

Before Adoption Sunday

Involve

Talk to foster carers, adoptive parents and people who are part of your church who were in care or adopted as children. Use their knowledge and experiences to help shape your service. See if any of them would be willing to share their story as part of the service.

Prepare people

Tell your church that you're planning to take part in Adoption Sunday. It's important to offer advance warning so that anyone who might find the day challenging is aware.

Inform

Order Home for Good leaflets to have available at the end of your service for those who might be interested in finding out more. You could make these leaflets available all year round. Leaflets can be ordered from homeforgood.org.uk/leaflets.

More

There is a whole range of resources available for each of the Adoption Sunday themes. As you explore these, consider whether you could do more than a five to ten minute slot in your service.

Children and young people

If possible, engage your children and young people with the topic of adoption in their groups. Specific resources for children and young people are available on the resources page for each of the themes.

Spread the word

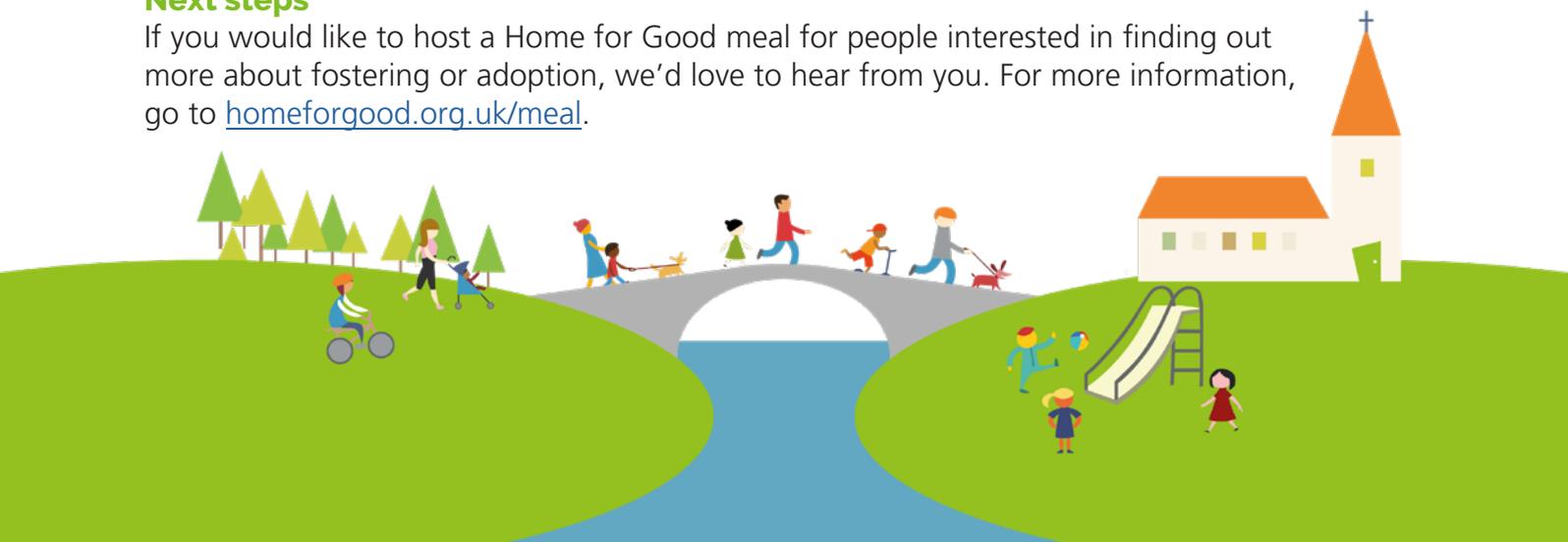
Can you encourage other churches in your area to take part? Could you send an email to other church leaders in your network? If you are part of a local group of church leaders, could you tell them about Home for Good next time you meet up?

Read the book

If you want to learn more about Home for Good and how churches can transform the lives of vulnerable children, read the Home for Good book (homeforgood.org.uk/book).

Next steps

If you would like to host a Home for Good meal for people interested in finding out more about fostering or adoption, we'd love to hear from you. For more information, go to homeforgood.org.uk/meal.



Beyond Adoption Sunday

Taking part in Adoption Sunday is a great way to show that your church wants to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children, but we all know it will take a lot more than one Sunday. Here are a few ideas to make fostering and adoption a normal part of your church life:

Become a Home for Good Church

If your church affirms the vision of Home for Good and wants to be known as a church that welcomes and supports families that foster and adopt, become a 'Home for Good Church'. Home for Good will provide you with further ideas and resources. Go to homeforgood.org.uk/church to find out more.

Host a Home for Good meal

The Home for Good Meal is ideal for anyone keen to further explore fostering and adoption. It can be used with a small or large group, in a home or church setting and is the ideal follow up event after Adoption Sunday. Check out homeforgood.org.uk/meal or contact the team at meal@homeforgood.org.uk for more information on how to run a Home for Good Meal.

