

# Aid for Ukraine Info Packet

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## 1 Our Project

Our initiative began with a message between three local mums, Jolanta, Hayley and Natalie. They wanted to do something to help those fleeing the awful situation in Ukraine and those receiving them across the border. The starting point was a conversation with St Piran's Year 6 and Year 2 groups, explaining how Jolanta's family in Poland living so close the border were already helping refugees and could use the support of our community in Berkshire. With Natalie's own family in Ukraine and Jolanta's Polish family helping on the ground, the personal connection helped to rally friends and family in the school and community.

Since then the project has grown in scope and scale. Led by their minister David, Maidenhead and Marlow United Reformed Church welcomed us into their church, with members volunteering their time and allowing us to use the physical space to store and co-ordinate donations. This has allowed us to organise multiple lorry shipments to Jolanta's friends and family in Poland

where they can go straight to those in need. Over the last few months our network of contacts in Poland has expanded. We are now in touch with a number of individuals in Poland able to receive aid and transport it into Ukraine itself, providing help to those most in need.

We aim to continue as long as we can and the help is needed. Even as the conflict has faded from the daily news cycle the urgent need for help remains. We want to keep the help and supplies going, ensuring that we are providing the support that is truly needed on the ground. We cannot do this without the continued help and support from our community.

## 2 Donations

Here is a list of our current donation needs and where donations can be provided. We are also in contact with various other local community groups and organisations who may be collecting on our behalf before sending donations onto us.

### 2.1 Donation Needs

We are collecting the following:

**Food:**

- Instant Noodles
- Pasta/Rice
- Tinned food
- Pre-packaged sauces
- Soups
- Biscuits
- Chocolate/Sweets
- Baby food & Baby formula

**Basic Medication:**

- Throat anti-septic
- Anti-inflammatory Gel/Tablets

- Nasal sprays
- Adult nappies (size 2)
- Medical Dressings
- Plasters
- Other General First aid

**Toiletries & Cleaning**

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Wipes
- Kitchen cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent

**Other items:**

- Children's Nappies (size 4-6)
- Children's craft & toys (crayons, notebooks, pens, markers, soft toys)
- Sleeping bags & blankets
- Thermos flasks (for personal use)
- Candles, torches & batteries

Additional Notes: We are not currently accepting individual donations of clothes, pillows and duvets.

The listed food is a suggestion rather than an exhaustive list. In general, food donated needs to be long lasting, any ready meals should be possible to prepare with just hot water.

We are able to receive both unsorted and sorted donations, as at our donation centres we will go through, sort and repackage donations as required. If donations are provided sorted, labelled and ready for long haul transportation this is appreciated.

We also like to include drawings (such as hearts), small crafts and messages of support with our boxed donations, and also use this as a way to help the children in our community feel involved.

## 2.2 Donation Location

### Maidenhead URC - Main Donation Hub

Standard Opening Hours:

Saturday 10am - Noon

Thursday 4pm - 5pm

Address - West Street, Maidenhead SL6 1RL (Behind M&S)

### Christ Church Marlow - Secondary Donation Centre

Opening Hours:

Friday 10am - Noon

Sunday 4:00pm - 4:45pm

Address - 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL

## 2.3 Financial Donations

If you wish to provide a financial donation, the best way to do so is via our just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/maidenheadurc>. Small cash donations can also be provided in person during a donation session for Maidenhead URC, these donations can be Gift Aided.

Financial contributions are predominately used to pay for the lorry itself, with additional funds spent to directly purchase the supplies most needed on the request of our partners in Poland.

## 3 Volunteering

At present we have enough volunteers to cover our week to week activities. However, if you are interested in donating your time and wish to volunteer with our project here is some information on how you may be able to help.

### 3.1 Awareness Raising

The best form of help you could provide is to spread the word about our project. The more people we reach with our message the more donations we receive and the more help we can provide.

## 3.2 Lorry Loading

Our lorry loading days are naturally a moment we can use extra volunteers to share the load. On these days everyone and anyone is welcome, beyond the actual loading itself there many jobs that need doing and a place for everyone.

The lorry schedule is not regular, instead being dictated both by the schedule of our driver/company and the rate at which we receive donations. Once a day is set, we will often not have an exact time until shortly beforehand. The best way to keep up to date with the next lorry loading session is by our Facebook page Aid for Ukraine.

## 4 Info for Organisations

If you represent or are part of an organisation interested in helping our project here is some information on how you could best help.

### 4.1 Awareness Raising

The easiest way you can help is simply sharing the information about our project within your organisation. Including our donation list and session times in an internal newsletter helps us reach more people.

### 4.2 Donations

If your organisation is interested in providing a donation or would like to get involved as part of a CSR plan or sponsored donation please get in touch via email. Here is a list of donations you could provide. You can also provide a financial donation and indicate what items you would like it to contribute towards.

**Food** Bulk donations of food are a top priority. The focus is on food suitable for large scale catering (pasta, rice etc.) or self-contained instant meals that can be prepared with hot water (soups, instant noodles etc.)

**Medicine** Bulk provision of medical supplies. We are in particular need of medical supplies beyond over the counter medication and general first

aid donated from organisations that can provide them as we ourselves can only receive the former.

## **5 Contact Information**

Email Address: Jolanta100deco@gmail.com    revmandm@gmail.com

Facebook Page: Aid for Ukraine - You can message us through this page and we will get back to you as soon as we can.