

The sharing Page



On 3 November we will be celebrating "Shoebox Sunday". There will be an opportunity to give a shoebox filled with gifts which will be collected by Operation Christmas Child for distribution to children overseas.

Operation Christmas Child is organised by Samaritan's Purse UK, an international relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in need (in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) across the world. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1990, more than 168 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

Shoeboxes step by step:

- 1 Find a shoebox or pick up a printed box at one of the services. If using your own box, cover it with bright Christmassy paper.
- 2 Fill your box – there's a list of suggestions (and prohibited items) on the back.
- 3 Donate towards shipping costs. You can pay online or add a cheque in your box. If you use the online system you will also be able to track where your box was sent to. The suggested donation is £5
- 4 Pray for the child who will receive your box
- 5 Bring your box to one of our services on Sunday 3 November



As part of their mission, Operation Christmas Child also share their Christian faith. After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enrol in The Greatest Journey - 12 fun and interactive Bible lessons, where they get the chance to discover who Jesus is and how to begin their own journey of faith. If you would like you can make an extra donation towards this work.



Once the boxes leave Heatherside:

Shoeboxes are taken to a processing centre where each box is checked. Any unsuitable items (due to condition, customs regulations or cultural sensitivity) are removed. Where possible these are then given to another charity.

Once checked the boxes are packed and transported overseas. Local churches and community groups will have been preparing to receive the shoeboxes and will have planned events where the children can receive their gifts.

What to include in your box:

TOYS



Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), 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; clothing other than as listed above; war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate, sweets or other food items; seeds; aerosols; toothpaste, lotions or liquids of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers or fragile items; books with mainly words.