



# Can you help us build bright futures through adoption?

Information Pack for the Diocese of Blackburn

[www.adoptionmatters.org](http://www.adoptionmatters.org)



# Thank you...

for taking the time find out more about Adoption Matters and the important work we do with children and families. We value our relationships with the many churches we work with to raise awareness of adoption. We understand that the church is uniquely placed to offer its help to children who need adoptive families – both in terms of finding families to adopt and providing the warm, loving community of support to wrap around those who do.

We have included some information resources in this electronic pack which can be used in your churches, at groups, events or similar. We can also offer speakers to attend events should that beneficial to you.

Thank you again for your support in helping us continue to secure brighter futures for children through **adoption**.



**Chief Executive**  
*Norman G Goodwin CBE*

## Foreword from Carolyn Johnson

I am delighted to commend this information pack to Christian families in our Diocese. I have been involved in adoption issues for some 40 years as a family law barrister and as a Board member of initially the Blackburn Diocesan Adoption Agency and subsequently Adoption Matters.

My work in public law care proceedings representing local authorities, parents, children, grandparents, guardians, and the police in courts throughout the North West provides me with deep insight into and professional understanding of the benefits of adoption to the many vulnerable children in care.

Adoption Matters is the only faith based agency for our Diocese and it has been justly accredited as 'outstanding' by Ofsted for 3 consecutive years. The agency's experienced workers are dedicated to offering a variety of sensitive services and specialist resources to advise those considering adoption and providing through our unique regional Centre for Adoption Support, bespoke help for families' with the complex children they choose to adopt.

I enthusiastically commend this pack to explore the possibilities of offering a child or a sibling group a loving, stable, permanent **home**.



**Board of Trustees**  
**Vice-Chair**  
*Carolyn Johnson*

## About Adoption Matters

Adoption Matters is a children's charity specialising in adoption and adoption support. We are a very well established Christian organisation with a long history of association with the Anglican Church, in 2017 we will celebrate our 70th anniversary.

We believe ALL children deserve the chance of a loving, permanent home through adoption wherever possible.



**There is an estimated 2,500 children waiting for an adoptive home in the UK.**

Sadly, children aged 4 years and above, sibling groups, those with additional learning, physical or emotional needs and children from black and minority ethnic families are amongst the children who wait longest to be adopted. **We want to help change that.**

Adoption Matters has a successful track record in placing children from a range of backgrounds and the expert ongoing support and training we offer means that we have one of the lowest disruption rates in the UK.

Children are at the heart of our work and we are proud of the award winning service we offer to our adoptive families.

We cover the whole of the North West, North Wales, Yorkshire & Humber and Staffordshire & Stoke.



## Our history

The Anglican Church has always taken its commitment to social responsibility very seriously – the Board for Social Responsibility dealt with adoption, homelessness, unemployment, social justice and more. Eventually, around the time the Adoption of Children Act 1949 was passed, the Chester Diocesan Adoption Society/Blackburn Diocesan Adoption Agency were formed in 1955 and 1947 respectively. The two agencies merged in 2007 eventually becoming Adoption Matters.

We are proud of our Christian roots and our work within the community. We operate an open and non discriminative ethos in all aspects of our work and we welcome applicants of from all walks of life, backgrounds, ages, sexuality, faiths and people who have no religious beliefs.

**There is no 'perfect' adopter, we need adopters from a range of backgrounds and cultures.**

## Our presidents



The Right Reverend  
Dr. Peter Forster  
Bishop of Chester



The Right Reverend  
Julian Henderson  
Bishop of Blackburn

## Our partnerships

In January 2015, an Adoption Matters led consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies, together with the Christian charity Home for Good, were awarded funding by the Department of Education to develop a model to encourage more people from the Christian community become adoptive parents, for children who tend to wait the longest for adoption.



The partnership was a success in recruiting many new adoptive families and we continue to work closely together.

More information here: [www.homeforgood.org.uk/adopt/home-good-pathway-adoption](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/adopt/home-good-pathway-adoption)

## Our adopters from the Christian Community

We are delighted that two of our Christian adopters have chosen to set up their own adoption blogs to share their journey with other prospective adopters. Please click the below links to visit their websites.

[Just a family story](#)

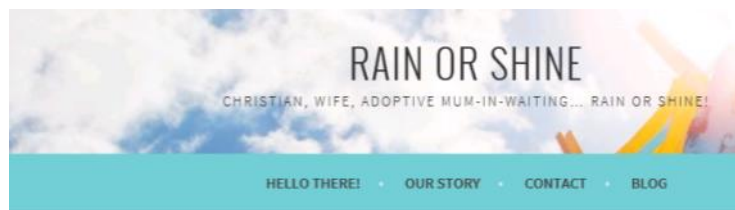
### Just a family story

Every family has a story, these are some of ours.

