



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 220 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of a shoebox of gifts. Last year alone, over 11.3 million shoebox gifts were collected globally

Packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal has become an important part of our ministry in recent years. This will be our 12th year of taking part and during this time we have donated over 720 shoebox gifts. Last year, we gave 71!

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

Shoebbox 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 again, so we can track how many boxes we send. Click on this link <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/operation-christmas-child/shoebbox-online/goal-page/MzlxMA%3D%3D> (or copy the address 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 **£25**.



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 can be left in the small box for this purpose at the back of church – or give them directly to Jenny. If you can donate

£25, the cost of a full shoebox, that would be great, but smaller donations are gratefully received too. **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 The Kidwells Centre, 41 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7AQ. This will be open from on weekdays between 10am – 5.00 pm from 11th – 18th 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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