



January 2021 - New Year Update

It is now a year since we welcomed the family to join our community here in Louth. And what a year it has been for all of us! (This is one of those rare occasions when an exclamation mark is not an exaggeration.)

But the family have worked hard to settle down to life in Louth. It has not been easy for them. The family have had to deal with a new language (coming along nicely, thank you), a different climate (not so good), a different culture — and all of that within the extra problems caused by Covid19 which has made us all rethink our priorities and our definitions of what a good/better life is.

Nor has it been easy for us as the group trying to help them settle into life in England. I have lived in several parts of the UK and can understand the difficulties of undertaking a new life in different communities. I met several English people who could not settle to life in the remote Orkney Islands, as well as some who had managed it; but all needed time and help from what we term 'locals'.

To settle into a new community one needs to discover what is going on there, so there is a need for locals to invite in-comers to join. That has been made more difficult this year because most community events have been closed down. But in the future we need to find out what the family can offer to our community and what the community can offer to this new family.

Louth Churches for Refugees is, unfortunately, still a small group. We need to widen our outreach by increasing the number of folk who are willing and able to offer assistance to the family with routes into different activities.

We had been planning a meeting in January 2021- open to all who may be interested in supporting us. Unfortunately, pandemic restrictions mean this meeting is no longer possible. We do intend to hold such an open meeting later in the year. We also plan to hold a face-to-face Annual General Meeting as soon as we can in the Spring — watch out for details.

In the meantime, we would appreciate any offers of help; please contact us. Details can be found at <https://louthchurchesforrefugees.org.uk/about>

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<https://www.facebook.com/louthchurchesforrefugees>

David Fidler (Lead Sponsor)