Read the Home for Good book by Krish and Miriam Kandiah

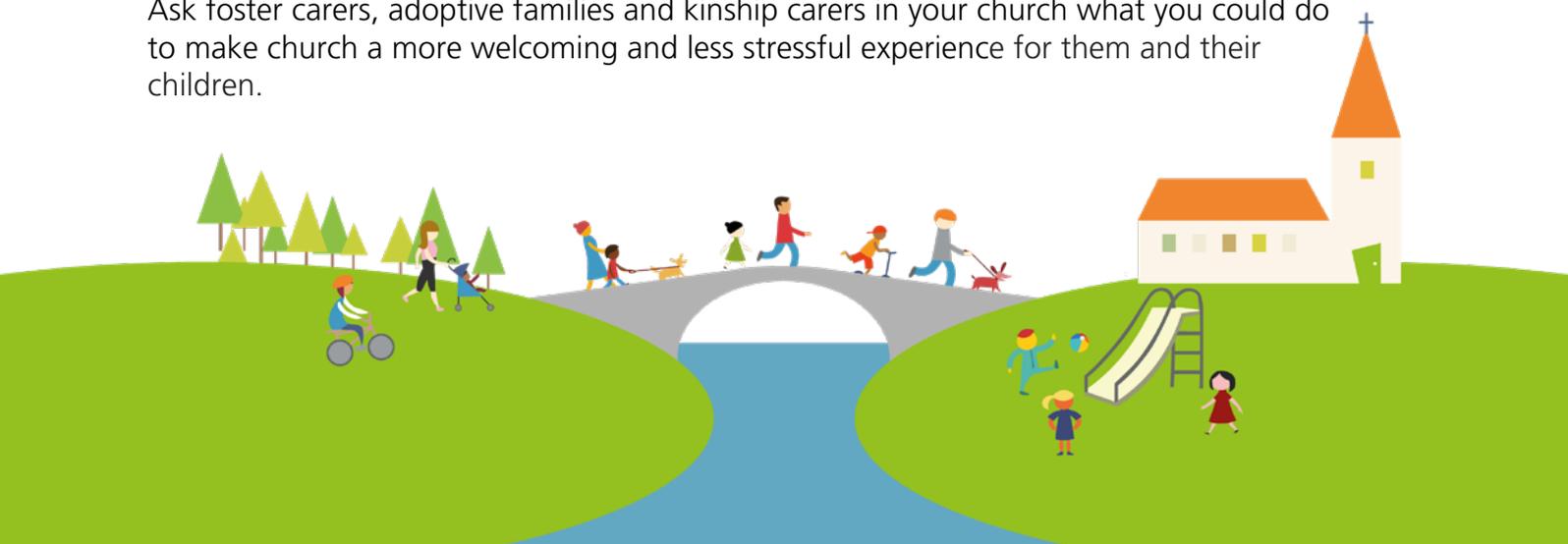
Filled with stories from people who have adopted or were adopted themselves, alongside practical advice on how it all works and the challenges that will come, this book makes a compelling case that the Church can and must make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children, and asks us all to consider our response (homeforgood.org.uk/book).

Run the Home for Good Foundations Course

Delving deeper into the themes laid out in the Home for Good book, Foundations is a six-session study guide that can be used in a small group, as a family, or as a personal reflection. Each session includes a combination of bible study and reflection, practical information, real-life stories, and opportunities for discussions, questions and prayer. Find out more at homeforgood.org.uk/foundations.

Consider how you can be a welcoming church to adoptive and foster families

When you lead, make announcements, or write in the church newsletter, deliberately say 'parents and carers'. Be particularly sensitive when celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day. Ask foster carers, adoptive families and kinship carers in your church what you could do to make church a more welcoming and less stressful experience for them and their children.



Beyond Adoption Sunday cont.

Think carefully about your children's and youth activities

Make sure the leaders of your children's and youth activities are aware of the issues that can exist for children in care and that groups do what they can to cater for their specific needs. Again, speak to the parents and carers, and find out what would enable the children in their care to be able to engage effectively with the children's and youth activities. Also, speak to us about our Children's and Youth Leader Training! (homeforgood.org.uk/CYLtraining).

Make adoption and fostering a prayer goal of your church

Churches have started to make adoption and fostering a proactive goal for their church and are praying for God to raise up people in the church who can do it. Why not start praying that in the next two years one (or more, depending on the size of your church) family from your church would adopt a child or start fostering?

Make sure families in your church who foster or have adopted are supported

Encourage people in your church to wrap around families that foster, adopt, or provide kinship care. Each situation is unique, so find out how they would like to be supported. For stories of how church families have provided excellent support, visit homeforgood.org.uk/churchsupport.

Set up a prayer group for foster carers and adoptive parents

If you have several families in your church who foster, adopt or provide kinship care, encourage them to meet together regularly to share experiences and pray for one another. As we've travelled the country listening to people's stories, we've found such gatherings can be a huge encouragement to people. Maybe this is something you could do with other churches in your area?

Keep profiling fostering and adoption in your services

Church life is about much more than what goes on during the Sunday service. However, what gets talked about during a service tends to reflect what a church considers to be important. Therefore, make adoption and fostering a normal part of church life by getting people to talk about it. Invite foster carers and adoptive families or people who were fostered or adopted when they were children to share their stories. Inspire people by telling stories of what churches have done to wrap around families who have adopted or fostered. Use resources produced by Home for Good to focus on adoption and fostering on Mother's Day (homeforgood.org.uk/mothersday) and Father's Day (homeforgood.org.uk/fathersday).

