



# Pompey Churches

Free of charge



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

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## Campaign aims to inspire churchgoers to adopt and foster



# LET'S SHOW GOD'S LOVE TO THESE CHILDREN

### PROFILE OF A CHILD TO BE ADOPTED



**SAM** is just five years old and was placed with foster carers last year, as were his brothers, due to concerns of chronic neglect. The identity of their birth father is unknown.

While his brothers were placed with family members, **Sam** is the only child in his fostering placement. This has allowed **Sam** to settle and respond to lots of one-to-one attention, and enabled him to thrive.

**Sam** has had a difficult start to family life, but he is an affectionate, happy little boy who enjoys lots of cuddles with his current female carer, and has had great success forming friendships at school and achieving his milestones, having just started Year 1.

This profile is similar to other children for whom Portsmouth City Council is looking for adoptive families – families who might live outside of the city, have an understanding of the impact of neglect on children, and offer a child a secure family throughout their childhood and beyond.

Are you interested in finding out more about **Sam** and children like him? See [www.adoptionportsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.adoptionportsmouth.gov.uk) for details.

● Photo posed by model

**ACROSS our diocese there are children and teenagers who desperately need loving families.**

They may have been neglected or abused. They may wonder if anyone loves them. They may have given up hope.

You could help to give them a better future. You could offer to foster or adopt children or teenagers who are unable to remain with their birth parents.

We believe that Christians have a unique opportunity to share God's love and make a difference in the lives of these children and young people. We also believe that churches offer a fantastic network of support and prayer for families who choose to adopt and foster.

So our diocese is working with the Christian charity Home for Good and Portsmouth City Council to encourage you to

consider adoption or fostering. We're also working with churches of all denominations, and other local authorities where we can.

The campaign is being launched on November 1, which is Adoption Sunday. It was inspired by a similar campaign in

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campaign to promote adoption and fostering

Southampton, where churches of all denominations worked together to find 40 new foster families.

Volunteers will speak at church services in Portsmouth to encourage worshippers to consider adoption and fostering. They will also invite churchgoers to a special introductory evening, to be held at the top of the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth on November 18.

A speaker from Home for Good will offer Christian inspiration and

city council officers will provide practical details.

Bishop Christopher said: "These children who need our help are already living in our parishes, perhaps with temporary foster families, or in the care system. Those of us who have known both the joys and the tensions of childhood can help. Those of us in churches can support our friends who choose to adopt and foster."

"Of course, Christians aren't the only ones who can provide loving families, but for many Christians who do adopt and foster, their faith is often the prime motivation. This is an important initiative, which has my full support, and I hope it will inspire more families to come forward."

In the UK, there are 4,000 children waiting for adoption and 8,600 foster families are also needed. The Christian charity Home for Good was set up a

year ago to help provide a home for every child who needs one. They encourage Christian families to adopt and foster, and church members to support those who do.

Adopted and fostered children may need different styles of parenting to birth children. They may also have certain learning difficulties or complex needs.

Local authorities such as Portsmouth City Council help potential parents to understand the challenges of adoption and fostering, offering training and ongoing support.

The event at the top of the Spinnaker Tower happens from 7pm-9pm on November 18 and is free of charge. There's no need to register – if you are interested, just turn up for a preliminary chat about what might be involved.

For further details, see: [www.homeforgood.org.uk](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk), [www.adoption.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.adoption.portsmouth.gov.uk) or [www.fosterportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.fosterportsmouth.co.uk).

**Read the stories of Christians who have adopted and fostered: pages 8, 9 and 12**