



St. Chad's Sanctuary

'I was a stranger and you made me welcome.'

(Matt:25,35)

February 15th. 2021

Dear friends,

On Ash Wednesday, February 17th 2010, St Chad's Sanctuary welcomed our first asylum seekers and refugees. Building relationships of trust and friendship was soon coupled with the provision of essentials like food, clothing and hygiene products as well as the teaching of English as a second language and welfare support. We have been so blessed by the support especially of the Catholic community: parishes, schools and chaplaincies as well as amazing individuals. Together, we have made the project something that has made a massive difference in the lives of countless individuals and set them on the road to a new life very different from some of the circumstances of desperation that they left behind. Covid-19 presented new challenges which are met with courage, creativity and great generosity by the Sanctuary team and our benefactors.

Now, 11 years on, St Chad's Sanctuary moves into a new phase of its life. I am very pleased to be its Patron and to support the ongoing vision for its work, under the stewardship of my successor as Project Manager, Abigail Martin. So much of the generosity shown to the Sanctuary is in the form of supplies collected and brought to us, and long may that continue. But, truthfully, in order to not only survive but to continue to meet the ever growing needs of asylum seekers and refugees, we also need financial backing. So I appeal once more to your generosity, either as established friends of St Chad's Sanctuary or possible new supporters. Please look for opportunities to support us through Lenten charity collections, legacies and bequests, regular donations (standing order), or occasions like funerals where people might be inclined to donate money to a charity. We are not in competition with all of the other good causes at home and abroad, but this is a time of particular need for us and we appreciate your prayers and your financial support.

For further details, please visit the Sanctuary website at: www.stchadssanctuary.com

With prayer and deep gratitude,

Margaret Walsh IJS

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