop-ins and welcome projects. One such scheme is [Welcome Boxes](#), an excellent, replicable project developed by Upbeat Communities in Derby and supported by The Cinnamon Network. It has proved a lifeline for many new arrivals. Training in being a welcoming church is now available at [Welcome Churches](#).

Alternatively, you could find out where your nearest asylum drop-in is, and volunteer to help out there. You may find this on our [Find Your Local Project](#) page. If there is no drop-in, why not start one in your church or a central location? Some of the best drop-ins are church-based, where you can just feel the unconditional love. One such project, [Sanctus in Stoke-on-Trent](#), was featured in The Guardian in July 2016. It is a brilliant example of what is possible for a small church to do.

One recent development has been the emergence of [Places of Welcome](#), mainly in cities with very diverse communities, such as Birmingham and Bradford. These are not specific to asylum seekers and refugees, rather embracing the wider community. Ranging from a simple drop-in with tea and biscuits to much more extensive services, they offer the opportunity of meeting new arrivals in an informal and relaxed setting.

Finally, you can check if your town or city has a [City of Sanctuary](#) group. City of Sanctuary is a nationwide movement to create a culture of welcome and hospitality for those seeking sanctuary. Local groups vary greatly, but there will certainly be opportunities to meet and befriend refugees and asylum seekers through a variety of social events like conversation clubs, allotments, rambling or cycling and arts and crafts projects.