



Operation Christmas Child – Traditional and Online

The COVID-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world. Yet, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the Gospel and to serve in Jesus' Name.

This year we are encouraged to pack a shoebox as usual but there is also the option to pack a shoebox online if you want to avoid visiting shops to purchase items to place in your shoe box.

If you want to pack a shoebox online please visit this website.

<https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk>



The Traditional Way

Due restrictions caused by Covid-19 some adjustments have been made this year to the way in which we handle Operation Christmas Child. We have to be a little stricter this year about the collection of the shoeboxes into church and how we then take them to the drop-off collection point. We will therefore only have one collection date in church and we will only be making one visit to the drop-off collection point. For those of you who wish to pack your own shoebox we want you to bring your completed shoebox to Holsworthy church, including the £5 donation for transport costs, by the 11.00am Said Eucharist on Sunday 8th November (Remembrance Sunday). Sadly, any boxes delivered to the church after that date will not go to the drop-off collection point this year.

How to pack a shoebox

Find a Shoebox

Get an empty medium sized shoebox, and wrap the box and lid separately in colourful wrapping paper. Attach the appropriate boy/girl label, marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox. (labels for you to cut out can be found at the end of this information)

Fill with gifts

Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. See our Gift Suggestions below for more ideas.

Make your project donation

A suggested donation of £5 is essential to cover project costs, including shipping, to enable a local church or group overseas to lead a safe, well-organised children's event where your shoebox will be given to a child in need. More detail on what your donation covers can be found on the Samaritans Purse website. You can enclose a cheque (to Samaritan's Purse) and place it in an envelope inside your shoebox on top of the contents.

Drop Off Your Shoebox

Place a rubber band around each closed shoebox and bring it to Holsworthy church by Sunday 8th November.

Gift Suggestions

On the Samaritan's Purse website there is a very comprehensive guide as to what can go into a shoebox. It lists the types of items to include for girls or boys and in the age ranges of 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. The list is too big to include here but if you are able to visit their website here is the web address you need.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebonline/>

Here are some gift suggestions for you if you are not able to look at the website.

TOYS

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or cuddly toys, toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Due to more stringent import regulations, toothpaste can no longer be included in shoeboxes.

OTHER ITEMS

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, slinky spring, matchbox cars.

Due to more stringent import regulations, sweets can no longer be included in shoeboxes.

DO NOT INCLUDE

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; sweets, chocolate or food items; toothpaste, lotions or liquids including bubbles; medicines; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; religious or political literature; sharp or fragile items; books with mainly words.

Items packed from this list will be removed from shoeboxes.

Are the boxes checked?

Yes, but not by us in church. All boxes need to be checked by a volunteer at one of the Samaritan's Purse warehouses in order to ensure the contents are appropriate and suitable for customs purposes in the receiving country. The boxes are then sealed, which are next opened by the receiving child. Occasionally staff at Samaritan's Purse need to remove an item that is not suitable for sending.

Labels

For your convenience the labels to go on your box are on the next page. Please cut out , fill out and stick onto your shoebox. If you are not able to print the labels you can always write one out by hand making sure you state boy or girl and the age range.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PRINT THE ATTACHED LABEL PLEASE WRITE YOUR OWN ENSURING IT SAYS THE AGE GROUP AND IF FOR A BOY OR A GIRL.

Mark the correct age category:

- 2-4 Years Old
- 5-9 Years Old
- 10-14 Years Old



BOY



Mark the correct age category:

- 2-4 Years Old
- 5-9 Years Old
- 10-14 Years Old



BOY



Mark the correct age category:

- 2-4 Years Old
- 5-9 Years Old
- 10-14 Years Old



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Mark the correct age category:

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GIRL



Mark the correct age category:

- 2-4 Years Old
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- 10-14 Years Old



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GIRL

