



Safe Families



NO
ONE
SHOULD
FEEL
ALONE

YOUR CHURCH AND SAFE FAMILIES

BRINGING HOPE AND BELONGING
TO ISOLATED FAMILIES

Facing life alone can be hard, and when you feel there is no one there to support you, it is a scary place to be.

And loneliness like this is a huge issue in every single community. 45% of the UK population report feeling lonely*. This has a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing because we are all designed for connection and belonging.

As Safe Families, we partner with churches to address this issue by empowering you, the church leader, to make a real difference in people's lives. We believe that the church is uniquely placed to offer hope and belonging to all who need it, and we are passionate about supporting you in that mission.

We work alongside your church to provide hope, belonging, and support to vulnerable children, families, and care leavers in your community.

Safe Families takes on the responsibility of training, safeguarding, and paperwork, all at no financial cost to the church. This frees churches and their leaders to build relationships with those in need. These relationships provide practical help, encouragement, and support, much like that of a good friend, neighbour, aunt, or grandparent.

The need is huge, and there is a growing care crisis with rising numbers of children in care and early help services being cut across the country. Having effectively demonstrated the ability to reduce the flow of children into care and a sustainable way to support families in the community, Safe Families has a model that works. We would love to partner with your church to enable families in your community to thrive.



Scan the QR code to watch Nazool's story



CONNECTING FAMILIES



Over 1,200 churches and community groups have already partnered with Safe Families to mobilise 7,000+ volunteers across the UK.

SINCE STARTING IN THE UK IN 2012, SAFE FAMILIES HAS SEEN:

9,954
Families supported



23,021
Children benefiting



7,740
Volunteers



10,328
Bed nights



Figures accurate as of 1st June 2024



“One of the best things we’ve done in Stenhouse is to begin to partner with Safe Families... working alongside the team has given us more of the tools we need and the introductions to some of the most disconnected in our community.”



Thomas Dean, Pastor, Stenhouse Baptist Church

YOUR CHURCH



We know every church is unique. Our heart is to work in true partnership with you to support you as much (or as little) as you need.

We are very flexible and hope this guide will help you pick and choose what might work for you both now and in the future.

HOW SAFE FAMILIES CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH:

- 1 Safe Families have a team in your area ready to build relationships with churches. Our work starts with your vision, not ours, and this can only happen through relationships.
- 2 Through these relationships, we endeavour to highlight the impact that you can have on local families with the right training and support.
- 3 Our '3 Ways to Respond' model (Volunteering, Praying, and Giving) helps church members impact their community in a safe and measurable way. We are flexible and share stories and statistics about the impact your church is having.
- 4 Through our relationships with local authorities, we can connect churches with isolated families in need that you may not otherwise meet.
- 5 We can help you set up Safe Families in your church. We can also train up a 'Church Champion' who can be our main point of contact within your church.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We recognise different people will want to support families in different ways.

There are three ways your church can get involved:



PRAY WITH US



One of our values is 'Faith - believing in a God who can do more than we ask or imagine.' Prayer is central to what we are about and is one of the main ways you and your church can get involved.

Individuals can sign up as Prayer Partners and receive a monthly prayer update, with a reflection and prayer points for the work of Safe Families across the UK.

As a church, you could pray for the families during prayer meetings or services, and our team can always provide stories about local families who need prayer, and stories of support to inspire your congregation.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Building communities through face-to-face connection and establishing positive relationships is what makes Safe Families so effective. We have trained and supported over 7,000 volunteers from over 1,200 churches.



THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF VOLUNTEERS:

Family Friends work directly with families, coming alongside and giving support to parents and children when they need it most, making sure they feel less isolated.



Host Families open their homes to look after children, from a night or two up to a couple of weeks, as required. This gives families a regular break and the space to deal with issues or challenges.



Resource Friends are individuals who are able to provide (or transport) useful items, such as a cot or children's clothing. We also welcome those with practical skills, such as cooking or gardening.



HOW DO SAFE FAMILIES SUPPORT YOUR VOLUNTEERS?

Family Friends and Host Families receive our in-depth training, which covers safeguarding, healthy boundaries, and the support open to them as volunteers. One of our Family Support Managers will introduce volunteers and families and conduct regular check-ins with both throughout the support. Volunteers can contact the local team at any point and have access to an out-of-hours phone line for help and advice.

PARTNER WITH US FINANCIALLY

As a charity, we need to raise money each year to continue to provide the training and support we offer to families.



Generosity is a gift from God, and we are so thankful to those who take the opportunity to contribute in this way.

There are several ways your church could support families financially:

CHURCH GIVING

Many churches choose to partner with us as part of their missional tithe on an annual, monthly or one-off basis.



INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Individuals can support families through monthly giving or as a one-off gift. £10 a month will help us support a family over a year.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Some of our partner churches organise a coffee morning, quiz or take part in one of our Jelly Welly Walks to raise money for Safe Families.



“Safe Families is a fabulous body to encourage church members to become involved with. It demonstrates God’s love and care to those who are vulnerable and in need. It is a place for building caring relationships that can transform lives. Brilliant training and support are given.”



Rt Rev Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham



TAM'S STORY

Scan the QR code to watch Tam's story



Tam had 2 young children when she needed to move into temporary accommodation to keep her and her family safe. She grew up in care and had no support network but desperately wanted to do the best for her children.

Safe Families were able to put 5 volunteers from 2 local churches alongside Tam. Over a period of 18 months, they all played different roles in helping her gain the confidence she needed to start to thrive.

Peter and Vivienne would help look after the children and became like the grandparents they never had.

Ray and Sue helped Tam find

a home and taught her how to look after the garden – they even built a shed together.

Mary would grab shopping for Tam and be someone she could speak to when she needed to connect.

Tam said, “They were so supportive. I couldn’t ask for more. When you are in a bad place they help make it positive. So you’re not on your own.”



@safefamiliesuk



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