

Afghanistan Crisis – How can I help?

You will all, I'm sure, have been disturbed by pictures of men, women and children fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan and the news of increasing violence across the region. It has brought very much back into the forefront of our minds the refugee crisis worldwide. Millions of people have lost homes, livelihoods, family and friends and have no means of support.

As a community which already supports the work of refugee support groups locally, we want to extend our help and have two new 'drives' to provide much needed aid to these people.

Our Federation of schools, our churches, our villages are all coming together to work towards this.

Firstly, we are organising a collection of used winter clothing: coats, jumpers, boots, shoes etc

These items can be dropped off at any of the **local churches* on the weekend of 16th/17th October** and at any of our **Federation schools* w/b 18th October**. This will enable us to organise transport and distribution over half – term. We would ask that items are limited to warm and/ or waterproof items which are pre – sorted and labelled. We are also asking for **new 'snugpacks'** of scarves, gloves, hats and underwear. Again, if these could be labelled with details of contents, size etc it would be helpful.

Secondly, we are putting together Christmas shoeboxes of two types: one containing toys for children of various ages, and one containing toiletries. Again, please label to help us direct them most appropriately. These too can be dropped off at any of our schools*, **the w/b 13th December** or in our Churches the weekend **of 11th December**.

We are delighted that so many of our schools, churches and local people are coming together to support this initiative: let's share what we have with those who have nothing.

Anne Vetch

**Chair of Governors
Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation**

***Schools:** Burnsall Primary School, Cracoe and Rylstone Primary School, Grassington Primary School, Kettlewell Primary School:

***Churches;** St Mary's, Conistone, St. Mary's, Kettlewell, St. Oswald's, Arncliffe, St. Michael and all Angels Hubberholme, St Michael's, Linton, St Margaret's, Threshfield