



- ☒ Are you passionate about helping vulnerable children in your community?
- ☒ Do you want your church to be a welcoming and supportive environment for families who foster, adopt or provide kinship care?
- ☒ Are you excited about supporting the Home for Good vision to find a home for every child who needs one?

Become a Home for Good Church



Help us find a home for every child who needs one

Every day more than 50 children are taken into care in the UK.

They are removed from chaotic, traumatic, abusive, neglectful or desperate situations. Some will need a home for a few nights, some for a few months or years, while others will not be able to return to their birth families and will become one of the 4,000 children who are currently waiting for a permanent home with a new forever family.

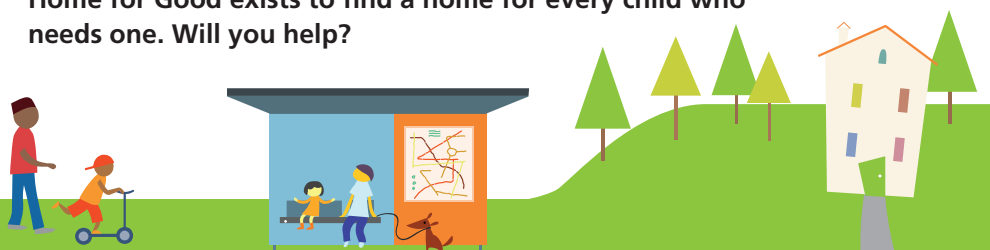
We believe the Church is ideally placed to help meet this need – both in terms of finding families to foster or adopt and providing an excellent community of support to wrap around those who do.

Home for Good is a charity that aims to make adoption and fostering a significant part of the life and ministry of the Church in the UK. We raise awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents, encourage families to provide loving homes for the children in care, and equip the Church to be a welcoming community for them.

Being part of the solution to this need isn't just wishful thinking. Through our connections, Home for Good has a voice into approximately 15,000 churches. If one family in each of these churches chose to foster or adopt, there would be no children in the UK without a home.

We believe this is a fantastic opportunity for the Church to be good news in society, to change our communities, and to transform the lives of some of our country's most vulnerable children.

Home for Good exists to find a home for every child who needs one. Will you help?



9,000 young people leave care every year – what happens to them?

- ❖ **22%** of female care leavers become teenage parents
- ❖ **24%** of the adult prison population are care leavers
- ❖ **A third** of homeless people have been in care
- ❖ At least a **third** of sex workers, and potentially as many as **70%**, have been in care
- ❖ **38%** of care leavers are not in education, training or employment (NEET)

It's great that the Church in the UK is increasingly working to support the adults who face these problems, but let's not wait until that point – let's get involved with the children as they come in to care and need a home for good.

Support the Vision



Stand with Home for Good and churches throughout the UK as we transform the lives of vulnerable children in our communities.

1. Sign-up

By signing up to be a Home for Good church you are joining a national movement of UK churches that are passionate about their call to care for vulnerable children. We hope to present a map of at least 500 churches to the government in order to demonstrate that the Church is fully committed to finding homes for children who desperately need them.

2. Pray

As a church, commit to praying regularly for children in care, foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive families – and for the work of Home for Good.

3. Give

Consider how your church can financially support the work of Home for Good.

- Take up a special offering for the work of Home for Good – perhaps on Adoption Sunday or at Christmas
- Make Home for Good your 'charity of the year'
- Engage your congregation by fundraising for Home for Good
- Give regularly as part of your church's mission giving

To find our latest prayer points, visit homeforgood.org.uk/pray



City Church, Worcester, raised money to purchase an industrial iron so they could do ironing for families that foster and adopt.

St Peter's Church in Bolton host a bi-monthly Saturday lunchtime support group for foster and adoptive families, and more than 40 adults and children attend.

Sutton Vineyard, have compiled a list of skilled people in the church who could help those in the assessment process with home improvement, or could offer reduced rates for things like boiler checks or help with accountancy.



