



“ Encouragement and help from supportive friends can make such a difference to parents and children in challenging times. I’m very pleased to be the Patron of Safe Families for Children as they extend their work to help volunteers and churches provide that essential support for families in crisis. ”

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Patron of Safe Families for Children

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It's a simple idea really

Safe Families for Children is a movement of the church to care for some of the most vulnerable members of our society - children whose parents are going through a hard time.

We recruit Host Families who voluntarily open up their homes, without pay, taking in the children for a short spell whilst their parents get back on their feet. It's not fostering and it's not adoption - just simple kindness and yet it can make a world of difference.

Families in our community right around us are struggling with poverty, substance abuse and unemployment. Many are at their wits end. The common factor out of all those that use Safe Families for Children is they are alone and no one cares for them. There is no one for them to reach out to in a difficult situation; they are socially isolated, and who better to

help them than the local Church, unleashing their families to reach out to their neighbours and support them in being the parents they are supposed to be. It is a powerful tool for change, not only does it transform families, it transforms communities.

Dr Dave Anderson,
Founder - Safe Families for Children

How have churches been helping?

As 'Host Families'

Trustworthy families who take children into their loving homes for a little while, giving the parents in crisis much needed space to deal with the pressing issues.



As 'Family Friends'

Friendly folk who befriend, mentor and support parents through their crisis, helping them get back on their feet and making the home stable for them and their children.



As 'Resource Friends'

Generous supporters able to provide useful items such as a cot or children's clothing, or have helpful skills such as cooking or gardening.



Week in, week out, struggling families are now being helped to get back on their feet



Claire's Story

My son is 18 months old and Safe Families came and got involved at a time when

I really needed help. The

Host Family were brilliant, so I didn't have a problem with letting them keep my son overnight. I was able to get away and do what I needed to do. The Host Family have become very close to my heart, and my son loves them!



Kate's Story

My husband's in prison and I needed to go to hospital to give birth. I was stuck and didn't

know where to turn. I got in touch with Safe Families as

it felt like the right thing to do. They sent a fantastic couple and my two sons took to them instantly. I've now had the baby and with the ongoing help of Safe Families we're coping so much better.

Janet & John - Host Family



Mum needed a safety net, needed to be able to lift her child out

of the situation and know he would be safe and secure. It was a privilege for us to have a small child in the house again, and gave an opportunity for mum to have the space to do what she needed to do.

June - Family Friend



I was able to meet the family to find out exactly what help they

would need from me. After talking to them it became clear that because of mum having lots of cancer treatment, it would be those times that she would need the help with seeing to the children's needs.

Sam - Family Friend



It was amazing how much enjoyment I got from it, but also

much more importantly, how much more they got from it, because it was a break from circumstances beyond their control.'

