

# Home from Home Hallam

## *Welcoming a Refugee Family...*

Little Amal is a 3.5m puppet, representing unaccompanied child refugee who travelled the long way across Europe to the UK. Her 8,000 km 'Walk' started in Turkey, came through Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium arriving in Dover in the middle of October.

Sheffield, the first City of Sanctuary in the country, was her penultimate stop, where a day-long festival of activities culminated in her arrival, first by barge to the Canal Basin, and then through welcoming crowds to Tudor Square. As the light faded, she was greeted with singing and dancing, banners and lanterns.



In the words of the artistic director of the project, Amir Nizar Zuabi, the aim of the project was "to highlight the potential of the refugee, not just their dire circumstances ... because we want the world to grow big enough to greet her. We want her to inspire us to think big and to act bigger."



According to [UN statistics](#), there are nearly 4 million refugees in Turkey, a country with a population of 84 million people. According to [government statistics](#) the UK accepted just 10,725 refugees in the year to June 2021, a number that was reduced because of Covid. Recently, our government have committed to take in 20,000 refugees from Afghanistan, but clearly we could do more, and this is what a new group in our diocese, *Home from Home Hallam* plans to do.

Little Amal (meaning Hope, in Arabic) arrived in Sheffield in October, just as we are ready to submit an application to the Home Office, not to look after a single child, but to bring an extra refugee family to Sheffield.

We are a group who have responded to a request from Bishop Ralph, and have come together to participate in a Home Office Community Sponsorship initiative to welcome a refugee family. From our first meeting in May, we have been working out how to support 'our' family, from finding them accommodation and schools, to medical care and benefits. In all of this we are supported by the Diocese, who are our Lead Sponsor, and have identified the initial funds needed for our application.

If you want to know more about our project you will find that we are now listed under the Caritas tab on this website.

As we move into the next phase of our project, we may need more help in practical matters. For example when we have a house allocated, we will know what help we need to get it ready; we may need translators and perhaps other volunteers, and even more funds. We will post regular updates on our webpage.

Above all, we ask you all to remember us in your prayers.