



Operation Christmas Child was formed in 1990 when Dave Cooke from Wrexham saw the horror of children in Romanian orphanages. He asked his friends to help fill a truck with toys and drive it to Romania.

OCC is now the world's largest Christmas project run by Samaritan's Purse. Since 1990, more than 168 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of a shoebox of gifts.

Packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal has become an important part of our ministry in recent years and, speaking with Father Jeremy and others in our community, we agreed that we don't want to stop the support we give to these children. This will be our 9th year of taking part. In 2019, we donated over 100 boxes. Last year, in spite of it being during the COVID pandemic, we donated over 60 boxes.

As the global pandemic continues, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down and, now more than ever, boys and girls around the world need to experience hope and joy, and a shoebox gift offers just that!

We plan to follow the same model as last year. There are 3 ways that you can contribute:

Shoebox Online - you can select your gifts online and Operation Christmas Child will pack and send your shoebox for you. We have our own page this year to make it easy and to track how many boxes we send. Click on this link <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/goal-pages/5605bb90> (or copy this link into your browser) to pack a shoebox or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> for more information. It costs £20.



Donation –If you're not keen on the online option, you can make a monetary contribution. You can do this by making an online bank transfer or writing a cheque to the church - or by giving cash. Cheques or cash will be collected from church on Sundays. **Please mark any donations clearly as being for the 'Shoebox appeal'.**

Your own shoebox –You could pack your own complete shoebox. Some of you have done this previously. Go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'How to pack a shoebox' for more information. As you may remember, there are some items not allowed and these are listed on the website – and it may give you some inspiration too! The nearest drop off point is Braywick Nurseries, 41 Braywick Rd, Maidenhead SL6 1DX. Dates to be confirmed but likely to be 15-22nd November. Please don't bring your shoeboxes to the church.



A reminder of the project

There are a number of videos on the Samaritan's Purse website which give stories about the children who receive the boxes, but here is my favourite. You may remember it, as we've shown in several times in church.

WOW! video <https://youtu.be/i7g4C4k7UTw>

A simple heartfelt gift, packed with love and fuelled by prayer can mean so much to a child and their family – and enables us to share God's love and bring joy to children around the world.

We hope that you can support this project again this year – and please let me know if you send a box online or drop one off, so I can let you all know the number of boxes we donate.

Thanks, Jenny Wilks

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