CATCH UP



[Rain or shine](#)



### ADOPTION WAS ALWAYS PLAN A

Since telling people that we're on the road to adoption, one of the questions we get asked most frequently is "why aren't you having your own?"

This hurts because we are! **The children we adopt will be absolutely ours, our very own.**

But it also hurts because the assumption behind the question is that adoption is somehow less than biologically conceiving and giving birth to a child.

# How can you and your church help?

We are asking for your help to display our materials in your church and spread the adoption message in your own communities. We could also offer a speaker at a future event to talk to about adoption and the work we offer. We are also always looking for [fundraising opportunities](#) to help support the vital work we offer to children and families across the UK so do contact us if you feel you could assist us or [visit our website here](#).

[Please click here to download](#) & print a selection of our marketing materials for use in your church. Contact our marketing team on **0300 123 1066** if you would like a supply posted to you.

Tia likes...reading, the colour pink and daydreaming!

but most of all Tia would like to be part of a family.



Every year, there are vulnerable children needing a stable, caring home through adoption. Some wait longer than others.




We want to help change that. Could you?

Contact us now for a free information pack or call for an informal chat:  
[www.adoptionmatters.org](http://www.adoptionmatters.org)  
 or call us on **0300 123 1066**




\*The ONLY Voluntary Adoption Agency in the NW to be rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted consecutively in 2008, 2011 & 2014. BAAF Voluntary Adoption Agency of the year 2012 & 2014.

## Information Guide


A guide all about adoption, the process and our agency.



[www.adoptionmatters.org](http://www.adoptionmatters.org)

Daniel likes building.  
Amy likes dancing.  
Jake & Eve both like reading...

but most of all they would like to be part of a family.





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Adoption Matters is a children's charity specialising in adoption, that is all we do and have been doing so for nearly 70 years. As a Christian organisation with a long history of association with the Anglican Church, we know that faith communities are uniquely placed to offer their help to children who need adoptive families - both in terms of finding families to adopt and providing the warm, loving community of support to wrap around those who do.

To adopt you can be single, married, divorced, in a same sex relationship, working or retired. What matters most is your commitment to offer a child a loving, stable home.

For more information visit:  
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**Why Adoption Matters?**  
 As an independent children's charity and approved voluntary adoption agency, we work with local authorities across the whole of the UK. That means a wider pool of children for you to consider. Adoption is all we do, and we have been doing it for nearly 70 years. We have a team of experienced adoption practitioners whose aim and focus is you, our adopters. We ensure we find the **right adopter, for the right child**. We are the only VAA in the North West to be rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2014, 2011 & 2008 and we were named Voluntary Adoption Agency of the Year in both 2014 & 2012 by British Association of Adoption & Fostering (BAAF).

**The real question is, why would you choose to adopt with anyone else?**

Please help by sharing this leaflet with relatives, friends or neighbours who you think could make a difference.

Contact us now for a free information or an informal chat.  
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 or call us on **0300 123 1066**



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Jess likes climbing.  
Kai likes building.

but most of all they would like to be part of a family.




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Adoption Matters is a children's charity specialising in adoption, that is all we do and have been doing so for nearly 70 years. We offer an award winning service to our adopters working with councils across the whole of the UK to find families for children waiting.

We are recruiting in your area now.

Tia likes...reading, the colour pink and daydreaming!

but most of all Tia would like to be part of a family.



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Every child deserves a champion - someone who never gives up on them and does everything in their power to help them become the best they can possibly be.



## More resources or information

If you would like to request copies of our posters, postcards, information booklets to be sent to your church, contact the marketing department on **0300 123 1066** or via email at: **info@adoptionmatters.org** and we will arrange for these to be posted directly to you.

If you would like to request a speaker to attend an event you are planning or to come and speak with a community group, or have some fundraising opportunities, again, contact the marketing department with details of your request.

The **ONLY** Voluntary Adoption Agency in the North West to be rated **'OUTSTANDING'** by Ofsted in 2008, 2011 & 2014.

## Thank you.

**Offices at:** Chester (Head Office), Blackburn, Hale, Salford, Warrington & Leeds.  
[Click here](#) for full address details.

Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted



MEMBER OF:  
**coramBAAF**  
ADOPTION & FOSTERING ACADEMY

BAAF Voluntary Adoption Agency of the Year 2012 & 2014