Welcome and Wrap Around Families

Take these practical steps to ensure that looked after children, foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive families feel safe, welcome and supported in your church.

1. Welcome

Use inclusive language. When you make announcements or write a church notice deliberately say 'parents and carers' as this small change can make a whole group of people feel welcomed and included. Your children's and youth leaders could also attend a Home for Good training day to help them better understand the needs of looked after children and their families, and find out what they can do to ensure that children and youth activities are inclusive.

"When we were preparing to adopt our daughter ten years ago our church family walked through the ups and downs with us just as they would have done had I been pregnant. A few weeks after she arrived and we "hit the wall" and were exhausted, they arranged a meal rota for a couple of weeks just as they would have done had I given birth." **Ruth, Sheffield**

2. Help

Take time to ask the foster carers and adoptive parents in your church what support they need. Encourage small groups to facilitate intentional practical support for things like cooking and laundry, and where appropriate, offer help with babysitting or school runs.

3. Connect

Facilitate opportunities for foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive parents to connect with one another. Home for Good can provide guidelines on how to set up and run informal support groups.

When you sign-up as a Home for Good Church, we will send you ten free copies of Care for the Family's guide for churches, "Supporting those who adopt or foster." You will also receive details of how you can login to our website to access a range of exclusive resources.

To find out more about support, visit homeforgood.org.uk/howtosupport



Be Part of the Solution



Raise awareness in your church, dispel the myths, and encourage individuals and families to consider fostering or adoption.

1. Profile

Profile the issues facing children in our communities and the need for more foster carers and adoptive families during your Sunday services. Home for Good produces resources that can be used – particularly on Adoption Sunday, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

2. Inform

Fostering and adoption isn't for everyone, but some people haven't even considered it because of misconceptions. Make sure people have access to information about fostering and adoption. Display Home for Good information leaflets and posters and make sure people know that you're a Home for Good church. You might also like to consider hosting an information evening for people who want to find out more.

"Since our Adoption Sunday service, three more families have been approved as foster carers or adopters – taking the total to five. It's a great opportunity to encourage people who may have been considering it to find out more – in a place where they can have their questions answered in a safe and secure environment. If the Church won't step up, who will?" **Andy, Yeovil Family Church**

3. Celebrate

As Christians, we have all been adopted into God's family – this is something that we should celebrate. Make sure adoption is a regular feature in your worship and teaching.

Take a look at our wide range of resources at homeforgood.org.uk/resources

"On Adoption Sunday, we told our church about our four years of fostering experience. We showed the Home for Good video and one of our preaching team – who grew up in a family who fostered over 100 children – preached on our adoption into God's family. Lots of people said afterwards it was inspirational and three families asked me to speak to them more about fostering! Our dream of involving churches across the country is slowly coming true."

Ruth, Raynes Park Community Church





Become a **Home for Good Church**

Becoming a Home for Good church is a way of helping vulnerable children in your community. Together we can...

...make sure our churches are known as safe places where looked after children are welcomed and families that foster, adopt or provide kinship care are supported.

...find a stable, secure and loving home for every child who needs one.

...demonstrate to the government that there are hundreds of churches who want to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

Through regular emails full of inspirational stories and ideas and unlimited access to our web resources, Home for Good will provide you with all you need to inspire and equip your church.

We hope that you will join us. Ready to sign up now?
Go to homeforgood.org.uk/churchsignup

Would you like more information?

Contact the team by phone **0300 001 0995**
or email **info@homeforgood.org.uk**

"For many years we cared for children with difficulties ranging from moderate behavioural issues through to terminal illnesses. During those years the greatest help and support came from the willingness of the leaders to provide 1:1 care on a Sunday morning for our children. Some were in wheelchairs, some climbed on every available surface but each Sunday my husband and I were free to be a part of the adult Bible school in the sure knowledge that our children were being loved and cared for."

Christine, Buckinghamshire



w: homeforgood.org.uk

a: 176 Copenhagen Street, London, N1 0ST

t: 0300 001 0995 **e:** info@homeforgood.org.uk