

# Your Shelter service guide

Thank you for holding a service to help families fighting bad housing and homelessness.

Here's some info and a few ideas to get you started. We also have Christmas and Easter service packs, which you can download at [shelter.org.uk/faith](https://shelter.org.uk/faith)

## Three steps to success

- 1 Let everyone know about your service by hanging up your poster
- 2 Use your favourite ideas from this sheet to create a service to suit your congregation, and encourage them to give generously.
- 3 Send in the donations using the form overleaf. And let us know how it all went!

## Five ways we change lives

Every 11 minutes, another family in Britain is made homeless. Every year, thousands come to us for help. And we do that in five crucial ways:

- We run a free national helpline open all year round
- We provide practical housing advice online
- We run face-to-face advice and specialist support services up and down the country
- Our team of solicitors attend court to represent ordinary people facing homelessness
- And we campaign to tackle the root causes of the housing crisis so that, one day, no one will need our help

## Answering the call

Sarah had always paid her mortgage. But when she was made redundant from her job of eight years, things began to spiral out of control.

Sarah was anxious about losing the family home she shared with her disabled mother and five-year-old daughter. So anxious that she developed an agonising case of shingles.

But then Sarah called us. We helped her fight the eviction notice in court, and made sure she kept her home.

**We answered Sarah's call. Will you make sure we can answer another?**



*'Please don't think twice about donating. From someone who's been there, it's so important to keep Shelter going. They've kept a roof over my head, which is what everyone deserves.'*

Sarah

If anyone in your congregation needs our help, they can call our free helpline on **0808 800 4444** or go to [shelter.org.uk/advice](https://shelter.org.uk/advice)

## Bible passages

God's call for us to help our neighbours

**Isaiah 58.7** *'Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?'* God's vision for all humanity is highlighted by **Isaiah 32.18** *'My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisputed places of rest.'* With your help, Shelter can make this vision a reality.

## Youth group activities

### Draw, build, talk

Ask the children to sketch their own home and discuss what they love about it. Explain why it's important to have a stable, warm, comfortable home. Then draw unusual homes, such as Noah's Ark, a nomadic tent or an igloo – you could even auction these pictures after your next service.

### Gingerbread house

Build delicious homes and sell them for donations to Shelter after your service. You'll find lots of recipes and designs at [shelter.org.uk/gingerbread](http://shelter.org.uk/gingerbread).



## We held a service for families facing homelessness

1

We held a Shelter service on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ and raised £

2

### Let us know which activities you did:

- Held a Shelter service  Youth group activities  Small groups discussion  
 Prayer session about homelessness  Promoted Shelter in our newsletter, on our website, or our notice board

Thank you for  
changing lives

3

### Payment method:

- We would like to give by cheque/PO. Please make your cheque/PO payable to **Shelter** and enclose it in the Freepost envelope provided.  
 We would like to give by credit/debit card. Please charge my MasterCard / Visa / CAF Card / Maestro (Delete as appropriate).

Card number:                (Maestro only)

Expiry date:   /   Start date:   /   Maestro Issue no:   (Maestro only)

Signature

Date

/   /

4

### My address details are:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

5

### My phone and email details are:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and phone are inexpensive ways for us to keep up to date with our supporters. By giving your details you agree that we may use them to send you information about our work, campaigning and fundraising activities. We will never share your personal details with organisations outside Shelter. If you prefer not to hear from us, please contact our supporter helpdesk on 0300 330 1234.

6

### Please return your gift to:

Freepost Plus RTHE-HSKC-XZLK  
Faith Appeal, Shelter, Old Street, London, EC1V 9HU

Alternatively, give online at: [shelter.org.uk/faith](http://shelter.org.uk/faith)