

To: All Clergy

24 March 2022

Dear colleagues,

Clergy offering lodgings to refugees: Diocesan guidance and process

We are pleased to be able to share with you details of the process and guidance we have developed for clergy who wish to offer lodging for refugees in their own home.

Please note that this guidance is only applicable to clergy occupying board or parsonage housing.

If this does not reflect your situation, but you are still interested in offering support to refugees, please visit the [Ukraine – How can I help?](#) section of the Diocesan website or download the [Church of England's Ukraine Toolkit](#).

Purpose of the guidance and process

Whilst we recognise the generosity of heart from clergy households who would like to help in such a direct way, it is important that clergy households work the guidance through with their Archdeacon to help consider all the risks that this additional ministry might bring.

In our guidance we explain some of the things you should consider before offering lodging to refugees. We also explain the process you will need to go through with the Diocese to confirm your intention to offer a space in your home.

The process has been designed to help us assess whether approval can be granted, as well as enable pastoral conversations to be had with clergy directly about whether this is the right step for them.

We are very aware that the circumstances of each household and each church are different, and some are in a better place to help than others. We hope our guidance and the process assist you as you consider your next steps.

If you need further help

We have set up a dedicated email associated with this matter, and so if you have any questions about the process, please email: ukraine2022@rochester.anglican.org.

If you would like to share details of what you, your church, or community are doing more generally in relation to Ukraine, please email our Lead Community Engagement Adviser, Magali van der Merwe directly on: magali.vandermerwe@rochester.anglican.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Girt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Girt
Diocesan Secretary