

Messages of Welcome

We are asking our churches and supporters to welcome those arriving in Edinburgh by writing messages of greeting and encouragement that they will receive on arrival in their new homes. These can be as long or as short as you like, in English or in Arabic, or with no words at all if you are feeling creative!

A simple greeting card can make a huge difference to the experience of arriving in a new country and to a new life. It is written from one person to another, and even if the recipient is unknown to the sender, it is a reminder of their humanity, and their individuality.

Help us to give this simple gift of welcome to those arriving in Edinburgh over the next few months. If we have enough cards we would like to give some to those who arrived in the past few months as well, as it is never too late to make someone feel welcome.

Below are some pointers, and information about how to collect and send on these messages.

- Write from the heart, welcoming this unknown person or family to your city. You may never meet them, but you can still show friendship and warmth in your message.
- Consider mentioning your favourite thing about the city, a suggested activity, or time of year to look forward to. This is a great opportunity to help the recipient look forward to their new life in Edinburgh.
- Hand drawn cards and pictures from children to other children are particularly encouraging, and can provide a family with initial artwork to decorate their new home!
- If you choose to buy and write a greetings card, it may be a good idea not to choose one with images of people on it. Why not think about a card with a landscape or still life scene, or something that you think reflects Edinburgh or Scotland, or just a simply worded greeting.
- Please don't include your contact details in the card. If you would like to help welcome new arrivals settle into Edinburgh, ECS can take your contact details and get in touch as opportunities arise.

In case you would like to use it in your message, here is the Arabic word for 'welcome' (*marhaban*), as used for a greeting or sign. Remember that Arabic script reads right-to-left.

مرحبا

Please send your cards and messages to Edinburgh Churches for Sanctuary, and we will make sure they get to the families and individuals at their new homes.

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