

Operation Christmas Child 2021



Hello Everyone,

About this time of year, I let you know about the **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift Appeal**. The good news is that we will again be collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts. These gifts bring joy and happiness into children's lives around the world each year, children who are often living in bleak and difficult circumstances, letting them know they are loved and not forgotten.

A big thank you to all of you who took part last year. In 2020 the UK sent out over **265,000** shoebox gifts and worldwide over **nine million gifts were donated and sent**. Despite all the challenges the boxes processed in Kent last year blessed needy children in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Central Asia, Moldova, and Serbia. Please take a look at our website and read and watch the amazing stories of how your shoebox gifts have blessed so many children.

So, what can you do to help the shoebox appeal this year?

Number One Please Pray!!!

Firstly, and most importantly please pray for Operation Christmas Child, that people will be moved to make up shoeboxes filled with gifts for the children.

And

Please pray for the children that they will be blessed by the gifts they receive and by the opportunity to hear about Jesus and his love for them.

You could make up a shoebox filled with gifts

If you would like to make up a shoebox full of gifts either by making up a box yourself or by ordering one to be made up for you online, please take a look at our website.

samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

If you would like a leaflet, I have left some in the church foyer, so you can pick one up during the week.

Before starting to put a shoebox of gifts together please check on the Samaritan's Purse website or read the leaflet to find out what is allowed to be sent, for example due to regulations we cannot send sweets (or anything edible), toothpaste, liquids, or war related items.

Once you have filled a shoebox with gifts, or bought some individual items to help us make up a box you can:

- Give them to me at the service on Sunday 14th Nov at St Philips.
- Drop them into the foyer of Tonbridge Parish Church on Thursday 18th Nov between 10.00 and 11.30 when our lovely Stepping Stones ladies are having a shoebox gift "Packing Party".

- You can drop them off at:

The **South East Processing Centre**

At the former **John Lewis at Home** T Wells TN2 3UP

Please check samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ for dates and times

- OR contact me (Joy) from now through to the second week of December via the church office.

We are also always grateful for donations towards paying for the boxes to be sent to the children, as it costs £5 to send each box.

We also need volunteers in our Processing Centre

As with previous years we are looking for volunteers to help check the shoebox gifts that are donated. This year our **South East Processing Centre** is at:

(the former) **John Lewis at Home Building**

Kingstanding Way, Tunbridge Wells TN2 3UP

Volunteers receive training and there are clear guidelines to help everyone know what needs to be done.

Folks can book a slot/s to volunteer (South East Processing Centre) by again going to our website:

samaritans-purse.org.uk/PCvolunteering

There are opportunities to volunteer during the daytime and in the evenings from **22nd Nov through to 18th Dec.**

Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child.

Many blessings

Joy Baker